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The Canadian Jewish news

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Israeli president Moshe Katsav, right, and Berlin mayor Klaus Wowereit, centre, unveil the Yitzhak-Rabin-Strasse street sign near the Reichstag building in Berlin. The dedication was held on the last day of the OSCE conference on anti-Semitism, which took place last week in the German capital. *[RNS/Reuters photo]*

Conference on anti-Semitism a 'success'

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

Canada's foreign minister has pronounced last week's international conference on anti-Semitism, held in Berlin, a "success," if no other reason than it continued "sensitizing" people and nations to the dangers of anti-Jewish prejudice.

In a *CJN* telephone interview from Washington, D.C., where Bill Graham was accompanying Prime Minister Paul Martin in meetings with U.S. President George W. Bush, the foreign minister praised the two-day conference for moving the issue of anti-Semitism "to an international level."

Foreigh Minister Bill Graham lauds Berlin gathering

Graham said "one of the most important" things to come out of the 55-nation gathering was the fact it is part of a process started by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), "which has a presence in so many eastern European states where we have to worry about anti-Semitism."

He said the fact the conference "raised consciousness in bringing together a number of ministers – indicating [the] seriousness with which we treat this – was in itself an important objective."

For Canada, the conference "was first and foremost an opportunity for us to reaffirm our fight against anti-Semitism… We were frank in our speech. We have our problems in Canada and we want to commit ourselves to fighting them in Canada and we believe that we should be working with our international partners to do that."

Continued on page 27

Microscopic computer identifies, destroys cancer

By YUVAL DROR
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

REHOVOT — Researchers from the Weizmann Institute of Science have developed a prototype biological computer that identifies and diagnoses cancerous cells and then releases medication to destroy them.

The results, to be published in the upcoming issue of the journal *Nature*, were presented last week by the head of the research team, Prof. Ehud Shapiro, at a news conference in Brussels.

The team first reported the development of their microscopic molecular computer, which is built of synthetic DNA and various enzymes, in November 2001. However, Shapiro said, that was "a toy computer that didn't know how to do anything medically or computationally significant. This time, we are demonstrating a real use that could have medical applications."

The computer makes its diagnoses by testing the concentration of mRNA molecules in the fluid surrounding it, as changes in the quantity of mRNA often indicate the presence of cancerous cells. Once it detects the existence of a cancer, it performs additional tests to determine what kind of cancer is involved, and then releases the appropriate medication to cause the cancerous cells to self-destruct.

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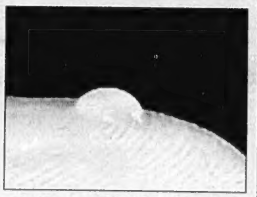

A drop of fluid containing millions of computers. *[Ha'aretz photo]*

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Terrorists strike Israeli family; Likud rejects Sharon plan — please see page 37

Canada

Shul Says Thanks

KITCHENER — About 700 people of all faiths came to the Beth Jacob Congregation here on April 23 for an event organized by the shul to thank the local community for its support after vandals overturned 12 headstones in the synagogue's cemetery over Passover. Among those in the standing-room-only crowd were Community Safety Minister Monte Kwinter and Bernie Farber, executive director of Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region. Beth Jacob's cemetery is the only Jewish burial ground in Waterloo Region.

Polish Treasure Found

TORONTO — Mark Biederman, a southwestern Ontario horse veterinarian and son of a Holocaust survivor, has recovered a cache of gold coins that his family buried in Poland during the war. Last month, Israeli investigative journalist Yaron Svoray, who had been working with Biederman, found the 63 old gold coins, dating as far back as 1703, that the family buried in a ceramic pot beside their home in Lodz. Biederman, 43, was planning to fly to Poland last week to retrieve the coins, which are said to be worth a fortune.

New High School

VANCOUVER — Construction began last week on a new building for Vancouver's Jewish community high school. The Vancouver Talmud Torah High School, the Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver and the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver have raised more than $18 million for the project, but need another $2 million to help cover ongoing operations, officials said. Some $13 million of the overall cost is for land and construction, while $7 million will help pay the school's bills in first few years and go to an endowment to cover future costs. The building is slated to open next year.

Students Meet Lantos

WINNIPEG — Some 330 students from across Canada were to meet earlier this week with Representative Robert Lantos, the only Holocaust survivor ever elected to the U.S. Congress, at the United States Holocaust Memorial in Washington, D.C. They are among the more than 3,000 Canadian students from various backgrounds who have participated in the Winnipeg-based Asper Foundation Human Rights and Holocaust Studies Program since its inception in 1997. Participants, who have come from 39 Canadian cities and nine provinces, take an 18-hour course on the Holocaust and human rights that was developed for the foundation. They then head to Washington to visit the Holocaust museum and other rights monuments. Almost 700 students are making the journey this spring.

Claims Conference Notices

NEW YORK — Heirs to deceased Holocaust survivors who applied for payment under the Claims Conference program for former slave and forced labourers before the Dec. 31, 2001, deadline must notify the Claims Conference by phone, e-mail, mail or fax no later than May 15 of their intent to pursue the application. This applies even to people who have already contacted the Claims Conference on the matter.

For details or to respond, visit claimscon.org, e-mail heirdeadline@claimscon.org, call 646-536-9100, fax 212-685-5299, or write 15 East 26 St., Room 906, New York, N.Y., 10010.

In other news, Jewish victims of Nazi persecution from certain European countries and from Hungary may now be eligible to receive monthly payments from the Claims Conference's Article 2 Fund and the Central and Eastern European Fund (CEEF). An estimated 4,000 Holocaust survivors may benefit. For details, see the above contacts, or e-mail the Claims Conference at info@claimscon.org.

World

El Al Bomb Scare

LONDON — Heathrow Airport was partly evacuated after a bomb scare at the El Al desk last week. Terminal One was partly evacuated while police attended to a suspicious package left at the airline's ticket counter. The package was found to be harmless.

Berlin Bomb Scare

BERLIN — A bomb scare last week at the Hilton hotel here shook up delegations preparing for an international conference on anti-Semitism. The alarm, which followed an anonymous call to police at about 5:30 p.m., was lifted when no explosives were found in a four-hour search. The hotel was cleared of more than 400 guests and 80 personnel while a team of 150 police with bomb-sniffing dogs searched the hotel and neighbouring streets were closed off.

Argentine Passion

BUENOS AIRES — *The Passion of the Christ* is the No. 1 movie in Argentina. Mel Gibson's film on the last hours of Jesus has sold more than two million tickets in Argentina since it opened five weeks ago.

Supremacist Convicted

CHICAGO — White supremacist Matt Hale was found guilty last week of planning to murder a federal judge. Hale, leader of the World Church of the Creator, was convicted in a federal court of solicitation of murder and three counts of obstruction of justice. Hale arranged for a man to kill Judge Joan Lefkow after she ruled against him in a trademark case. The judge wasn't harmed.

Jewish Student Targeted

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — The car of an Indiana University Jewish student who is an active member of the university's Hillel found his car covered in red, spray-painted swastikas last week, with the word "Jew" written on the car's side, the *Indiana Daily Student* newspaper reported. The victim, who wanted his name withheld, reported the crime to police.

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Missionaries plan to step up conversion efforts

Conference hears strategies on making Jesus more attractive to Jews

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

Jews for Jesus-type groups in Canada are promising to redouble their efforts and adopt new strategies – including outreach to children – to convince "unsaved" and "perishing" Jewish communities that Jesus is their Lord and messiah, a conference on evangelizing to Jews heard in Toronto last week.

In fact, Canada is fertile ground – though not as much as the United States – for spreading the Christian gospels and bringing Jews to Jesus, about 50 leading lights of the so-called messianic Jewish movement from North, central and South America heard.

The conference, dubbed "Training for Jewish Evangelism," didn't attempt to hide participants' efforts to convert Jews to Christianity. Books, tapes, CDs and other material were plain in their aim to win as many Jewish souls for Jesus as possible.

The two-day gathering at a local hotel was presented by the Lausanne Consultation on Jewish Evangelism, a task force formed in 1980 in Thailand "so that more Jewish people will hear and consider the Good News of Jesus," according to a brochure.

Messianic Jews, or Hebrew-Christians, say they are Jewish and engage in Jewish worship. They believe one can be Jewish and believe in Jesus. In fact, some of the men at the conference wore kippot, as do many in the movement.

Some of the ideas aired to make Jesus more palatable to Jews included allowing Jewish communities to retain their cultural values and permitting synagogues to keep their language of worship, all while gently steering them toward Jesus. Messianic Jews, meanwhile, must develop a manner that will lead them to be seen as legitimate members of the Jewish community.

The CJN was alerted to the conference by Jews for Judaism, and a reporter attended the session on messianic activities in Canada, a country described as a "welcoming yet challenging place to spread the gospel to my people," said Andrew Barron, director of Toronto-based Jews for Jesus, Canada.

Canada's policy of multiculturalism "fosters intransigence" toward his work, said Barron. He estimated there are fewer than 1,000 Jewish "believers" in Canada, 47 of whom have converted in the past eight years.

"That's too few. It's disappointing. I believe we can do better," he said.

He said last summer's contentious Behold Your God campaign in Toronto, when dozens of missionaries hit the city's streets, only emboldened messianics. Barron said an evangelical leader told him that Jewish outrage at the campaign was "a sign that we were doing something right."

Barron said that after encountering one Jewish protest outside a nursing home during last summer's campaign, "we went door-to-door in the nursing home and got a lot of contacts."

Jews for Jesus in Canada "is small, but we're getting the gospel heard more than ever. My mission is to continue to encourage Jewish believers. My commitment is to recruit so that the sowing and reaping will continue."

Larry Rich, Canadian director of Chosen People Ministries, told the conference his organization operates in Toronto, Montreal and Winnipeg, and hopes to branch out to Vancouver soon.

He described his group's 64-year history in this country as "up and down." The United States, he said, seems to offer more fertile ground when it comes to attracting Jews.

Continued on page 26

Maytal Wax-Leiderman – The will to live ...

Maytal was at the The Dizengoff Center in Tel Aviv celebrating Purim. At 15:55 a loud explosion pierced the air. This terrorist attack changed the course of the 27-year-old's life instantly. The attack killed her brother Asaf and left Maytal with only one shattered leg and an entire body covered with burns. She was unconscious for twelve days and spent three months thereafter on a respirator.

"I wanted to live so badly. They didn't know whether I would make it through the first night. Each day was a struggle to live."

But the will to live is stronger than anything else for Maytal.

She and her husband had recently bought a walk-up apartment with a lovely garden. After this horrific incident they could not live there as it was physically impossible for her to walk up and down the stairs. Unfortunately, her marriage also suffered. "What began as young innocent love turned into a relationship of caregiver and caretaker, and that was not healthy. I had gone from being independent to a state of helplessness."

The struggle to rehabilitate has been a long and painful process for Maytal. She now works as a librarian at the university and has started going out with friends again. It is at Beit Halochem where Maytal participates in wheelchair dancing, sculpture and painting.

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Maytal will perform with the Hora Galgalim wheelchair dancers June 1 in Montreal and June 3 in Toronto at Beit Halochem Canada's "Celebration of Life" concerts. Tickets: 416-787-8950 or 1-800-355-1648.

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Anti-Semitism discussed

From the editor's desk

There are, essentially, two broad reasons for our concern with any manifestations of anti-Semitism: the inherent offence and vulgarity of the act and the underlying danger it portends for the targeted community of Jews and for society at large.

Over the past two millennia, Jews around the world have developed acutely sensitive antennae that hone in on the unmistakable, scratchy signals that herald the ill winds of anti-Semitism.

Forged in the fiery experiences of Jewish history, the antennae are trustworthy. We rely on them for our own sake and for the sake of the societies of which we are an integral part. They are not the instruments of victimology; they are, rather, the instruments of defence.

One of the especially positive aspects of the conference on anti-Semitism held last week in Berlin by the 55-member Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe was its starting point: the recognition and acknowledgment that the recent increase in anti-Semitism poses a threat to everyone and not just to Jews.

Hosted by German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer and chaired by Bulgarian Foreign Minister Solomon Passy, the two-day program featured the participation of a large cast of dignitaries including Israeli President Moshe Katsav, German President Johannes Rau, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, Canadian Foreign Minister Bill Graham and other invited, non-governmental guests such as Holocaust survivors Simone Veil and Elie Wiesel.

It is difficult to assess the long-term results of the conference. It had no legal status. Moreover, the usual realpolitik intervened to ensure that some "punches were pulled." For example, the conference failed to identify the main known perpetrators of the rising anti-Semitism in Europe, or even to condemn its ominous growth among European Muslims. But, as Shelley Klein, director of advocacy for Hadassah-WIZO told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency (JTA), at a time when public opinion in much of the world has turned sharply against Israel, a gathering intended to help the Jewish people was "a success in and of itself." And, as JTA reported, the conference organizers did declare "unambiguously that international developments or political issues, including those in Israel or elsewhere in the Middle East, never justify anti-Semitism."

Those "political issues in Israel" were presented to the conference very eloquently by Katsav.

"Sometimes we feel that Europeans are not ready to feel solidarity with us or to recognize the suffering of the Israeli people from the terrible terrorism, which has continued for many years. The brutality of the terrorism in the Middle East is of a type that humanity has never seen before.

"It is only by co-operation – with determination and with leadership – that we can overcome this hatred…

"The anti-Semitism in Europe is a result of the co-operation among elements who are against the West and western values, who are against globalization and against progress, as well as extremists from the left and right and from organizations of radical Muslims… In Europe, there are 20 million Muslims. Most of them are very good people who desire to live calm and normal lives. However, they are afraid to raise their voices against the extremists. I call on the moderate Muslims in Europe, and on their leaders, to co-operate with us in encouraging tolerance and understanding for a free and better world…"

Katsav drew a very clear picture of the threat posed to all of European society by the purveyors of anti-Semitism.

"Anti-Semitism is encouraged and is given inspiration by international terrorism… and is a great danger to democracy and to freedom in the world. Where synagogues are burnt, the day will come when stones will be thrown on parliament and democracy is in danger."

In his 12 pages of remarks, Katsav made many important points. One of the most compelling affirmed the significance of the very existence of a sovereign Jewish state. "We do not want to prevent legitimate political criticism against Israel government policy, but we will not tolerate incitement against world Jewry and the Jewish state."

The perfidy of anti-Semitism was also officially condemned last week closer to home. For the first time ever, the benchers of the august body of the Law Society of Upper Canada adopted a motion condemning this unique form of bigotry. Gary Gottlieb, Q.C., was the driving force behind the Law Society's initiative, which one hopes will lead to the implementation of meaningful, effective policies against anti-Semitic behaviours and practices and which will serve as a model to other professional regulatory bodies in Canada.

But lest our hopefulness and our optimism too quickly overpower our realism, our antennae at the end of the week once again crackled with stomach-turning, sordid signals.

The Beth Zion Congregation in Oshawa was defaced with offensive words and symbols, including a swastika drawn on a Holocaust memorial plaque at the synagogue's entrance and the community was once again outraged.

But our outrage is a mere momentary indulgence if it does not lead to action. We must act if we are to be true to our faith and our heritage and to the values of the society in which that faith and heritage flourish.

—MBD

SeeJN

BOOKS TO MONTREAL: **Devra Wasser, second from right, along with, from left, Joy Cohen, Joanne Lebovits-Brodkin, Isla Steinberg and Arla Litwin, loaded thousands of donated books last week onto a truck bound for United Talmud Torahs (UTT) in Montreal. Parents, authors, schools and organizations dropped the books off at Wasser's garage in response to an e-mail request by Wasser and Lebovits-Brodkin to help restock a UTT library destroyed in a firebombing last month. [Anna Morgan photo]**

Law society urged to deal with anti-Semitism

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

A Jewish bencher of the Law Society of Upper Canada says the "tentacles" of anti-Semitism have infiltrated the legal profession and he has introduced a motion that calls on the society's governing body to takes steps to address the problem.

The convocation of the Law Society, the organization's parliamentary body, has referred the motion to two committees for study.

The motion, introduced by Gary Gottlieb, calls on the society's equity and aboriginal issues committee and its government relations committee to recommend to convocation ways the Law Society can "discourage anti-Semitism and all forms of hatred and discrimination in our profession" and elsewhere. It also asks for recommendations on ways to promote "religious tolerance and respect in our profession" and elsewhere.

Gottlieb, who has served as a bencher for nine years, said he introduced the motion because "it always troubled me that the issue of anti-Semitism had been ignored by the equity committee."

The committee has studied gender, racial and sexual orientation issues – along with most of the other prohibited categories of discrimination set out in provincial and federal human rights legislation. But anti-Semitism was never addressed, he said.

"Anti-Semitism waxes and wanes, but it is always there. It's always bubbling below the surface. Incidents have been brought to my attention by lawyers and others, but no one want to make waves. But the problem is not going to disappear," he said.

In presenting the motion, Gottlieb, a columnist for the *Law Times*, noted "this is the first time in the 207-year history of the society that an observant Jewish bencher has stood in front of convocation and asked his fellow benchers to play a role in combating the wave of hatred of the Jews that is sweeping the world and that has put its tentacles into our profession."

Gottlieb outlined several recent incidents he believes are indicative of the anti-Jewish sentiment among fellow lawyers. Once, during a discipline hearing for a lawyer's anti-Semitic remarks, he said, a colleague told him, "I hear these remarks all the time. They're not going to say them in front of you. You're Jewish."

On another occasion, after obtaining convocation's agreement to avoid scheduling meetings on the Jewish Sabbath or holidays, a bencher visited him unannounced, berated him and called the accommodation an imposition.

In another example, Gottlieb referred to a letter he received from a non-Jewish colleague that described a party at which the hostess made blatantly anti-Semitic remarks that her husband and family supported.

And in yet another incident revealed by Gottlieb, a visibly Orthodox Jewish colleague was denied a position with a firm and was told by one of its senior members that "his appearance frightened the receptionist; he wouldn't fit in."

The lawyer, who was just starting out, didn't want to take his grievance to the Law Society and didn't want to make waves, Gottlieb said.

"Many in the Jewish community don't want to bring attention to ourselves, and that's an attitude I understand, but I totally disagree with it.

"We have noting to be ashamed of and we should be proud to be Jewish and it's about time Jewish people spoke up for their rights. We're not asking for special treatment, we're asking for equal treatment, for the respect and dignity we're entitled to, whether we're lawyers or private individuals."

Gottlieb said he believed anti-Semitism "exists in the legal profession and is likely to be more submerged than in other areas, because lawyers are sensitive to the fact it's totally inappropriate and they know they'll be disciplined. They're more prudent."

Gottlieb hopes his motion will draw the attention of his profession to the issue. "We haven't raised the sensitivity level to make it politically incorrect to be an anti-Semite."

Gottlieb expects the society committees "will decide on appropriate measure to be taken to implement the philosophy and sentiments behind the motion." Those recommendations would likely be modelled on current society activities, including education programs and commemorative events, he added.

A Law Society spokesperson wouldn't comment last week on the claim that anti-Semitism has its "tentacles" in the legal profession and senior society officials were unavailable.

Vandals strike at Oshawa synagogue

The Beth Zion Synagogue in Oshawa last week became the latest Canadian Jewish institution subjected to anti-Semitic vandalism.

On Thursday afternoon, Rabbi Aaron Mitnick discovered several swastikas and slogans daubed with a black marker on the downtown shul.

A Holocaust memorial was defaced with a swastika and swastikas were found on windows on the west side of the building and on an adjacent shed. In addition the phrases "Hitler is God is Hitler," "Sons of the Gestapo" and "Einsatzgruppen A" were written on the shed.

Rabbi Mitnick said finding the graffiti "was very disturbing… but not surprising given what's going on."

Rabbi Mitnick said police responded quickly, with Durham Regional Police Chief Kevin McAlpine visiting the synagogue and condemning the incident.

Canadian Jewish Congress' Ontario regional chair, Ed Morgan, said the incident at the Beth Zion "is a sordid continuation of the anti-Semitic activities that have affected us in Ontario and elsewhere in the country."

Ten years ago, a swastika was painted on the front door of the synagogue, but no arrests were made at the time. – P.L.

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Greater Toronto Area

Israel's strategic situation is good, Mideast analyst says

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Israel's strategic position has rarely been better, but dangers loom large, says Israeli political analyst Efraim Inbar, director of the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University.

In a recent speech sponsored by Canadian Friends of Bar-Ilan University, Inbar cited Israel's enduring peace treaty with Egypt and Israel's increasingly intimate relationship with the United States – the world's sole superpower – since Sept. 11 as positive indicators.

Israel is also stronger because the Arab world is weaker and Iraq has been de-fanged, he added.

But Inbar warned that Iran's quest for weapons of mass destruction is a worrisome development, and he said the upsurge of anti-Semitism and a campaign to delegitimize Israel are troublesome trends.

Delivering the Arnold and Leona Finkler Memorial Lecture at Beth Tikvah Synagogue, Inbar ranged far and wide as he discussed Israel's gains and the threats it still faces.

Israel's peace treaty with Egypt – the single most important Arab state – has neutralized the Arab world's ability to wage a large-scale war against Israel, noted Inbar, a professor of political studies at Bar-Ilan.

Although the treaty has produced a disappointing cold peace, it has been a stabilizing force that has withstood three major tests – Palestinian uprisings in 1987 and 2000, and Israel's destruction of Iraq's nuclear reactor in 1981.

Egypt will live up to its treaty obligations, at least as long as the United States remains a global hegemonic power, Inbar said.

In a reference to Syria, he said the Syrians have declined militarily since the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991. But Syria will try to bleed Israel by using Hezbollah as a surrogate.

The status quo defining current relations between Israel and Syria is "very beneficial" to Israel. "Basically, Syria and Israel have reached a modus vivendi."

In his judgment, Syria is not interested in reaching a peace accord with Israel.

Turning to Israel's ties with Washington, Inbar said Israel is very fortunate to count the United States as an ally. Since Sept. 11, Israel has succeeded in deepening its friendship with the United States.

Efraim Inbar

The decline of the Arab bloc has also strengthened Israel. "The Arab world is basically in shambles, which is good for Israel."

The collapse of the Arab economic boycott of Israel has been beneficial as well, he pointed out.

"Iraq, fortunately, is no longer a challenge," Inbar went on to say. "The Americans took care of Iraq."

Praising Israel's political and military relationship with Turkey as a definite plus, Inbar said the two countries share common interests.

Iran is "extremely dangerous and its quest for a nuclear arsenal constitutes "an existential threat" to Israel, he said.

This issue must be treated with the utmost urgency, and Israel should spare no effort to counter Iran's aspirations. He suggested that Israel may have no alternative but to try to destroy Iran's nuclear program and eliminate the scientists working on it.

Citing the resurgence of anti-Semitism around the world and the growing chorus of voices questioning Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state, Inbar said these trends may well have dire long-term consequences.

Claiming there is no chance to reach a stable peace agreement with the Palestinian Authority, and dismissing the Oslo accords as "strategic folly," Inbar urged Israel to "manage" its dispute with the Palestinians.

"We are doomed to continue, at various levels of violence, this conflict with the Palestinians."

Asserting that a Palestinian state would be "problematic" for Israeli security interests, Inbar said the Palestinians are incapable of reaching even a "cold peace" with Israel.

The Palestinians fervently believe they were robbed of their land and tenaciously cling to the belief they have a right to return to their former homes in Israel, he said.

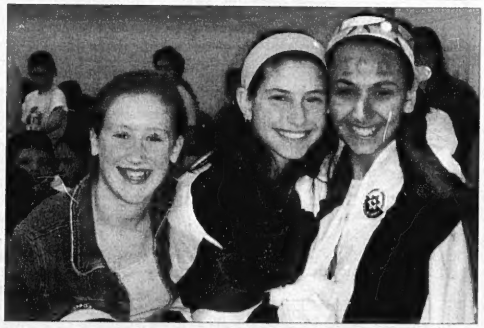
Describing Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat as a terrorist who incites attacks against Israel, Inbar sharply questioned his suitability as a negotiating partner.

Palestinian society has grown weary of the intifadah, but extremists set the agenda, Inbar argued.

In closing, Inbar said Israel's "strategic environment" is good at present, though Israel will probably continue to face low-intensity conflicts with the Palestinians and Hezbollah.

"Terrorism is the weapon of the weak. Our situation, strategically, is better than in the past. But we have to be ready for the worst while hoping for the best."

SHOWING THEIR PRIDE: **Associated Hebrew Schools students, from left, Rebecca Keller, Libby Vainshtein and Melanie Eini wore blue and white and draped themselves in the Israeli flag as part of Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrations at their school that included singing, dancing and special assemblies.**



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The prime minister loses his party

No one has suggested that the outcome of the Likud party referendum Sunday was decisively influenced by the latest atrocity committed by Palestinian terrorists. Nearly 60 per cent of the members of the party who voted – 51.5 per cent of the membership – soundly rejected Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's Gaza disengagement plan.

But the night before the referendum, the cold-blooded shooting murder of 34-year-old Tali Hatuel of Gush Katif, eight months pregnant, and her four daughters Hila, 11, Hadar, 9, Roni, 7, and Merav, 2, merely confirmed in the minds of the already-convinced majority of Likud voters that leaving Gaza in the face of continued terror would be to surrender to that terror. That their party's leader and the president of the United States were of opposite minds did not persuade them.

It is no exaggeration to say now Sharon has lost his party. But has he lost his government? And can he govern without the support of his party? Sharon said he would respect the referendum's results. How he can do that while still pushing forward with his U.S.-backed policies remains to be seen. As of this writing, Sharon had not yet consulted with his coalition partners nor had he addressed the public. The course of the near future is not clear.

In a statement that could jeopardize his own standing within the party, Deputy Prime Minister Ehud Olmert told reporters that the Likud vote does not prove Sharon's policy is wrong. There is no choice but to implement the disengagement plan, he emphasized.

Shinui party leader and key coalition partner, Yossi Lapid, reinforced Olmert's point of view, saying the government was still obliged to proceed with the disengagement policy as long as it held the support of a majority in the Knesset. Lapid also warned that a reversal of policy now would harm Israel's credibility with the U.S. administration. Shimon Peres, leader of the Opposition, said it was time for the Labor party to bring about new elections.

Sharon has said he will not resign. But the calls for him to do so began immediately after the referendum results were known. Meretz MK Zahava Gal-On said she would immediately initiate a bill to dissolve the Knesset.

Through all this uncertainty, the Palestinians have once again demonstrated their remarkable penchant for perpetuating their misery. PA Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia expressed the hope that Sharon's defeat "would be an incentive to go back to the right path to ensure the establishment of a Palestinian state."

But neither Qureia nor any PA leader has yet to step foot on the only path that would lead to a Palestinian state – namely, taking the first tentative measures aimed at dismantling the terrorist infrastructure. A good starting point would be Islamic Jihad which, after claiming responsibility with other terrorist groups, for the slaughter of Hatuel and her four children, vowed to carry out more attacks on Israelis.

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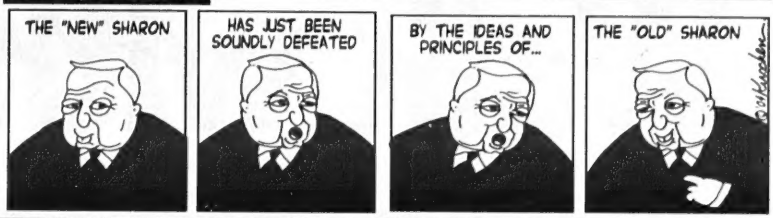

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Standing up for Hillel

We were disheartened to read Joanne Cohen's article ("Time to rethink campus strategy," *CJN*, April 22) and feel that it's important for the community to realize that her opinion is not shared by all who are involved with Jewish advocacy. As students who are active in Hillel at York University, we would like to shed some light on Hillel's everyday activities, those not provocative enough to make the headlines.

Hillel is a well-established international organization for Jewish campus life, and its cultural, educational, recreational and even political advocacy programming would be inaccurately described as militant. Its programs are often praised as being all-encompassing and positive, not only by the Jewish campus community, but also by the larger campus community.

Hillel is responsible for annual arts festivals, weekly hands-on visual arts initiatives, and daily educational programs with community rabbis. Hillel also hosts intramural athletic programs, pub nights and Shabbat dinners. It prides itself on its Israel affairs programming, which caters to a variety of political views and general interests. It is preposterous to describe Zionist initiatives on campus as "militant" when programming and speakers frequently address such topics as "women in Israel," "eco-Zionism" and the diversity of Israel's population.

When we find out that a group on campus is preparing a provocative attack against views that hit very close to home, it should not be expected that we will merely sit back and allow such an event to take place without defending our values. The fact that it is mainly uninvolved Jewish students who come out of the woodwork to join Hillel in demonstrating their pro-Israel stance not only proves the rationale behind Hillel, it has also led to immense Jewish pride on campus. It would have been disturbing if there was no unified Jewish response that defends our values and beliefs.

This year has brought unprecedented Jewish unity on campus through Hillel's endorsement of the Progress Not Politics slate in student government elections and the March 16 rally against global terrorism. Roughly 40 per cent of Jewish students on campus affiliate with Hillel. This year, many more of them took an active role.

For people who disagree with students involved in Hillel, don't just criticize, get involved yourself. Hillel is a student organization and it is the students' responsibility to shape it within a pro-Israel and pluralistic framework. While it is unrealistic for one campus group to cater to all student interests, Hillel does an exemplary job of coming close to this ideal.

Adam Hummel, Shira Zeliger
Hillel@York
Toronto

* * *

Vanunu did great damage

After 18 years in jail for exposing Israel's nuclear secrets, Mordechai Vanunu still does not understand what kind of damage he did to his own country.

If he truly said, "There is no need for a Jewish state," let him spend another 18 years in prison.

B. Prosmushkin
Thornhill, Ont.

Corporal punishment

Many thanks to *The CJN* for recognizing the importance of the corporal punishment issue. ("Parents should find other ways to discipline children" and "Corporal punishment – a very qualified yes," *CJN*, March 11).

Many people use the Bible to justify physical discipline, but Rabbi Wayne Allen, who's in favour of limited corporal punishment, clarifies that while teaching children is a high priority, corporal punishment is not a requisite for this mitzvah. That physical correction was common in ancient times is not surprising. What's impressive, according to Rabbi Allen's explanation, is the way official rabbinic teaching from the third to the 13th century developed so progressively on this issue and limited corporal punishment. I think this rabbinic path leads ultimately to Ron Levin's argument against corporal punishment, which reflects our present-day knowledge and sensibilities.

We must recognize that spanking is hitting, and that hitting is assault. Violence is not a tool. It is always destructive, however well-intentioned. Repealing Section 43 of the Criminal Code, which allows corporal punishment, does not mean many parents and teachers will be unfairly incriminated. (visit repeal43.org for information and answers.) We change the world by how we raise our children. We will never rid the world of violence if we don't rid the home, and specifically childhood, of violence.

Israel, one of 11 countries to legislate against corporal punishment, is truly a light unto the nations on this issue. Section 43 can still be repealed by an act of Parliament if people speak up. Let's follow Israel's example, which is inspired by Judaism's vibrant tradition of pursuing justice.

Suzanne Hersh
Toronto

* * *

The ball is in Arafat's court

After Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's recent meeting with U.S. President George W. Bush, the Israelis have stepped up to their obligations under the road map peace plan by beginning to get out of Gaza. Now the Palestinians must reciprocate by getting out of terror. They have not done a single thing in this direction since negotiations broke down more than three years ago. Again, Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat is paying the price for his refusal to negotiate, and the Palestinians will have to work hard to get back any of the lands currently taken up by Israeli settlements in the West Bank. Bush and Sharon agreed that it would be preposterous to force all of the more than 250,000 Israelis in the West Bank to move.

The fact that Israel will not take back the so-called Palestinian refugees who left Israel in the 1940s should also come as no surprise. Such a migration would destroy the very essence of the State of Israel. Those Palestinians can easily be integrated into the countries where they presently live and, if their host nations allow it, become useful and productive citizens. If compensation is to be demanded for those Palestinians refugees, the same must be given to the Jews who were kicked out of Arab countries in and after 1948 and successfully settled in Israel.

The ball is now in Arafat's court. It remains to be seen whether he will once again miss another opportunity for peace and prosperity for the Palestinians.

Bert Raphael
Toronto

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Israel and the EU

Does Europe reject the "right of return?"

By AMNON RUBINSTEIN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

The European reaction to U.S. President George W. Bush's speech at his meeting with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon last month was interesting for what it did not contain: reservations about Bush's explicit comments on Palestinian refugees' non-right of return.

The absence of any such statements is telling in view of the hysterical reaction from Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat and from PA spokesperson Saeb Erekat on the issue, and their reiteration of the demand that every refugee must be granted the right to return to Israel, with no restrictions.

The European reservations about Bush's speech related only to the question of borders and the need for agreement between Israel and the Palestinians on this matter, but did not add that there is also need for such agreement on the right of return. Europe's silence is not unintentional. No European body has joined the Palestinian demand on the matter of return, and the European Council has explicitly rejected this demand.

In Europe, there is no right of return to rectify the injustices that were done at the end of the 1940s, and there is no right of return for Germans who were denied their property and their rights when they were expelled with great cruelty from areas of the Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia, where they had resided for hundreds of years.

On the eve of the Czech Republic's entry into the European Union, rightist circles voiced a demand to rescind the "Benes decrees" – promulgated by Eduard Benes, the president of Czechoslovakia after the war – that expropriated the property of the Sudeten Germans and were adopted afterward by the Czechoslovakian parliament. The rightists also called for the cancellation of the amnesty the decrees granted to those who at the time committed serious crimes against the ethnic German inhabitants. In contrast to the rightists' demand, the European Council determined there is no need to rescind the decrees in order to allow the Czech Republic to join the EU.

During German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's visit to Prague in September 2003, the two sides declared that even though "the past must not be forgotten, it must not be an obstacle to the future."

Relations between Germany and the Czech Republic are good, and no one talks about the right of return, even though for the Czech Republic, it is not an existential threat and would not lead to the loss of its Czech majority. This is also the case with respect to German-Polish relations.

Not only is there no moral basis for the Palestinian demand – as its aim is to destroy Israel from within – there is also no legal basis for it.

The only explicit United Nations recommendation on the matter of return is the one in General Assembly Resolution 194 from 1948. The resolution is directed at the (defunct) Conciliation Commission that was established at the time and includes other instructions that concern, for example, the internationalization of Jerusalem. The resolution relates to the Palestinian refugees who wish to return to their homes and live in peace with their (Jewish) neighbours and determines that they should be allowed to do so as soon as possible.

But the resolution, even if it once had legal validity, is not relevant today, as it deals with a world that no longer exists. It speaks about refugees themselves, whereas now the Palestinians are demanding a right of return for their descendants, who have been raised on bottomless hatred for Israelis and Jews and are incapable of living in peace with Jews and being loyal citizens of the state.

The resolution was passed before the massive expulsion of Jewish refugees from Arab countries and the expropriation of their property under racist and anti-Semitic laws. For this reason alone, it is devoid of meaning, as today it is necessary to take into account property rights of refugees on both sides.

Therefore, it is very regrettable that the formulators of the Geneva Initiative saw fit to base themselves on a resolution that deserves a dishonourable burial. Although they have limited, using unclear definitions, the proportion of refugees who will be entitled to return to Israel, the very mention of the resolution is a strategic mistake.

Bush, the European Council, and Sari Nusseibeh (in his joint document with Ami Ayalon) did well to define the Palestinians' right of return by restricting it to the Palestinian state and not to the Jewish state, which the "right of return" aims to eliminate.

The EU leaders, in their silence, also support this position.

Europe pushing Palestinian interests

By LESLIE SUSSER
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

After what it sees as U.S. President George W. Bush's tilt toward Israel, the European Union is indicating that it wants to play a larger role in resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict – with an eye toward promoting Palestinian interests.

In a series of under-reported statements after Bush's perceived watershed meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon on April 14, senior European officials have been hinting at greater European involvement on the ground and a new get-tough policy with Israel.

Addressing the European Parliament in Strasbourg on April 21, Chris Patten, the EU's commissioner for external relations, declared bluntly that the Europeans are ready to help rehabilitate the Gaza Strip after Israel's promised withdrawal next year, on condition that the Israel Defence Forces guarantee "not to destroy again what we build."

Speaking in Tel Aviv the same day, Giancarlo Chevallard, the EU's ambassador to Israel, warned that the European Union intends to link the level of ties with Israel to the Jewish state's "commitment to peacemaking."

Top European officials have also been meeting with their U.S. counterparts to co-ordinate the precise role the EU can play in the Gaza withdrawal. This will be discussed further early next month at a meeting of the "Quartet" – a diplomatic grouping of the United States, European Union, United Nations and Russia that produced the "road map" peace plan.

The EU began its campaign for a more significant role in the Gaza process by sending Javier Solana, its foreign policy point man, to Washington, D.C., for an April 20 meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell.

Afterward, Solana outlined three principles of EU thinking on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict: Nothing should be done to prejudge the outcome of final status negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians, the Quartet should co-ordinate its policy moves, and the withdrawal from Gaza should be carried out in an "appropriate manner."

All three principles implied criticism of Bush. In the European view, the president prejudged issues of borders and refugees by saying that demographic realities on the ground – that is, Israeli settlements – should be taken into account in setting final borders, and that refugees should return to a future Palestinian state rather than to Israel.

Moreover, in declaring his "new" policy, Bush acted alone, without consulting his European partners, and did nothing to co-ordinate the Gaza withdrawal with the Palestinians.

Powell is taking the European sense of slight seriously. The day after meeting with Solana, he approached Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Moratinos – who served for seven years as the EU's special envoy to the Middle East – urging him to help with the Gaza plan.

The Europeans would like to play a role in co-ordinating the withdrawal with the Palestinians. They maintain that this is essential if the pullback is to create a new peace dynamic.

Patten made the point in his address to the European Parliament: "Our aim must be that Israelis recognize again the Palestinian Authority as their partner in the peace process. The objective should be to hand over Gaza and parts of the West Bank to the Palestinian Authority – not to Hamas – and to ensure that the handover takes place in an orderly fashion, not in a way that leads to more chaos and violence."

Patten suggests the Europeans, rather than the Americans, could help bring the Palestinians into a positive process with Israel. It's the Europeans, he points out, who more than anyone else have funded Palestinian projects; and it was constructive European influence that helped PA Finance Minister Salam Fayyad achieve transparency and accountability on budget procedures, in line with economic reforms the Quartet demanded of the Palestinian Authority.

What seems to be shaping up is a complex carrot-and-stick policy in which the United States encourages Israel and puts pressure on the Palestinians, while the Europeans do the reverse. Patten made clear that Europe is prepared to continue its humanitarian assistance to the Palestinians and help rebuild their economic infrastructure, but at the same time, he was highly critical of Israel.

"We are certainly prepared to continue our humanitarian assistance and to support the rebuilding of the infrastructure of those areas from which the Israel Defence Forces withdraw," he said in Strasbourg. "But I have to say that this time I think we should seek certain guarantees from the Israel Defence Forces that they will not destroy again what we build."

The Europeans are not making do with mere criticism. They intend to use their economic clout to exert political pressure on Israel. Europe is Israel's largest trading partner, and Israel has a preferential trade deal with EU countries.

It took Israel years to negotiate the agreement, and for years it has been trying to upgrade it. Now, the Europeans say bluntly that they intend to create a linkage between their economic ties with Israel and the way it deals with the Palestinian issue.

At his Tel Aviv news conference April 21, Chevallard said that "up till now, we kept the strengthening of bilateral relations with Israel separate from the regional diplomatic process. From this point on they will be part of one complex."

He did not envision sanctions on Israel, but said the EU would enhance or downgrade ties with Israel depending on its peacemaking performance.

He added that the Europeans expected that Israel would "recognize that the EU has a large role to play in the Middle East" and, in the future, he suggested that Israel consult not only with the United States, as it had on the Gaza plan, but with Europe as well.

Some Israeli analysts believe the Europeans may even suggest an alternative plan to the one Bush and Sharon agreed to at the White House.

It's more likely, however, that they will seek a role within the framework of the Israeli-American plan and will use their support for the Palestinians to make inroads in the Arab world, where the United States is struggling, partly because of its support for Israel and partly because of the situation in Iraq.

Leslie Susser is diplomatic correspondent for the Jerusalem Report.

Living as a Reform Jew in Israel

I'm often asked how, as a Reform Jew, I manage to live in Israel, even though my brand of Judaism doesn't get the same official recognition as Orthodoxy. When I assure people that I'm doing fine, some people are surprised. Without minimizing the gross disadvantages of Reform and Conservative congregations and institutions, living as a non-Orthodox religious Jew in the Jewish state is no less exhilarating than for any other Jew.

Rabbi Dow Marmur in Toronto

Most towns in Israel have either a Conservative or a Reform congregation, or both. In the cities, there's usually more than one of each. Though, unlike Orthodox institutions, they get no state support, several have adequate buildings and others are in the process of acquiring them. Local families celebrate their children's bar and bat mitzvahs there and regard the Reform synagogue as their religious home. On a Shabbat morning, I can easily walk to four Reform places of worship in Jerusalem. Two others are a little further away.

Most of the rabbis in Reform (in Israel, Progressive) and Conservative (Masorti) congregations were trained in Israel and many were born there. The Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem has currently dozens of students preparing to serve the Israeli Progressive movement as congregational rabbis and teachers.

The Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism is the umbrella organization for all Reform institutions in the Jewish state. These include kindergartens, primary and high schools. Through its Religious Action Centre, Reform seeks to give expression to its vision of social justice by championing the causes of the disadvantaged.

One of the causes is the struggle for religious pluralism. It demands equal rights to all Jewish religious streams. Many Israelis, secular and religious, see the absence of such equality as a scandal and know that things must change.

For there are "facts on the ground." Even though the state doesn't sanction Progressive and Masorti marriages, every year hundreds of Jewish couples in Israel are married by non-Orthodox rabbis. They either treat the official rabbinate as an administrative office and, after the formalities, turn to the rabbi of their choice for an appropriate ceremony, or they marry civilly in some other country and then come home for a religious wedding.

Similarly, though non-Orthodox rabbis would not be allowed to conduct funerals arranged by official burial societies, many kibbutzim have their own burial grounds. These easily accommodate non-Orthodox ceremonies and officiants.

Of course, I don't ignore the punishing disadvantages under which my movement functions in Israel. But other than in the eyes of the official rabbinate, extremist politicians and overzealous bureaucrats, Reform and Conservative Jews are treated as equals and can express themselves adequately, though not always easily, within the framework of the tradition of their choice.

No offence, but that's bigotry

The clock strikes twelve and the hordes of suits and ties start streaming through the doors of Calgary's downtown offices and out onto the bustling streets.

It's lunchtime and, more importantly, escape time for those looking to get away from the office, share a meal with friends and sit out in the sun while forgetting anything significant or relevant in their lives.

Barbara Balfour in Calgary

For a few minutes, I'm also one of those people, making my way toward a favourite lunch spot with a close friend.

She's telling me about her upcoming trip with her family, and how her mother has been trying to get time off from her employer, with considerable difficulty.

"Her bosses are so unreasonable," she sighs with frustration. "They treat her really badly and they're really stingy with things like benefits or decent pay. They're totally greedy.

"No offence, but they're Jewish."

Suddenly the world in front of me stops. The sun dims, my heart sinks, and yet I keep on walking, stunned into silence.

I cannot believe what I have just heard.

More importantly, I cannot believe what I have just heard from the mouth of one of my closest friends.

So much for a relaxing lunch hour.

By making such a statement, she recognizes my Jewish background – why else would she have included the disclaimer of "no offence"? But is she lumping me into the same category? Or does she think that because I'm not greedy and horrible (in fact, I think I'm one of the most generous people you will ever meet), in her mind I'm not really Jewish?

I didn't challenge my friend on what she said. I was completely silent, and the air was heavy with unspoken sentiments afterward. I think perhaps she realized her blunder, but she never apologized or acknowledged it.

After giving it some thought, I didn't think there would be a point in actually confronting her about what she said, for I wouldn't succeed in changing her mind. I would only make her more careful about saying what she really thinks when she is around me. After all, said another close friend in whom I confided my hurt, "I wouldn't look into it too much. It's probably the same thing I would say if I wasn't careful about it."

Disparaging remarks can be made about anyone's religion, race or ethnicity. No one is immune to it, though many people certainly seem to think so.

If not, then why would some people feel so comfortable putting someone else down because of their religion or the geographic area of the world they come from? Why then would someone make broad, sweeping generalizations about an entire nation of people?

How easy it seems to be to grow up believing in something because you have been indoctrinated to such an extent that you no longer possess the power or the ability to question what goes on around you.

These issues continued to swirl in my mind when a former PLO terrorist turned Zionist came to speak at the University of Calgary last week.

Born in Bethlehem in 1960, Walid Shoebat was indoctrinated against Israel as a child and began participating in terror-related activities from a young age.

Now he is a converted Christian making the motivational speech circuit, telling delighted audiences all the things they want to hear.

"In kindergarten, I remember the first song we had was 'Arabs are beloved, and Jews are Dogs.' And we sang this every morning," he told us in the same way an alcoholic might confess his addictions.

The thing is, I believe that there are milder, less apparent forms of indoctrination going on right here in Canada, in contemporary North American society, yet no one really talks about it.

But it happens every night around the dinner table, as young children listen to their parents share insights about neighbours, colleagues, or employers.

"Pass the salt" is thus uttered in the same vein, and with the same carefree casualness, as "that Chink family who lives next door" or "greedy, money-grubbing Jews."

Or perhaps, even "No offence… but they're Jewish."

Barbara Balfour can be reached at bbalfour@ucalgary.ca.

Looking to philosophy for answers

When I mention to people that my undergraduate arts major is philosophy, the instant and automatic response is always, "What are you going to do with that?" While I don't aspire to be a philosopher, I am quick to defend my choice of major. Aside from the fact that few arts degrees render you job-ready, I think there is something very valuable to be gained from studying philosophy.

Joanna Grossman in Halifax

As I write this column, I am in the middle of writing my last paper of the academic year. I wish that it would come to me as easily as this column does, but, unfortunately, that is not the case. The thing about philosophy is that it sucks you in – it's not just about analysis, it's about taking the words of others, finding the meaning in them, and then making sense of them for yourself.

My final paper will be the product of a semester's reading in Jewish philosophy, which, because the University of King's College has no set courses on the subject, I did independently. For four months, I laboured through some texts and discussed my questions and thoughts with a professor of mine.

Without the luxury of a class full of people to offer their own thoughts and analysis, I have been on my own to make sense of the texts, many of which are more than a century old. But as is the case with philosophy in general, studying Jewish philosophy is not just about grasping the words of a text, it's about making the ideas your own.

I have been reading *Star of Redemption* by Franz Rosenzweig (1886-1929), an assimilated German Jewish intellectual who was on the brink of converting to Christianity when he was captivated by *Kol Nidre* services in Berlin and returned to Judaism. His philosophy is as an attempt to bridge philosophic and religious thought through man, the individual thinker in the world. Rosenzweig offers a way to understand our relationships on earth as reflective of our relationship to God.

For many people, the word philosophy undoubtedly connotes "esoteric" and "abstract," but anyone who can read stands to gain something from the philosophic texts written by modern Jewish thinkers. For on the most basic level, they sought to answer, albeit formally, many of the questions that we ourselves consider at some point in our lives.

Rarely do we think of philosophy as the vehicle to bring us to a better understanding of faith – we don't hear or speak about philosophy in synagogue, and even in day schools, there is little room for philosophy, given the demands of Jewish history, Tanach, literature and Talmud. But in a secular world, it can be seen as the voice of those who have stood where we stand, in between two juxtaposed worlds, one of religious practice and another of secular experience. In it, we stand to find accessible ideas that we can tangibly grasp.

Perhaps it is a reflection of our instrumentalist society, but four years of education is often seen as a means to get into law school rather than an opportunity to consider ideas that can lead to personal change. And so my rant in defence of philosophy is exposed. History and political science allow us to understand, in practical terms, what has happened and is happening in the world. Literature offers an escape from reality, or perhaps a depiction of it. Philosophy provides a means to accomplish both tasks.

Philosophy offers a journey into minds shaped by other ages, but it does so in such a way as to leave room for us to make our own formulations about what we learn from the thoughts of others. Reading Rosenzweig is about exploring a new dimension of Judaism, about considering the relation between secular and religious life in new terms.

Religion can often appear dogmatic because it is built on the assumption of belief. Philosophy, in contrast, seeks to explain or even justify belief in more rational terms.

I am the first to admit that I am a philosophy geek, and the 30 pages on Rosenzweig that I have yet to write will undoubtedly reinforce that status. Nevertheless, I hold fast to my argument that philosophy shouldn't be relegated to the corners of academia, for within the pages of our own modern Jewish philosophers, we can find many answers, or at least avenues of response, to questions we have all faced at one time or another.

The Kirshner File

Films at festival range far and wide

The topics of the movies at this year's Toronto Jewish Film Festival, which ends on May 9, ranged far and wide.

Charles Guggenheim's *Berga: Soldiers of Another War* addresses a little-known subject: the treatment of captured U.S. Jewish soldiers by Nazi Germany. During the 1944 Battle of the Bulge, Germany's last-ditch effort to turn the tide of the war, thousands of American troops fell into captivity and were taken to the gruesome Stalag 9B prisoner-of-war-camp near Frankfurt. The Germans asked for a list of the Jewish soldiers, but the officer in charge of the POWs, an ethnic American German named Hans Kasten, refused to comply with their demand. After 80 soldiers declared themselves Jewish, the German commandant picked out an additional 270 individuals he suspected of being Jewish. Segregated and placed in separate barracks, they were then shipped off to a slave labour camp at Berga Elster, where conditions were incredibly harsh and where even sick POWs were compelled to work. With defeat looming, the Germans evacuated the camp. When the famished prisoners were finally rescued by U.S. forces, they were teetering on the edge of death. "We were a ragged group of animals," one man recalls. "We all looked like skin and bones," another veteran says. *Berga*, an excellent documentary, pays tribute to their resilience and sheds light on a heretofore largely unexamined aspect of the war.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Emma Goldman: An Exceedingly Dangerous Woman is a superb biopic. Mel Bucklin's empathetic film traces the arc of her career as an American anarchist and flamboyant crusader for free speech, free love, women's rights, birth control and unionization. Born in Russia, Goldman immigrated to the United States in 1885 when she was 16 after a failed arranged marriage. By 24, she was regarded as a dangerous agitator by the authorities. Goldman, a dynamic speaker, could bring an audience to a frenzy. Her fervent opposition to America's participation in World War I earned her the scorn of the government. In 1919, she was deported to Russia, but left two years later, disillusioned with the dictatorial policies of the new Bolshevik order. She spent her last months in Canada, dying in 1940. Though half-forgotten today, Goldman was certainly a trailblazer, as this multi-layered movie demonstrates.

The Wall, by Benny Brunner, is a critical examination of the security fence Israel is currently building through the West Bank and around Jerusalem. Brunner, an Israeli, believes it has had a devastating impact on the Palestinians and is embittering a new Palestinian generation. A Palestinian woman complains that her land has been expropriated and that her fruit trees have been uprooted. A Palestinian taxi driver likens the barrier to the dreaded Berlin Wall. Israeli peace activist Haim Hanegbi says it cuts off Palestinians from each other, while *Ha'aretz* reporter Amira Hass contends it is part and parcel of Israel's "expansionist ideology." The sole neutral voice in this partisan film is that of the Israeli in charge of its construction.

Inspiring Figure: The Louis Rubenstein Story turns on Canada's legendary figure skating champion. The son of Polish immigrants who settled in Montreal in the 1850s, he took up skating as a child. During the 1880s, he won several North American titles, and in 1890, he earned a gold medal at the European championship in Russia. Retiring at 28, he turned to politics as a Montreal alderman. A dashing figure who excelled in several sports, he was president of the Montreal Amateur Athletics Association and the YMHA. Olympic gold medalist Barbara Ann Scott describes him as the father of Canadian figure skating. Richard Pound, an International Olympic Committee official, says he exemplified the spirit of true sportsmanship and community service. Rosalind Raddatz's film, while short, is illuminating.

Montreal Jewish Memories: Stories of the War Years 1939-1945, directed by Dov Okouneff, resurrects a bygone era. Fay Ain remembers her job in a garment factory. Harry Meyerovitch talks of his days as a radical on the political scene. Irving Layton summons up images of the first days of the war. Muriel Davis and Joseph Mendelson explain why they joined the army. Edward Wolkove shares reminiscences of his duties as a military instructor. Sidney Shmuelson and William Novick look back at their respective roles as a squadron leader and bomber pilot in the air force. The film oozes with nostalgia, but is rather sketchy.

Captured U.S. soldiers

Isaac Bashevis Singer "...About A Hidden God..." is an affectionate tribute to a master of Yiddish literature and a Nobel Prize laureate. Isy Morgensztern's pungent film is bolstered by file footage of pre-war Poland and excerpts from Singer's novels and stories. It reflects on his philosophy of life (he was a skeptic and a believer), his fixation with women (sex is to literature what aspirin is to medicine, he claims) and his somewhat distant relationship with Israel (his brief encounter with an arrogant Menachem Begin, Israel's former prime minister, is somewhat testy).

Looking for Victoria: An Argentine Story takes us back to the mid-1970s and early 1980s, when Argentina was governed by a vicious right-wing junta that brooked no dissent and ruthlessly murdered upwards of 30,000 political opponents. These dissidents, including Adriana Victoria Lewi's parents, simply disappeared, never to be heard from again. Ton Vriens' film, which is moving at times, focuses on this dark period and on Adriana's efforts to find out what happened to her Jewish father and Catholic mother. In all probability, they were thrown out of an airplane while still alive. Adriana, now a mother, meets her parents' old friends and talks with a person who saw her father on the eve of his grisly death. Although Adriana cracks the mystery of her parents' disappearance, she mourns for them, ineffably sad that she will never enjoy the simple pleasure of talking with them.

Hiding and Seeking: Faith and Tolerance after the Holocaust is an unusual film, a rumination on the nature of Jewish Orthodoxy and a quest for redemption. Menachem Daum, the co-director, was born in a displaced persons camp in southern Germany and raised in Brooklyn, the son of Holocaust survivors from Poland. An enlightened Orthodox Jew, he believes that his two adult sons, Tzvi Dovid and Akiva, both yeshiva students living in Israel, are closed to the outside world and much too rigid in their views. In an attempt to convince them that all men and women are brothers and sisters, regardless of their religion and ethnicity, he travels with them to Poland. During the Holocaust, a Polish family risked everything to hide their maternal grandfather and his two brothers. When Daum's skeptical sons learn that this Catholic family saved them out of the goodness of their hearts rather than for profit, they are forced to come to terms with their assumption that all gentiles, and particularly Poles, are beyond the pale. This is a deeply personal, touching movie whose lessons are universal.

The Last Witness, by Michael Nekanda-Trepka, revolves around Samuel Willenberg, a Polish Jew. He was one of the precious few inmates who succeeded in escaping from the Treblinka concentration camp. Now, decades later, as an Israeli, he goes back to Poland to retrace his steps. When Willenberg, an intense man, arrives in Treblinka, he is overcome by emotions. In a series of graphic flashbacks, and with a distinctive catch in his voice, he recalls the terrifying sights and the unforgettable odours of that death camp, as well as his miraculous escape from that pit of hell.

Mendel, a Norwegian film set in the mid-1950s, is about an impressionable Jewish boy trying to adapt to a new home in Norway after his family leaves Germany. Mendel, the central character, is eager to assimilate into a society where Jews are both revered and reviled. But his parents, Holocaust survivors who keep secrets from him but not his older, wiser brother, discourage his efforts. This is a modest but inventive coming-of-age movie.

Berlin Bershert is a funny, offbeat confection from Germany. Two attractive sisters, Dahlia and Leah, are in the market for mates. Dahlia, a journalist and an atheist, could not care less whether her boyfriend is Jewish. In fact, she is not looking for a nice Jewish boy. Leah, a Hebrew teacher who keeps kosher, is a lesbian. November Wanderin's satirical film is composed of biting vignettes in which Dahlia and Leah meet their respective dates. Dahlia rejects a nerdy American journalist writing stories on Jews in Germany, while Leah dumps a woman of vaguely Jewish origin who dislikes Israel and is clearly pro-Palestinian. Just when you think their quest for companionship is hopeless, Mr. Right and Miss Congeniality suddenly appear. *Berlin Bershert* is proof that Jewish life in Germany is returning to a semblance of normality.

Abjad (The First Letter), a film from Iran, deals with the budding but doomed romance between a Muslim and a Jewish teenager. Director Abolfazl Jalili treats the Jewish content only indirectly and by inference. The pace is plodding, but the performances ring true.

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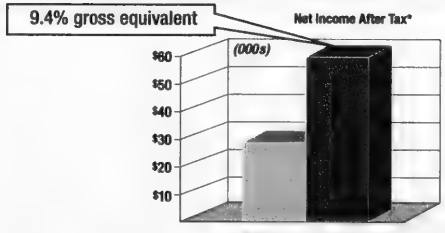

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Charter flights to Israel set to begin in June

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

A Toronto tour operator is offering discounted charter flights to Israel beginning June 22.

Sabra Tours has contracted with Skyservice, a Canadian-based charter airline with 24 aircraft, to fly every Tuesday from Toronto to Tel Aviv with a stop in Ireland. The flights, using a 240-seat Boeing 757, will be priced beginning at $1,099, substantially less than full-service airlines El Al and Air Canada.

Should the flight prove popular, Sabra has the option of adding a second summer flight, said Diana Shenker Rozental, the travel agency's vice-president.

The addition of a new flight to Israel, coupled with El Al's recent announcement of eight weekly flights this summer and Air Canada's seven, suggests that travellers are returning to Israel in growing numbers. Tourism to Israel had been hit hard by the three-year old Palestinian uprising.

Shenker Rozental said the Sabra-booked flights will run until Oct. 6.

So far, "it's selling, thank God."

Shenker Rozental suggested the market for travel to Israel is large enough – and varied enough – to accommodate all the players. She expected there would be little overlap with El Al or Air Canada passengers. Her clients, she said, would be individuals who fly to Israel using lower-cost options that generally included a European stopover. Airline such as Lufthansa, KLM, British Airways, Alitalia, Malev and Air France all offer flights to Israel, but with layovers in Europe. These flights are less expensive than the non-stop route flown by Air Canada and El Al. "Ninety per cent of our passengers will come from other airlines.

"Really, we don't take [away] El Al's passengers."

She acknowledged, however, that has El Al dropped its price on its Tuesday flights, though not to the levels offered by Sabra.

"They look at us like competitors, but in my experience, it's a mistake. A charter can't be a competitor for regularly scheduled flights."

Stanley Morais, general manager of El Al's Canadian office, said the airline did offer a limited number of discounted seats on Tuesdays in July, but those have sold out. He also downplayed the competition offered by Sabra, saying El Al's non-stop flights on wider body Boeing 767s, as well as the airline's vaunted security measures, the convenience and flexibility offered by a full-service airline, should help El Al retain its passengers.

Morais and Shenker Rozental agreed that Israel is experiencing a surge in tourism. El Al, he said, is expecting double the number of bookings it had last summer and could bring as many as 1,500 passengers to Tel Aviv in July alone.

From 2000 to 2003 were very hard years in Israel, Shenker Rozental said, "but today it's not so big a problem to be in Israel and passengers don't take a lot of risk… I think there will be a lot of tourism in Israel."

Shenker Rozental said that despite its entry into the Israel-bound charter market, Sabra will continue to sell tickets on El Al. She said the Israeli airline is more suitable for passengers whose schedules don't coincide with the set flights operated by the charter.

* * *

In other developments, El Al has asked the United States to permit its aircraft to employ a new "FlightGuard" anti-missile system. The system, to be tested in June, will be employed on all the airline's aircraft and will be installed on six planes by the end of 2004.

The United States, sensitive to the concerns of environmental groups, normally doesn't allow planes equipped with foreign defence systems to land at its airports, *Ha'aretz* reported.

Morais said the development shows the concern of the Israeli government and El Al in assuring the safety of passengers.

In November 2002, an Arkia flight leaving Mombasa, Kenya was shot at by a pair of shoulder-mounted missiles, which missed. It was widely reported the Israeli aircraft was probably equipped with a missile defence system.

Morais said he doesn't believe the terrorism scare that led Canadian authorities to divert an El Al flight from Toronto to Hamilton last October had any affect on El Al's decision to upgrade its defence systems.

He said that if implemented, the missile system, along with the use of CTX x-ray machines for all baggage and other measures, make El Al "the leader when it comes to all means of security when it comes to commercial aviation."

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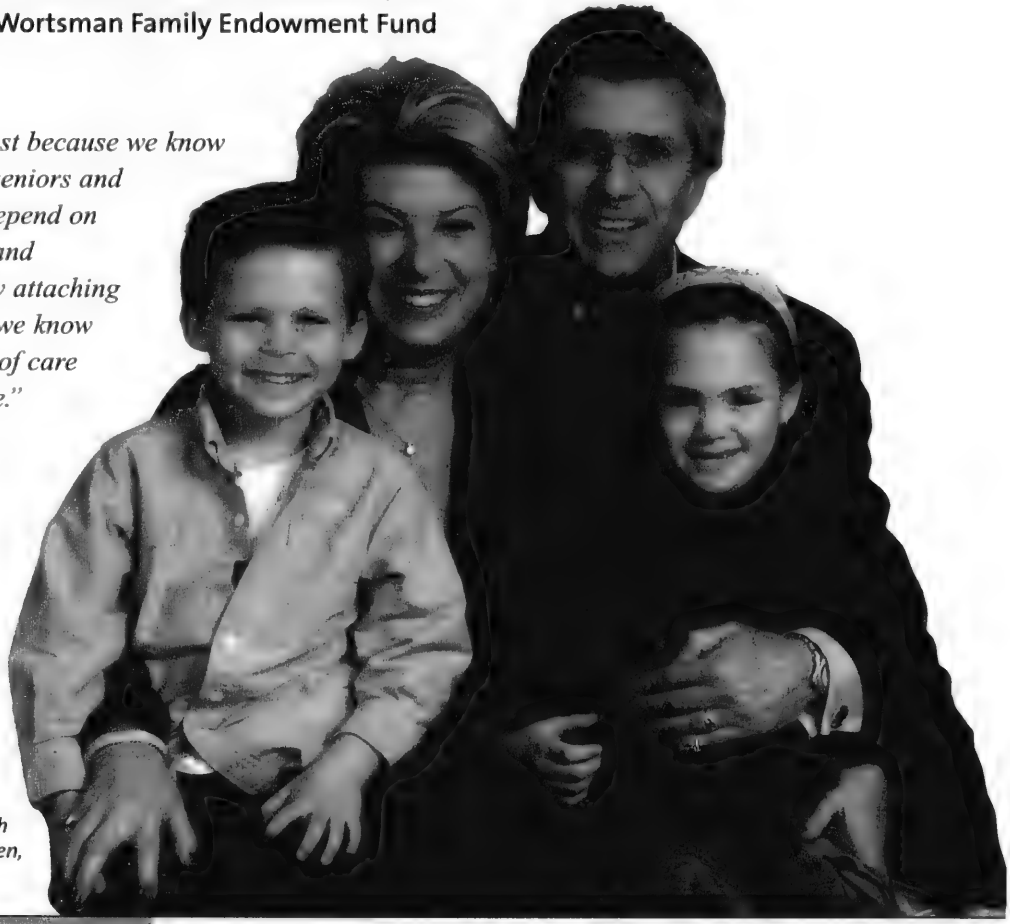

Elayne & Irwin Wortsman with two of their eight grandchildren, Jonah and Jayden.

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Tread on me, German 'stumbling stones' implore

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

Kurt Herzstein wants people to walk on his mother's name.

"It will be a great honour," says the German-born Toronto resident and Holocaust survivor. "I feel very good about it. It means more to me than having her name inscribed at Yad Vashem, where there are millions of others. Here, it's just one name – hers."

On May 17, a stone inscribed with the following will be hammered into the sidewalk in front of #35 Lahnstrasse in the German city of Duisburg, north of Dusseldorf: "Here lived Hertha Herzstein, born 1896, deported to Westerbork, murdered July 19, 1943 in KZ Sobibor." Thirteen stones bearing the names of the other residents of the apartment building who were killed by the Nazis will accompany it in the ground.

The 10x10 centimeter concrete stones, their information inscribed on a brass plate facing up, are called *Stolpersteine*, literally, stumbling stones or obstacles. In this case, they are not meant to trip over in the literal sense, but rather in the emotional sense. While they are level with the ground, their intent is to get pedestrians to stop and consider the name on the stone.

"That stone represents a person. Can you imagine thousands and thousands of them?" asks Herzstein, 80, who escaped his birthplace of Duisburg at 14 and fled to Holland, Cuba and finally, Canada.

A German artist has done more than imagine. Gunter Demnig, a 56-year-old sculptor from Cologne, plans to pound as many of the *Stolpersteine* into European soil as he can – and into the hearts and minds of its residents. Demnig researches Jewish victims of the Holocaust, including their birthplace and places of incarceration and death. (Ironically, he relies on deportation lists compiled by the Gestapo, which are said be very thorough.) He then etches the information onto a shiny brass plaque affixed to the block, which is fit into the sidewalk or road at the entrance to the victim's last place of residence.

An example of the *Stolpersteine*.

To date, Demnig has installed more than 3,500 of the commemorative stones across Germany, generating much media attention, and is planning expansion into France, Poland, Austria, Hungary, the Netherlands and Italy. Each stone costs 95 Euros (about $150) and can be "adopted" by groups or individuals, or purchased by relatives of victims as memorials. Reports say Demnig can barely keep up with demand from schools and individuals all over Germany.

As far as he knows, Herzstein is the sole Canadian to have a loved one thus immortalized. And immortal he feels it is.

"Anyone who walks over these stones is keeping the [victim's] memory alive because their shoes scuff the metal to a shine. They can last forever and almost everyone stops to look," he says.

The innovative project began in the early 1990s, when Demnig paid artistic tribute to Gypsy victims of the Holocaust in Cologne. In 1995, he laid his first stones for Jewish victims in the same city, where the markers now total some 1,300.

Today, there are nearly 700 stones in Hamburg and the municipal government in Berlin has approved 2,000 of them. New inquiries come in all the time.

But not everyone is onside. The city of Leipzig turned the project down, saying the stones are "reminiscent of Hollywood Boulevard in Los Angeles." And both the mayor of Munich and head of the city's Jewish community are opposed to the markers, fearing they would be trampled on by neo-Nazis.

Herzstein says surprisingly few of the stones have been vandalized to date, and none destroyed. However, some Germans have tried to prevent installations in front of their homes.

Herzstein won't attend the installation of the stone bearing his mother's name. He's content to know that the markers of the residents of his former home is a project of a Grade 10 class at the local high school.

"They are German Catholics and the kids learn both ancient and modern Hebrew taught by a pastor," Herzstein says. "They wouldn't take any money from me.

"I leave it in their hands."

Advertising Feature

Finance for Thought

Leveling the Investment Playing Field

S. Jonathan Kirshblum,
B.A., CFP, FMA, FCSI
Financial Planner
Investment Advisor

"If I wrote you a cheque today for 50 million dollars, how would you go about investing it?" This was the opening question asked on the final day of the financial conference to which I referred in last week's article. It was a powerful question. In this room sat an assortment of investment advisors, many of whom were seasoned stockbrokers, and yet in answering the question no one spoke of hiring a stockbroker or investing in mutual funds.

High net worth individuals commonly use a simple formula for managing their investments. With the help of a financial planner, they identify financial objectives and then hire private money managers to direct daily investment decisions in line with their stated goals. These managers regularly command minimum account sizes that can range from 1 to 100 million dollars. Some are recognized as specialists in specific sectors of the markets; often, a wide variety of managers are assembled to build an optimally diversified portfolio with corresponding decreased levels of risk. Many of these private money managers are unknown to the general public because unlike mutual funds, they seldom advertise.

The exciting news for those of us who have not yet amassed 50 million dollars is that we can now access the services and professional expertise these money managers provide, through investment vehicles known as "managed" accounts. Managed accounts are portfolios that offer us packaged sets of services similar to those used by pension funds and high net worth individuals. There are now many different managed accounts available through the major investment firms in Canada. While the bells and whistles may vary from one to another, they tend to have certain common features.

Access Many of the world's private institutional money managers can now be accessed through managed programs. Utilizing the expertise of managers recognized as specialists in specific investment strategies can offer great portfolio diversification. Combining the efforts of many of these managers in one program also helps to reduce overall portfolio risk.

Impartial Consulting Some programs integrate the service of a third party consulting firm that specializes in profiling private money managers worldwide. The consulting firm often plays a central role in selection and co-ordination of managers and ongoing monitoring of performance. Some consulting firms continually monitor all trading activity of managers selected for the program to ensure each manager strictly adheres to his or her designated mandate.

Automatic Rebalancing While great care should be taken in establishing an investor's appropriate asset allocation, price shifts in underlying assets often move an investor's portfolio away from the original mandate. Some managed programs offset this risk by continually rebalancing the portfolio; this exercise may apply to something as small as an individual stock holding, or to something as large as an entire geographic allocation. Rebalancing ensures a portfolio is regularly brought back in line with the investor's targeted asset allocation and desired level of risk.

Improved Reporting Many managed programs provide detailed, clear reporting. For example, many managed account statements show clear comparisons between manager performance and established benchmarks. This provides investors and advisors an effective method for interpreting performance results.

Deductible All-inclusive Fee The fee structure of most managed programs is calculated as a percentage of assets under management. In many cases the fee is all-inclusive and covers the services of all the professionals involved: the firm offering the program, the firm's managed advisory group, the investment advisor, the consulting firm and the money managers. Unlike commissions on stock trading or mutual fund management fees, managed account fees for non-registered assets are typically almost fully tax-deductible.

Finally, one important consequence of managed accounts has been the recognition by many investment advisors that it is counter-productive to continue spending their days staring at trading monitors or reading analysts' reports. Many advisors have decided to leave the market study to money managers and instead have begun honing their level of expertise in other areas of financial consulting.

This is a tremendously positive development for the individual who seeks a holistic solution to investing. An investor can now organize his or her complete financial plan and enjoy investment services previously reserved for the wealthy, by working with one advisor who is both skilled in financial planning and who uses a "managed" approach to portfolio management. For all investors, this combination of financial services should provide enhanced performance, decreased levels of risk and the most important return, that of peace of mind.

This is the second in a series of 4 columns Nesbitt Burns' has sponsored as part of our commitment to the education process inherent in making investment decisions. Part 3 of Jonathan's "Finance for Thought" will appear in the May 20, 2004 issue of the CJN.

Learn more about Jonathan Kirshblum's services at the BMO Nesbitt Burns website www.jkirshblum.com or by contacting his office at (416) 359-8151.

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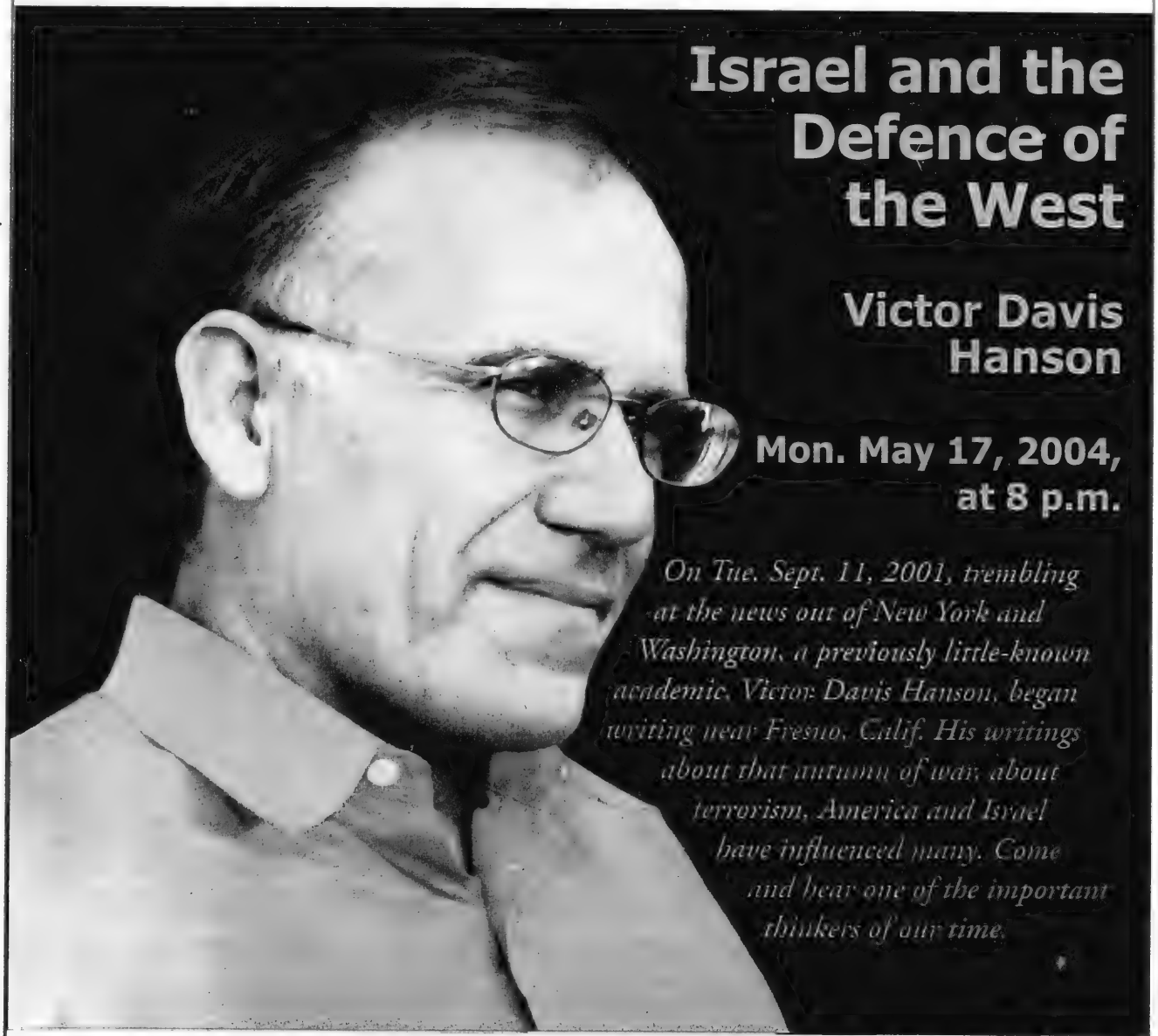

Israel and the Defence of the West

Victor Davis Hanson

Mon. May 17, 2004, at 8 p.m.

On Tue. Sept. 11, 2001, trembling at the news out of New York and Washington, a previously little-known academic, Victor Davis Hanson, began writing near Fresno, Calif. His writings about that autumn of war, about terrorism, America and Israel have influenced many. Come and hear one of the important thinkers of our time.

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300 Atkinson Ave., Thornhill, ON
Monday, June 14, 2004 at 8:00 P.M.
for the following purposes:
1. To receive the annual report of the President.
2. To elect the members of the Board of Directors for the ensuing term.
3. To receive the financial report of the Corporation.
4. To appoint auditors.
5. To transact such further and other business as may properly come before the meeting, or any adjournment or adjournments thereof.
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Alan Winer, Secretary

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Jewish Life

Journey to a 19th-century shtetl

By ZE'EV GLICENSTEIN

Back about 150 years ago, the town of Kamenets was a typical Russian-Polish shtetl consisting of "250 old houses, black and small with shingled roofs," and with some 450 Jews listed in the *Revizski Skazki*, the official government registry.

However, most of the town's Jews did not appear in the registry. Fearful that their sons would be drafted into the army, many simply left town briefly rather than register with the authorities. Each year, the community leader would pay a steep bribe to a visiting government inspector before the latter, accompanied by the entire town gendarmery, would make his rounds.

"On inspection day, many houses were locked up, their tenants fled, and scarcely a living soul was seen in the streets," Yekhezkel Kotik would recall. "The place resembled a ghost town – a cemetery… [But] like every prior year, the inspector left Kamenets after signing the protocol that everything was in perfect order."

This telling vignette appears in Kotik's 1913 Yiddish-language memoir, recently published in English as *Journey to a Nineteenth-Century Shtetl: The Memoirs of Yekhezkel Kotik* (Wayne State University Press).

The author's colourful reminiscences include a description of the short-lived "panic of 1842," when a widespread rumour suggested the government would soon prohibit Jews from marrying before the age of 20. "Whoever had an eight-year-old son or daughter wasted no time in marrying him or her off," Kotik writes. "In order to keep the police in the dark, the marriages took place in utter secrecy and without lavish ceremony."

Kotik, who began writing his memoirs in his mid-60s, demonstrates a thorough, preternatural knowledge of events that transpired before his birth, many involving his prominent grandparents and great-grandparents. He describes the shtetl's rich religious and social life as well as the bitter divisions between the Chassidim and their philosophical opponents, the Mitnagdim, which seriously affected relations between himself and his father.

Because his influential grandfather consorted with many lords, Kotik devotes much attention to the complex relations between the Polish nobility, the Jews who often worked for them and the peasant underclass. He also recounts the liberation of the serfs and the Polish rebellion of 1863, upheavals that altered the region's feudal character and brought it into the modern age.

As editor David Attaf notes, it was modernity – not the catastrophe of war – that brought the old-fashioned, intimate world that Kotik paints to an end.

"By 1912, the rapid pace of modernization and the inroads made by emigration, urbanization, industrialization, and secularization made it self-evident to many that the old shtetl was disappearing," Attaf observes in a wonderful introductory essay. The text is also graced by his scholarly editorial notes.

No less a literary critic than Sholom Aleichem called Kotik's memoir "a treasure, a garden" and "a paradise full of blossoming flowers and singing birds." Thanks to this new translation, these delights are now accessible to English readers as well.

* * *

Yale Reisner, founder of the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation Genealogy Project in Warsaw, is speaking on "Raising Atlantis: Restoring Jewish Memory in Poland" this month in five cities across North America, including Toronto.

According to legend, Atlantis was an advanced civilization that vanished in a catastrophic flood. For centuries, Poland's Jews constituted the world's largest Jewish community – another influential civilization that was swept away in the cataclysm of the Holocaust.

Reisner has helped scores of people, including many "hidden children," discover their Jewish roots. His talk, which is presented by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto) and the Polish Jewish Heritage Foundation, will focus on some of the ways Jewish memory is being restored in Poland today.

Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue, 470 Glencairn Ave. Thursday May 13, 8 p.m. Doors open 7:30 p.m. Non-members $5. For more information, visit www.jgstoronto.ca.

Jews in the golden ages

***Unsettled: An Anthropology of the Jews*, by Melvin Konner, Penguin Books, $45.00.**

Why is this sweeping survey of Jewish history and culture different from many similar accounts? Perhaps because the author, a professor of anthropology, brings to his task unusual knowledge as well as the emotions of a thoughtful Jew who has struggled through the trials of religious faith. In addition, he has a gift for vivid storytelling and unfurls a multi-hued canvas of the major events, outstanding personalities and enduring contributions of Judaism and the Jewish people.

Konner describes four great golden ages for Diaspora Jews in empires where the tolerance of the dominant cultures created not just a safe haven but an embrace of friendly alliance and even an honoured place. The first was Babylonia, now Iraq, where the main version of the Talmud was created during the first millennium.

In the second, Muslim Spain, Jews reached the highest ranks of science, scholarship, poetry, statesmanship and military prowess for centuries, slowly spreading the great achievements of Islamic civilization into backward Europe.

The third golden age was established with Amsterdam as its centre, also a consequence of the great Spanish expulsion. Here, the ancient Jewish flair for trade and finance reached even greater heights, and the vigorous Dutch exploration of the world had important Jewish participants and backers. But the fourth and most radiant of all golden ages is the one in the United States of America.

"Women of Valour" is a chapter devoted to women in Jewish history from Dona Gracia and Hannah Senesh to Betty Friedan and Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg of the United States Supreme Court. Konner agrees with author Cynthia Ozick that the loss of Jewish talent caused by the exclusion of women was "numerically greater than a hundred pogroms" and "culturally and intellectually more debilitating than a century of autos-da-fe."

He relates the sad story of Beruryah, wife of the Talmudic sage Rabbi Meir, renowned for her wisdom and scholarship. Her reputation was sullied by none other then Rashi, the great medieval French commentator, who recounted the gossip that Rabbi Meir had engaged one of his students to seduce his wife, perhaps to test her fidelity. She supposedly succumbed and hanged herself.

This story, says Konner, "was transparently concocted by weak, defensive men to discredit the one brilliant woman in the Talmud, and her husband, for letting her study. It is no longer accepted, but it was used for centuries by fanatical traditionalists to keep women from learning."

Reflecting on his youthful loss of religious faith, Konner asserts that "America and Israel both are more religious today than they have been at any time in generations, and fundamentalist movements are alive and well in Judaism, Christianity and of course Islam. Science, philosophy, psychiatry, prosperity, longevity, capitalism, communism – all were predicted at one time or another to bring the religious impulse, or at least religious forms, to an end. None of them has."

Konner is convinced that with or without a major resurgence of worldwide anti-Semitism, Jewish life will remain strong. This is because Jews are restless, critical, imaginative, resourceful, ambitious, troubled by injustice and committed to self-defence.

"They have been an irritant, an itch on the skin of the planet, for 3,000 years. They keep saying annoying things like 'God is One' and 'Thou shalt not kill,' 'Give me your tired, your poor' and 'Workers of all lands unite,' 'Where there is Id, let Ego be' and '$E=mc^2$,' 'God Bless America' and 'That place, Mr. President, is not your place,' 'If you will it, it is no dream' and 'Never again.'"

Can an American-Jewish community numbering two million or fewer hold its own in a country with 400 million people, including 50 million Hispanic Americans, 30 million African Americans, a vast new Asian American ethnic group and far more Muslims than Jews? No one knows. But it seems likely that the American-Jewish community in the year 2100 will be very small and probably wealthy. How Jewish or secure it will be remains a question.

By turns moving, disturbing, compelling and eloquent, this accessible, creative portrayal of the Jewish people's long and unparalleled history should not be missed.

Jewish Life

Of Google and Joogle Bombs

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

It had all the elements of a classic Internet controversy: anti-Semitism, secret technology and a debate over censorship versus freedom of speech.

Even the most casual user of the Web has come across Google, the popular Internet search engine. And anyone who has ever built a website knows about Google's power and that getting a high ranking in Google can have a huge impact on traffic directed toward your site. Currently, Google is responsible for just over half of all searches done on the Web. (Google also provides AOL with its search engine results. The only other major player is Yahoo **[http://searchenginewatch.com/reports/article.php/2156431]**.)

Google has developed secret algorithms, or mathematical formulas, to help decide its rankings, or how high a particular site would be listed in its search results. For example, if you type the word "Israel" into Google, you get 7.8 million referrals (the top three being the *Jerusalem Post*, *Ha'aretz* and Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs) **[http://tinyurl.com/2857f]**. Obviously, any site wants to be the No. 1 ranked site, and not No. 7.8 million.

If you typed the word "Jew" into Google recently, clicking on the No. 1 link would take you to JewWatch, an anti-Semitic website. Other high-ranking sites included Christian missionary groups. This incensed many people, including Steven Weinstock, who created the Remove JewWatch website and started a petition urging Google to rectify the situation **[www.removejewwatch.com/]**.

Google responded to the controversy with this explanation: "If you recently used Google to search for the word 'Jew,' you may have seen results that were very disturbing. We assure you that the views expressed by the sites in your results are not in any way endorsed by Google... Some people concerned about this issue have created online petitions to encourage us to remove particular links or otherwise adjust search results. Because of our objective and automated ranking system, Google cannot be influenced by these petitions. The only sites we omit are those we are legally compelled to remove or those maliciously attempting to manipulate our results. We apologize for the upsetting nature of the experience you had using Google and appreciate your taking the time to inform us about it" **[www.google.com/explanation.html]**. Now, whenever anyone searches for "Jew" on Google, the top on the results page leads you to that disclaimer.

The Anti Defamation League praised Google for its quick response. "Google has shown great responsiveness to this issue and a willingness to consider changes to better identify extremist websites, so that users can still have the benefit of Google's unique search technology while being alerted when they are about to enter into a hate zone" **[www.adl.org/PresRele/Internet_75/4482_75.htm]**.

But despite the explanation, JewWatch was still placing high in the rankings. Enter Daniel Sieradski of the Jewschool website. Sieradski is one of many people who believes the Internet is a marketplace for diverse points of view, no matter how objectionable. He also maintains that a solution can be found without resorting to censorship. In this case, Sieradski felt a "Google Bomb" was in order.

I mentioned earlier that Google uses secret algorithms to help it decide its rankings. It seems that part of the secret to ranking high with Google lies in how many *other* websites link to your page. People have tried, with some success, to influence their ranking by encouraging other sites to link to theirs. That technique is known as a "Google Bomb" **[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/google bomb]**. (To see a Google Bomb in action, type the phrase "miserable failure" into Google and see what site comes up first **[www.google.com/search?q=miserable+failure]**.)

Sieradski organized what would later become known as a "Joogle Bomb" in order to raise the ranking of a reputable site to the top of Google's rankings for "Jew" **[http://tinyurl.com/3eh9m]**. He spread the word to as many people as possible to link to the entry for "Jew" to the website for Wikipedia, an online encyclopedia. Sieradski called its entry on "Jew" the "most inclusive, non-denominational, and democratic source on the subject" **[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jew]**.

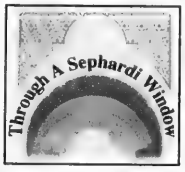
It worked. Website creators responded to Sieradski's appeal. Within days – and without resorting to censorship – JewWatch was pushed off its perch atop the Google results for "Jew" and replaced by Wikipedia.

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

Celebrating Lag la'Omer

By RABBI YEHIEL BEN AYON

The 33rd day of the Omer is, according to tradition, the date when the manna began to appear to our forefathers in the desert. The provisions of food they had taken with them from Egypt lasted for all of 30 days. Upon seeing their dwindling rations end before their eyes, they cried in bitter complaint at their predicament. Three days later, on the 18th of Iyar (what Sephardim call Lag la'Omer and Ashkenazim call Lag ba'Omer), the manna descended as a response to their prayers and it continued for the duration of their 40-year trek to the land of Israel.



The 18th of Iyar is also marked in our calendar for another reason. Sephardim observe this date as the anniversary of the passing of the second-century rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai. Rabbi Bar Yochai was a larger than life figure of the Mishnaic era. Wondrous stories abound about his life, his faith and philosophies, and about his defiance of the Roman regime that ruled much of the world during his time. His greatest legacy was arguably his compilation of the multi-volumed Zohar, the oral tradition of Kabbalah, Jewish mysticism and meditation, that had been passed from generation to generation to a select and secretive few.

Rabbi Bar Yochai saw fit to preserve this transmission by committing it to writing, although these writings themselves continued to remain in the hands of a select few for many centuries to come. The study of Torah is, of course, of utmost importance to Jews, but to Sephardim, the study of this part of the Torah is particularly dear. Hence, this date was acclaimed as a date of celebration honouring not only the life of the venerable Rabbi Bar Yochai but of our affinity to the words of the holy Kabbalah.

The occasion is called the "Hilula," a lavish feast celebrated by immediate and extended family members, in which candles are lit, sumptuous foods served, *piyuttim* (folk songs) sung and legends shared.

With the advent of the State of Israel 56 years ago, the 18th of Iyar has taken on gigantic proportions. Tens of thousands of pilgrims pitch camp in the Galil, the surrounding hills of Meron, the burial site of Rabbi Bar Yochai. Bonfires turn night into day, different bands compete with each other and the smells of spices and roasted meats waft through the night air. People wander from campsite to campsite offering and receiving delicacies and toasts.

It is remarkable that the words of one person who lived 2,000 years ago – words that are virtually undecipherable to all but a very few – are nevertheless revered and celebrated.

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Resident scholar The Jewish Centre, NY
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Reform Jews increasingly refer to Halachah: rabbi

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Whether or not a same-sex couple actually undergoes a wedding or commitment ceremony, a same-sex union "creates a household…a family in all respects" in the eyes of Reform rabbis, says a leading scholar in the Reform movement.

Rabbi Mark Washofsky, a professor of rabbinics at Hebrew Union College (HUC) – Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, noted in a recent interview in Toronto that the same would not be true of an unmarried heterosexual couple living together "precisely because we do provide something for a couple like this if they want to say that their union is permanent."

In the Reform movement, some rabbis officiate at same-sex ceremonies and others don't; of those who do, only some consider it a marriage. In the Toronto area, two Reform rabbis Rabbi Michael Dolgin of Temple Sinai Congregation, and Rabbi Lawrence Englander of Mississauga's Solel Congregation – announced earlier this year that they would be officiating at same-sex marriages. Some rabbis in the area have already been officiating quietly at such ceremonies for about two years.

In a recent interview at Temple Sinai, Rabbi Washofsky discussed a range of issues including same-sex marriage, probably the most prominent issue but not the one he considers most pressing. The 51-year-old rabbi, who was ordained at HUC in 1980 and received his doctorate there in 1987, was at the temple for a weekend as scholar-in-residence, speaking on topics including "The Evolution of Reform Jewish Practice" and "The Talmud, Halachah and Reform Judaism."

Rabbi Mark Washofsky

The path back to traditions like kippot in synagogue, more Hebrew in services, and kashrut or aspects of it, in the most liberal of the mainstream denominations, dates back to the 1960s, when Americans were beginning to rediscover their ethnicities, said Rabbi Washofsky.

"Things that previous generations of Reform Jews would have been astonished to see are now serious, live options for Reform Jews," he said. "I think there's a more serious effort by Reform Jews today to explain what we need to do by reference to the Jewish tradition, which is essentially halachic tradition."

Rabbi Washofsky would argue that Halachah – Jewish law – has always played a role in Reform Judaism. "In the 19th century Reform Jews tried to introduce reforms in Jewish ritual life, and tended to justify them by arguing over Jewish legal sources."

Even at its most radical, he said, Reform Judaism kept an attachment to certain forms of Jewish behaviour. "We were still doing Halachah, but we didn't want to admit it."

The biggest issue for the Reform movement, Rabbi Washofsky believes, is Jewish continuity – a buzzword first heard in the 1990s in the general Jewish community. Earlier generations of Jews were "different by default," the rabbi said.

In his own case, for example, the New Orleans native, whose parents and two grandmothers were American-born, said that Yiddish was not spoken in his home. "That sort of ethnicity was not there. I don't have it to pass on to the next generation.

"Nowadays our Jewish identity has to come from our own decision to be Jewish, rather than from a fact of life. We have to decide that we're going to take time off on Friday night and Saturday, that we're going to pray in a different way… We have to see that being Jewish is a source of meaning and significance, and not [make certain decisions about religious behaviour] because our grandparents would turn over in their graves if we didn't."

The fact that the Reform movement has recognized patrilineal descent since 1983 is an issue in terms of Jewish continuity in the eyes of the Conservative and Orthodox movements, which hold to the traditional position that born Jews are halachically Jewish only if they are born to a Jewish mother.

Within the Reform movement, patrilineality is not controversial, but it is problematic, said Rabbi Washofsky. "If one parent is Jewish and you raise the child Jewish, we will accept him or her as Jewish. Within the movement, however, problems arise if a child is being raised as part of two religions."

In such a case, said Rabbi Washofsky, who chairs the responsa committee of the Reform rabbinic umbrella, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the children are not considered Jewish by the Reform movement and, according to his committee's recommendations and Reform Halachah – a term he admits many Reform Jews don't like – would require conversion, even if their mother is Jewish.

However, he noted, Reform Halachah "doesn't mean that someone in the Reform movement has the power to make decisions for all Reform Jews." The term, as Rabbi Washofsky explains it, is closely tied with the idea of facilitating discussion.

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Camp founder to be honoured at gala tribute

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

Harold Nashman, grandfather of two children at the Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School and a key supporter of the school, is being honoured at a special gala event next week.

The event, which will be held at the Al Green Theatre at the Miles Nadal JCC 7:30 p.m. on May 10, coincides with two other important milestones for Nashman. The owner, co-founder and longtime director of Camp Wahanowin, and co-founder of the National Music Camp of Canada, will be celebrating the camps' 50th and 40th anniversaries, respectively, this summer.

The school is also honouring Nashman, father of five and grandfather of 11, for his community service, which includes 21 years at Aish HaTorah. In addition to his fundraising role, he and his late wife, Yetta, founded the Jewish Family Institute at the Village Shul. They also ran singles groups through UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

The highlight of the gala will be a variety show directed by Leah Cherniak and emceed by actor Alon Nashman, Harold's son and a father of two students at the school. Scheduled performers include *The Producers*' co-star Michael Therriault, singer Amy Sky, violinist Barry Shiffman, *Hairspray* producer Avery Saltzman, comedienne Deb Filler, Quartetto Gelato and The Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band.

Nashman is modest about his involvement with the school.

"I've been of some help to the school with fundraising. I'm interested in Jewish education. I support the school and what it represents in the broadest sense."

Nashman began his camping career in the 1940s as a counsellor at Camp Ogama. At the time, his mother, Anne Nashman, a caterer, owned and operated a lodge at Crystal Beach.

A year after she was widowed in 1952, Anne heard that the owner of Camp Hiawatha was going to be renting out the property and decided to start a camp, recalls Nashman.

"I was a fourth-year law student at the time. It was February 1953. I was preparing for my final exams and my mother came along with this idea.

"'You're the camp guy,' she said. 'I'll take care of the food.' I continued to do my thing and we'd go out to promote the camp. She singlehandedly filled up the camp by phoning people from various organizational lists and she even received the waiting list from Camp Winnebago."

By the summer, they were operating at full capacity with 90 campers. Before the first season, Ben Wise joined them as a partner. A year later, they bought the 20-acre site of the former Camp B'nai Brith on Lake Couchiching. They subsequently bought an adjacent 85-acre cattle ranch, some shoreline from the neighbouring YMCA's Geneva Park and 18 acres on Lake St. John, a 45-minute hike from the main camp.

Harold Nashman with his late wife Anne.

Nashman practised law briefly, retiring in 1958 to focus on running the camp.

Camp Wahanowin, which now has 400 campers, will mark its 50th anniversary with a weekend reunion Aug. 20 to 22.

Nashman says the secret to the camp's success is that "everyone feels important," adding that the camp director is "hands-on and involved with the kids and staff."

In 1959, he and Wise founded Camp Manitouwabing, a music art and tennis specialty camp in Parry Sound. The partnership ended in 1979 when their children grew older and became involved with the camps. The Wises took over Manitouwabing.

For Nashman, camp was very much a family affair. His late wife – she died in 2000 – five children and mother all played a role.

"My wife was a very active and inspirational person. She had a lot of human-relations skills.

"[She] was very active in dealing with campers and staff. She was very religious and had a Jewish perspective on problem-solving that was useful and helpful. The kids really benefited."

In the longtime role as "camp mother," Anne Nashman was known as Bubby Nash to the campers.

"They enjoyed talking to her and listening to her words of advice."

While all the Nashman children worked at the camp in leadership roles, only one continues to be involved today. Bruce is the full-time camp director, while Nashman refers to himself as the "director emeritus," describing his role today as the "Camp Zaidy. The parents and the kids like that and I like that, too."

The National Music Camp of Canada is held at the Camp Wahanowin site the last two weeks of the summer as well as on weekends during the spring and fall.

"We run music camps for the Toronto District School Board," he says.

Nashman figures that on a yearly basis, 3,000 to 5,000 children, including the Wahanowin campers, spend time up at the camp.

"Multiply that by 50 years and it starts to add up."

Running the camp has given him tremendous satisfaction, he says.

"I'm up all summer. It's not just a job. It's a great way of life."

The Downtown Jewish Day School was founded in 1996 by a small group of Jewish parents living downtown. Today, it has more than 70 students. For more information on the May 10 event, called "A Lifetime of Commitment," call the school at 416-928-3537.

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Women's Campaign & Advocacy installs new executive

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA Federation

Fran Sonshine is the new chair of UJA Federation's Women's Campaign & Advocacy (WC&A).

Outgoing chair Barbara Bregman passed the reins to Sonshine and incoming vice chair Linda Frum at WC&A's recent annual installation, following a record-setting year in which WC&A raised close to $7 million and an impressive 60 new Lions of Judah came on board.

The Lion of Judah distinction is given to women who make annual contributions of at least $5,000 to the UJA Federation annual campaign.

After praising the success of the previous executive, Sonshine described her vision for the future. "My goal for Women's Campaign & Advocacy is to engage as many women in our community as possible, so that we can raise our voices about the issues that affect us, our families, and the Jewish world. The more women involved in our work, the more revenue will be generated to deal with today's challenges and, in turn, help to preserve our Jewish values of Tzedakah and Tikun Olam."

"Together, we raised the money," said Bregman. "Together we advocated for the Jewish community both in Israel and at home. Together we dedicated ourselves to strengthening Jewish life. Together we acted as role models for a future generation of leaders."

The evening's keynote speaker was Bernie Farber, executive director, Canadian Jewish Congress Ontario Region, who addressed the recent antisemitc activity throughout the Greater Toronto Area.

"We must not be cowed by acts of antisemitism in our midst. We must use it to galvanize our purpose," said Farber. "We must ensure proper protection for our community and we must move forward in building a fence of protection both for our institutions, our people and our ideals. Ridding the world of antisemitism is an integral part of defending these ideals by all those who cherish and share them."

The other members of the UJA Federation Women's Campaign & Advocacy 2005 Executive are: Yetta Bregman and Sandra Waldman, Atarah chairs; Renee Gozlan and Honey Rubenstein, Lion of Judah chairs; Tobie Bekhor and Hinda Silber, LOJ Endowment chairs; Linda Waks and Liora Yakubowicz, Pacesetters chairs; Fern Gitter, Marley Greenglass and Robyn Ptasznik, Telethon chairs; Judy Nyman, Board Development chair, Andrea Cohen and Lisa Draper, Advocacy chairs, and Members-at-large; Carole Grafstein C.M., Lesley Binstock Offman, Sarah Perlis and Dodi Weill.

UJA Federation Women's Campaign & Advocacy 2005 installation took place recently at the Lipa Green Building. Enjoying the festivities are (L-R) Barbara Bregman, outgoing chair, Fran Sonshine, incoming chair, and Linda Frum, incoming vice chair.

Chairs of UJA Federation Campaign 2005 (l) Robert Harlang and Charles Winograd address the Women's Campaign & Advocacy installation.

Two emergency funds created to help Israel's young olim

Immigrant students receive support

The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), UJA Federation's overseas partner, has announced two new emergency funds designed to benefit young immigrants to Israel (olim): The Emergency Fund for Immigrant Students Alone in Israel, and The Emergency Fund to Prevent Immigrant Youth from Dropping Out.

Despite the relentless Palestinian violence that has plagued Israel for nearly four years, thousands of young people have made 'aliyah – many without their families – through one of the JAFI programs.

There are currently 8,500 young immigrants in Israel today and most arrive in their new home with little money, making higher education virtually impossible without financial assistance.

Now, as a direct result of Israel's ongoing security and economic crisis, the government has cut substantial funding for new immigrant students. As a result, an estimated 4,000 of them have been put at risk of completing their education – a critical milestone for young immigrants if they are to successfully integrate into Israeli society.

The goal of the Fund for Immigrant Students Alone in Israel is to ensure that these young people have every opportunity to complete their studies, despite the hardships they face.

The Fund to Prevent Immigrant Youth from Dropping Out has been created to counter the effects of government cutbacks and low household incomes, which have led to more than 15% of new immigrant high school students dropping out.

Most of these youngsters come from families suffering from extreme financial distress, many are from single-parent families, and a high percentage are from the former Soviet Union. Many of the children have adjustment problems, including language difficulties and behavioural problems.

The new JAFI fund will provide personalized intervention for these students to improve their Hebrew-language skills, strengthen learning skills, and even provide basic school supplies.

There are currently 8,500 young immigrants in Israel.

From the Chair

Confronting antisemitism by rejecting the sounds of silence

By LESLIE GALES
Chair, UJA Federation

It often begins silently, but insidiously - with quiet, hateful footsteps torching schools, desecrating graves and spray painting houses in the middle of the night. Unless it is exposed forcefully and condemned loudly, antisemitism can continue to seep through society, moving from the fringes until it is considered acceptable behaviour.

Over the past couple of months, we have come face to face with the new world in which we live, where the perception that antisemitism is acceptable empowers perpetrators of hate.

However, here in Toronto, and in Montreal, we have dealt antisemites a rude surprise. Despicable acts were greeted with a chorus of condemnation from top political, corporate, community and religious leaders at every level. Canadians will not tolerate intolerance.

Yet, the anti-Semitic actions that led to such widespread outrage, were an eye-opening episode for our community. We need to assess community security, raise funds to improve and it and work with government officials to assist us.

UJA Federation recently established Jewish Toronto's first Task Force on Community Security, chaired by Warren Kimel, which will be cooperating closely with police forces and governments to consider security at our institutions and offer recommendations for the new realities with which we are dealing.

At the same time, we intend, together with our community partners, to step up our advocacy efforts and create an even stronger voice for Jewish Canadians, in addition to helping our young people recognize forces of hatred.

Antisemitism breeds in silence and blossoms when confronted by silence. We are fortunate to live in an exceptional city and a remarkable country which does not consider silence an acceptable option - an enlightened attitude - which will make the difficult task of improving Jewish community security a lot easier.

Leslie Gales

JEWISH TORONTO IS PUBLISHED AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

Miles Nadal to receive prestigious award

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA Federation

The man behind the revitalization of an important Toronto Jewish landmark has been named this year's recipient of the Outstanding Volunteer Award, presented annually by the Greater Toronto chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

Miles Nadal, the man and the name behind the new 43,000 square foot, state-of-the-art Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre at the corner of Spadina and Bloor, will be presented with the prestigious award at the 10th AFP Philanthropy Awards later this year.

Nadal is being honoured for his philanthropic efforts with UJA Federation and Mount Sinai Hospital.

"Obviously, my family and I are honoured to be recognized for our philanthropic activities, but we also feel so privileged through our association with Toronto's remarkable Jewish community," says Nadal. "Seeing the new community centre come to fruition is a dream come true, and to know that it will benefit generations of Jewish Torontonians, is tremendous. It's easy to make a living, but it's tough to make a difference."

With Nadal's generosity and tireless efforts, the new centre – a project of UJA Federation's Jewish Toronto Tomorrow initiative – replaced the aging Bloor JCC, a move made necessary by the ongoing growth of Toronto's downtown Jewish community.

"Miles has great vision. Not too many other volunteers in the community saw what he saw at the Bloor and Spadina location where the new Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre is located," says Leslie Gales, UJA Federation board chair. "Not only did he have the vision, but also the capacity, the passion and the desire to go out and assist the community in raising additional funds for the new centre. Hats off to Miles Nadal. It's volunteers like Miles who make our Toronto so fabulous."

"Miles is one of those people who knows how to make things happen," says Nicholas Offord, president, Mount Sinai Hospital Foundation of Toronto. "He was instrumental in the establishment of Leadership Sinai (Mount Sinai's young leaders group). He seized the vision and brought in the right people to get it off the ground. As a volunteer, he is one of those rare people that sees the possibilities and can overcome the many challenges along the way."

Miles Nadal with daughters Sarah & Samantha at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Nadal JCC.

Toronto rabbis ready to graduate from Israel study program

Two Toronto rabbis will graduate from an important study program this summer, equipped with enhanced knowledge to invigorate their personal Jewish study, their synagogue-based teaching, and their role as transmitters of Torah to the community.

Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl of Beth Tzedec Congregation and Rabbi John Moscowitz of Holy Blossom Temple were the only Canadians among the 19 rabbis taking part in the Shalom Hartman Institute's Centre for Rabbinic Enrichment (CRE).

The CRE is a three-year program which serves as a resource and training centre for leading rabbis. It empowers them to develop ways in which Jewish tradition can address an open, modern world.

Founded in 1976, the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem is a leading innovator in the field of pluralistic Jewish thought and education.

The program is divided between study in Jerusalem and the rabbi's home community, four hours of long-distance classes via video-conferences, and individual and *havruta* (partner) study.

The primary funding for Toronto participants is provided by UJA Federation.

"This experience has given me a wonderful opportunity to study with top-flight scholars and thinkers, to deepen my connection with Eretz Yisrael and to think with colleagues about the best way to teach critical Jewish ideas to our congregations," says Frydman-Kohl. "The dialogue shared among colleagues was a rare treat and challenge. I learned much from the experience. The immersion in Jerusalem's culture was also a wonderful opportunity for me and my family."

"I first came to David Hartman 25 years ago through his writings," says Moscowitz. "I then came a bit closer by attending some seminars at the Hartman Institute in the early nineties; and then over the last three years I've had the opportunity to study with David and his colleagues through the CRE program," says Moscowitz. "He and they are what they appear to be: interested in excellence, learning, irreverent about things like superficial differences and able to galvanize Jews of all kinds through learning, toward G-d, Torah and community."

Rabbi John Moscowitz (L) and Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl at Jerusalem's Hartman Institute.

A new class of 30 rabbis from 13 cities is currently being recruited for the new cycle, which will begin this summer, including three new candidates from Toronto. Over the next 15 years, the program hopes to reach over 150 rabbis.

Dance Fever hits CHAT

The 34th annual *Rikudiya*, held recently at CHAT's Tanenbaum Campus, featured more than 350 students from 18 schools. The theme of this year's *Rikudiya* was "If you will it, it is no dream," in honour of Theodore Herzl, the author of that expression, who died 100 years ago. The event was co-sponsored by UJA Federation's Board of Jewish Education, Koffler Centre of the Arts, the Bathurst JCC, and the United Way of Toronto. (Pictured) Dancers from the CHAT Richmond Hill group show their moves.

Bringing Ben Yehudah to you

Following the May 30th UJA Federation Walk with Israel, participants will be able to purchase some of Israel's finest wares and help Israel's economy in the process.

An estimated two dozen Israeli merchants - as well as several local storekeepers - will be setting up shop at an Israeli Mini Mall at Ontario Place as part of the RioCan Festival, after the Walk.

Some of the Israeli goods that will be available include: beauty products, T-shirts, hats, army pins and medals, magnets, key-chains, talitot, talit / tefillin bags, challa boards and covers, hand towels, chanukiot, Jerusalem stone items, hamsas, hand painted wood products by Emanuel, pictures, post cards, kiddush cups, pewter and/or silver products, and much, much more.

Be part of the UJA Federation Walk with Israel, the largest solidarity walk in the world on Israel's behalf. For more infomation, call 416.631.5700 or visit www.jewishtoronto.com

. Entry to Ontario Place is by sponsorship of $54 or more, or by purchasing a pass for $10 at Coronation Park between 9:30 and 10:30 a.m.

Tell Israel you care by being there!

Any questions concerning information or photos that appear on these pages should be directed to jewishtorontonews@ujafed.org

JEWISH TORONTO IS PUBLISHED AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

Mizrachi service marks 'moment between tragedy, joy'

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Baruch Shapiro was 18 when he came to Israel with his father. He was the only remaining child of a family of six children – the rest died in Auschwitz.

As soon as he arrived, he was handed a gun so he could fight with the nascent Israeli army. He fell on the road to Jerusalem.

Ami was a talented teacher at a hesder yeshiva who was known for his empathy and selflessness. Six months after his wedding, he called his wife to say he would be home in less than half an hour. He never returned. He died in a terror attack.

These were two of the personal stories told at this year's Yom Hazikaron-Yom Ha'atzmaut memorial service and celebration sponsored by Mizrachi Organization of Canada, Emunah Women, Yavneh and Bnei Akiva, which was held at Beth Avraham Yoseph synagogue.

They are two examples of the high cost paid for Israel's survival and its right to exist, master of ceremonies Shlomie Romberg said.

The transition from a day of reflection to a day of celebration, from mourning to happiness, is "how Jews mark things. That's the Jewish psyche," Romberg said.

As is traditional, the Yom Hazikaron part of the program was a mix of prayer and memorial: prayers for the welfare of missing soldiers; *K'El Maleh Rachamim* for those who died in Israel's wars and military actions; the lighting of a yahrtzeit candle; and solemn musical selections performed by Rabbi Avichai Zehavi.

A moment of silence was punctuated by the shrill wail of an air raid siren.

Teens from Bnei Akiva, the youth movement of Mizrachi, in white shirts and blue cord ties, read selections in English and Hebrew from stories of remembrance. "We know what it feels like to win a city, but lose our sons," read one passage.

The students also told a story about how Israel's founders decided on what colour the flag should be: they felt it should not be red, the colour of war and blood, but blue, the colour of sea and sky, children's eyes, and hope.

Rabbi Baruch Taub, spiritual leader of Beth Avraham Yoseph, said that all Israel wants is to be a normal country with normal borders that are internationally recognized, and for its people to be able to live normal lives.

However, "while we beg the world to recognize us as normal, we realize that we are anything but normal," he said.

Israel's whole existence – learning to be resilient after sacrifice, its women bearing children to carry on the name of older siblings, and dealing with both suffering and victories – is anything but normal, Rabbi Taub said.

The service, he said, marked a "moment between tragedy and joy," between maintaining ties to the past and dreams of the future.

He illustrated his point with the story of Moshe Segev, who in the 1920s, although forbidden to do so by the British authorities, blew a shofar at the tiny alley at the Kotel, where Jews were allowed to pray on Yom Kippur. He sat in jail for a year-and-a-half for his act.

On Yom Kippur in 1967, when the Western Wall was once again in Jewish hands, he was taken to the Kotel and once more blew the shofar.

That may not be a normal story, Rabbi Taub said, but "it's our story, the merging of the past and the future."

Participants celebrated Israeli independence day at Beth Avraham Yoseph synagogue as part of a service that also marked Yom Hazikaron.

David Bernstein led a special Yom Ha'atzmaut service authorized by the Chief Rabbinate of Israel.

Students of Ulpanat Orot Girls' High School also set up a special exhibit in the shul lobby with photographs and short biographies of the nearly 1,000 victims of Arab terrorism since September 2000.

The evening ended with dancing, music and snacks.

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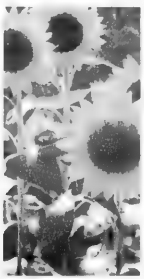
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Shul concert to celebrate Yom Yerushalayim

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

An annual cantorial concert that is marking its 75th anniversary will be held at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation on May 19 at 7:30 p.m.

Titled "Celebrate Yom Yerushalayim: the Beauty of Jerusalem," this year's event features four world-renowned cantors will perform a wide-ranging program made up of cantorial, chassidic, Hebrew and other musical genres to commemorate the reunification of Israel's capital city.

Joining cantors Yaakov Motzen and Shlomo Sufrin of Shaarei Shomayim will be Cantor Naftali Herstik, chief cantor of the Great Synagogue of Jerusalem, and Cantor Colin Schachat of Jerusalem.

They will be accompanied by the Shaarei Shomayim Choir, conducted by Bryan Bessner, and pianist Daniel Gildar, a cantor from Philadelphia.

"No matter what is going on in the world, Jerusalem has been and always will be the focal point of Jews everywhere. It will always be our holy and spiritual centre," said Louis Zeifman, chair of the concert committee, adding that the event will "share Jerusalem's incredible beauty and mysticism with the entire Toronto community."

Motzen, a native of Tel Aviv who performs throughout the world, joined Shaarei Shomayim in 1997.

Cantor Sufrin, a sought-after performer, released his first album, *That Special Melody*, in 1993. He has since collaborated with top performers in Jewish music and has made two albums with Motzen, *Made in Canada* and *A Guide to the Passover Seder*.

Herstik, director of the Tel Aviv Cantorial Institute, has performed with the London Festival Orchestra, the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, the Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra and in Prague, Zurich and many other European and North American cities.

He officiated at the Linksfield Senderwood Hebrew Congregation in Johannesburg prior to immigrating to Israel in 1992. He has been a baritone soloist with the Jerusalem Oratorio Choir, the National Symphony Orchestra of South Africa, the Los Angeles Jewish Symphony and the Lithuanian State Orchestra. He has released five CDs.

Rabbi Moshe Shulman, spiritual leader of Shaarei Shomayim, said that our songs about Jerusalem must be louder today than ever before.

"It is particularly appropriate to honour Jerusalem through song as we are doing at the concert. The Bible, the Prophets and Psalms, speak of singing a new song to God over the rebuilding of Jerusalem."

Referring to the concert's outstanding cantors and musicians, the rabbi said, "Together they bring the sounds of the soul of Israel to our community and allow us to feel, if only for a little while, as if we are standing on the hills overlooking Jerusalem, and singing the songs of Jerusalem."

Tickets for the concert are $55, $40 and $25. To reserve tickets or place an ad in the concert journal, call 416 789 3213 or visit www.shomayim.org.

Seen at a planning session for the Beauty of Jerusalem cantorial concert at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation are, from left, Cantor Shlomo Sufrin, concert chair Louis Zeifman and Cantor Yaakov Motzen.

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Greater Toronto Area

CHAT students do well in Israeli physics competition

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Eight students from CHAT took part in a recent physics tournament at the Weizmann Institute in Israel. From left, they are Ryan Herblum, Adina Feinberg, Ryan Katchky, Jory Stern, Yonatan Stratievsky, Alen Reyhan, Matthew Jackson and David Kadish.

Unlike their Israeli counterparts, the eight students from the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT) who participated in a recent physics tournament in Israel will not be exempt from their final exam because of their high standing in the competition.

But the grade 11 and 12 students were nevertheless excited about their experience at the ninth annual Shalheveth Freier Physics Tournament at the Weizmann Institute of Science March 30 and 31.

"It was such a great experience for me. There was so much to learn there [and] we just had the best time," said Adina Feinberg, captain of the four-person team from CHAT's Richmond Hill branch.

Feinberg's mother Faith said the contest showed Adina that what she learned in school is applicable in real life. Barry Hennick, head of the science department at CHAT's Tannenbaum campus, thanked the parents for allowing their children to travel to Israel at a time of turmoil in the country.

Michael Mayer, national executive vice-president of the Canadian Society for the Weizmann Institute of Science, said their presence on campus at a difficult time "did [the Israelis] so much good."

The two CHAT teams were the first-ever Diaspora competitors. The Richmond Hill team, consisting of Grade 11 students, and the Tanenbaum campus team, made up of Grade 12 students, each had to use its scientific expertise to build a locking device for a 16x12x10-inch particle board and plexiglass box. The components, standardized across the competition, were provided by Weizmann.

The Grade 12 team, whose box bore protruding wires, raised suspicions at the Toronto airport, causing a minor delay. At the tournament, where part of the event involves each team trying to break into other team's boxes, their creation stymied all the other students who tried, contributing to their standing in the top 30 of 53 teams who entered.

Their spring lock could only be released in a two-step process, begun by inserting a magnet to close an electrical circuit in one of two relays, or mechanical chips. The students used a measuring device called a MultiMeter to power the second relay. When the device measures resistance, explained team captain Yonatan Stratievsky, it sends out two volts of electricity.

"Once you know how to do it, it's incredibly simple," said Stratievsky, whose teammates were Alen Reyhan, David Kadish and Matthew Jackson.

The hands-on experience of trying to open the other teams' safes – the Grade 12 team cracked four; the other CHAT competitors cracked three – was "probably the best way to learn," said Ryan Herblum, a member of Feinberg's team along with Jory Stern and Ryan Katchky.

Their project was based on the principle that light is refracted differently by different liquids. To crack their safe, other students had to figure out in which locations inside the box to place separate dishes of glycerin and water, so that they would correctly refract light from a laser pointer, after which the light could be converted into an electrical current by a sensor.

CHAT's participation in the competition was facilitated by the Canadian Society for the Weizmann Institute of Science, and an anonymous donor covered most of their expenses.

"We probably learned more physics in those two days than we did all year at CHAT," said Katchky, at a recent celebratory event at Richmond Hill for students and their parents.

"Thanks a lot," quipped his teacher, Chuck Cohen, who added that the students did a super job. "I have never seen four kids work as hard to put something together as they did."

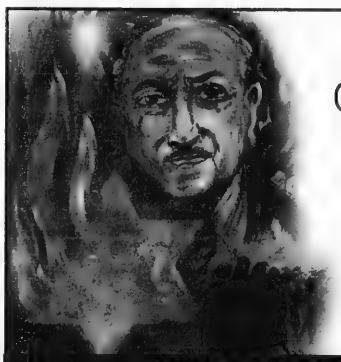
They also formed friendships with the Israeli participants, with whom they spoke in both Hebrew and English. They are still in touch with them, said Reyhan.

Their language skills were more of a challenge when it came to the technical part of the competition.

"CHAT teaches you Hebrew, but not [words like] 'quark' and 'neutrino'," said Kadish.

Although some of the CHAT students regretted that the modest decorations on their boxes didn't match the elaborate ones created by the Israelis, teacher Eli Honig of the Tanenbaum campus assured them that "it's the physics that counts, not all the fancy trappings."

"You've done us proud," said Gary Levine, principal of Richmond Hill.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Celebrating Yom Ha'atzmaut

AT EARL BALES PARK: Hundreds of people, many wearing blue and white, converged on Earl Bales Park last week to celebrate Israel's 56th birthday. Part of the celebration included an attempt to make history by forming the world's largest human Israeli flag. There was also entertainment by the Moshav Band and kosher Israeli food. The celebration was sponsored by Israel Now, a consortium of more than 115 community organizations under the auspices of UJA Federation and the Consulate General of Israel. [Carolyn Blackman photos]

AT BETH TZEDEC: Children and adults alike celebrated Israel's independence day last week at a family-oriented event at Beth Tzedec Congregation. The celebration was organized by the synagogue's young families committee, and co-sponsored by the Rabbinical Assembly, United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, Canadian region, Canadian Foundation for Masorti Judaism and Mercaz-Canada. [Frances Kraft photos]

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Greater Toronto Area

Anti-Semitism not rising: poll

CJN Staff

Despite recent high-profile incidents of vandalism and violence against Jewish property in Toronto and Montreal, most Canadians don't believe anti-Semitism is on the rise in this country, a new poll says.

When asked by Environics Research Group about the significance of the attacks, only one in four Canadians said they indicate that anti-Jewish sentiment is growing in Canada, while two-thirds said they're random acts of violence committed by hateful individuals.

"What is perhaps most striking about this opinion is its consistency across regions of the country and demographic subgroups of the population," said Environics senior vice-president Keith Neuman.

Only in Alberta do as many as one-third of residents believe these acts signify a trend, he said.

Canadians' attitudes on the incidents in Toronto and Montreal reflect more general beliefs about ethnic tolerance in this country, he added.

Only 17 per cent of Canadians believe anti-Jewish sentiment is growing among people they know, while more than twice as many – 36 per cent – say such sentiments are decreasing, and another eight per cent say there is no anti-Jewish sentiment in Canada at all.

Some 27 per cent believe there has been no change in the views of people they know.

Belief that anti-Semitism is rising is somewhat higher in Quebec, at 25 per cent, and is also more evident among Canadians who are not born in this country (26 per cent).

There is no consensus on the significance recent acts of vandalism even among Canadians who believe that anti-Semitism is a growing problem in this country, Neuman said.

That group is evenly divided between those who say the recent vandalism signals a growing problem – 46 per cent – and those who believe they are random acts – 50 per cent.

"Canadians are also more likely than not to feel that they themselves are becoming more tolerant of people of different colours and races," he said.

Three in 10 believe they are now more tolerant than before, compared with only eight per cent who acknowledge they have become less so.

"This represents modest progress since 1991, when 23 per cent said they were feeling more tolerant, compared with 10 per cent who said the opposite," Neuman said.

Some 62 per cent report no change in their degree of tolerance.

Canadian Jewish Congress spokesperson Ron Singer said the fact the Toronto and Montreal incidents were "swiftly and universally condemned all the way up to the prime minister of Canada probably coloured the response."

The fact only 8 per cent of Canadians think there is no anti-Jewish sentiment at all in Canada shows the vast majority are aware that anti-Semitism exists in this country, Singer told *The CJN*.

He agreed that an increase in anti-Semitic incidents does not necessarily reflect general attitudes toward Jews, and that it's possible the recent incidents were random acts.

Overall, the poll results show a high level of tolerance among Canadians, but it would have been "more instructive" to ask Jewish Canadians whether they feel anti-Semitism is on the rise, he said.

Ruth Klein, national director of B'nai Brith's League for Human Rights, said the league's audit of anti-Semitic incidents in 2003 showed a 27 per cent increase over the previous year, which came after an "alarming" 60 per cent rise in 2002.

"This means that anti-Semitic activity has doubled in just two years. Whatever Canadians would prefer to believe, the statistics speak for themselves."

Environics interviewed 1,265 Canadians from April 8 to 18. The national results are accurate to within plus or minus 2.7 per cent, 95 times out of 100.

Outreach to 'unsaved' Jews

Continued from page 3

Chosen People Ministries is now on a fundraising campaign to move out of its offices in a house east of Bathurst Street on Sheppard Avenue and build a new "Toronto Messianic Jewish Centre."

It's easy to see how messianic Judaism can be viewed as a cult, said Don Meecha, Toronto branch director of Chosen People Ministries and "Director of Mission Operations" at Ohr HaMashiach (Light of Messiah), a new outfit located at 5845 Yonge St. in North York.

Despite not being considered the norm in Christianity, "we must make clear that we are at the foundation of Christian faith," Meecha said.

The question before messianic Jews is how to be "a viable option" to the Jewish community, which he described variously as "unsaved," "dying," and "perishing," and which "promotes expulsion" should any of its members embrace Jesus.

Why would Jews want to leave the comfort and security of their community, Meecha asked, "for one that offers only eternal life but nothing for them in this life?" And why do messianic Jews demand that normative Jews abandon their culture? "We would never demand this of another culture," he stated.

Instead, "why can't we plant a messianic synagogue that speaks Hebrew?" he asked. Jews on the path to Jesus should also be allowed to keep their traditional symbols and customs "as long as they do not violate the new covenant's [New Testament's] values."

But messianics "have missed the mark. We have not reached full potential to make them jealous enough to leave their dying community behind for one that offers eternal life."

Meecha's messianic paradigm "would be conducive to both Jewish and gentile salvation" but would practise the Protestant sacraments of baptism and the Eucharist. "We must provide a smooth transition… a new model."

That would include an education centre for children and teens.

Ultimately, the goal is to "no longer go into the Jewish community, but to be part of it." If not, a "spiritual holocaust will continue."

Meantime, messianic Jews "have to accept resentment, even if means being ostracized by family and friends. We do not have good relations with local Jewish leaders, to say the least."

Anti-Semitism conference called a 'success'

Continued from page 1

Indeed, in his speech to delegates, Graham conceded that for Canada, in the wake of a spate of anti-Semitic attacks, "the need for a conference of this kind has recently, alas, become all too evident."

Canadians "pride themselves on sharing common citizenship in a successful pluralist society marked by respect for diversity. Yet we too are still struggling to achieve these ideals."

Since a similar OSCE conference on anti-Semitism last June, "Canada has had to confront the reality of disgraceful attacks on our Jewish community, including hateful graffiti, vandalism, the desecration of cemeteries and the firebombing of a Jewish elementary school.

"These trends are deeply disturbing to a country such as Canada. They have instilled great concern in the Jewish community and led to soul-searching among all of our citizens committed to ensuring that our country continues to be a model of pluralism and mutual respect."

Graham said Canada has begun tackling the problem with the recent unveiling of a national plan to combat racism and anti-Semitism, and by convincing police forces to establish hate crime units.

"But clearly, these efforts are not enough," he said. "Together with the countries assembled here, we must, and we will, do more to defeat the virulent new forms of anti-Semitism infecting our societies."

That sentiment is reflected in the conference's final statement. The Berlin Declaration undertakes to gather "reliable information and statistics about anti-Semitic crimes, as well as other hate crimes," and report them to the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights in Warsaw.

It also promises regular reviews of "legal systems to ensure they foster a safe environment free of anti-Semitic harassment, violence or discrimination, and calls for educational programs to combat anti-Semitism and promote remembrance of the Holocaust."

Some observers took the conference to task for failing to condemn the growth of anti-Semitism among European Muslims, despite a resolution that declared "unambiguously that international developments or political issues, including those in Israel or elsewhere in the Middle East, never justify anti-Semitism."

Graham touched on this in his speech, saying that Mideast tensions "cannot be allowed to undermine the social fabric of our countries.

"It would be naive not to recognize that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is having an impact on the way in which our citizens view each other," he said. "But… we must not let the turbulence in that region infect our own societies, or serve as a pretext for anti-Semitism or any form of discrimination."

'It would be naive not to recognize that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is having an impact'

Graham said he was familiar with the results of a survey released by the Anti-Defamation League during the conference that showed a possible drop in anti-Semitic attitudes in most European countries, but counterbalanced by a sharp rise in anti-Israel sentiment.

"There was a general recognition [at the conference] that the traditional type of anti-Semitism is probably on a decline," he said. But there was also recognition "that events in the Middle East are pushing young people, particularly a lot of radicals, to use Israel as a reason to attack Jewish people."

He said conference delegates recognized "a link between Muslim extremism and anti-Semitism, but they also recognized there were a lot of Muslim moderates."

Graham said the next step is to fight anti-Semitism on the Internet.

In June, an OSCE meeting will be held in Paris to focus on the use of the Internet to promote hate crimes and the spreading of racist, xenophobic and anti-Semitic propaganda.

A third event, to be held by the OSCE in Brussels in September, will examine the wider problems of racism, xenophobia and discrimination across the OSCE region.

Canada was also represented at the Berlin gathering by Senator Jerry Grafstein, Canadian Jewish Congress president Keith Landy and acting executive vice-president Manuel Prutschi, and by David Matas, senior honorary legal counsel for B'nai Brith Canada.

A few days before last week's conference, an Israeli anti-Semitism watchdog found that worldwide incidents of attacks on Jews and vandalism against Jewish sites increased 15 per cent in 2003 from the previous year.

The Stephen Roth Institute of Contemporary Anti-Semitism and Racism said France, Britain, Russia, Germany and Canada had the highest rates of anti-Semitic incidents. The report also said that most of the attacks were committed by Muslim youths.

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Greater Toronto Area

Israel-U.S. economic ties said a mistake

By NATALIE RUSKIN
Special to The CJN

Middle East journalist Joel Bainerman often draws his fair share of critics, but his lecture at Beth Emeth Synagogue last week about the rise and fall of Israel's high-tech industry was greeted with nods.

When the ex-Torontonian moved to Israel in 1981, it didn't take long before he began gathering criticism for his unpopular and unconventional views on Israeli political and economic affairs. With this latest lecture topic, "Broken Promises: The Rise and Fall of Israel's Technology-Based Industries," Bainerman says his critics have finally decided to ignore him.

Using the 1980s-1990s as his frame of reference, Bainerman said, "Israeli high-tech went from serving the needs of the Israeli economy and hence the Israeli public, to catering to the short- term needs of foreign investors and Venture Capital fund managers."

Israel's high-tech industry was booming in the 1980s, and the priority was to boost the nation's economy and serve the greater public good, Bainerman said. But by the mid 1990s, when Wall Street discovered Israeli technology, Israelis got caught up in the American dream of start-ups and quick returns and the promise of a booming Israeli economy fell apart. Whereas in the 1980s, Israel was the manufacturing base for its own ideas, the 1990s were about selling Israeli ideas and then manufacturing the product elsewhere, in places such as Silicon Valley.

Bainerman said the Israeli government and the public allowed their ideas to be exported because "[they] thought it was good PR.

"In the 1990s, the Israeli government became the chief advocate for these venture acquisitions because they thought it would improve Israel's public image."

But Israel made a fatal mistake, he said.

"Israelis were not respected in the U.S. marketing world.

"In the U.S., if you spoke with an accent, you were a foreigner – Israelis had to hide their origins."

With the start of the intifadah in 2000, Israel became a war zone in American eyes and "Israeli high-tech was no longer sexy," Bainerman said.

The crash of Israeli start-ups was a reality check for Israel: what's good for Israel is not necessarily what's good for Silicon Valley.

"The U.S. market is not Israel's natural market," he said.

"You can't run a corporation across an ocean because Israelis like to micromanage their own company."

Europe, on the other hand, is a better partner for Israel, both politically and economically, Bainerman said.

"Eventually the U.S. market will fall, and Israel will want to be aligned with Europe."

Bainerman's speech completed a series of visiting scholars sponsored by Beth Emeth's continuing education program.

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On Campus

Holocaust arts event at Wolfond Centre

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

The Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center's second annual arts-related Holocaust commemoration event will take place Sunday afternoon, May 16, at the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Life, with Hillel of Greater Toronto as a first-time co-sponsor.

"Echoes: Artistic Expressions of the Holocaust" will showcase visual art including paintings and sculptures, as well as book and poetry readings, film and performance art.

In addition to the venue, which has moved from the Sheppard Grande theatre, the scope of the event has also changed. This year organizers invited other communities – including the Rwandan community, which marks its own 10-year genocide anniversary this month – to participate.

> ***'Our aim is to honour the memory of the Holocaust and to show through art the idea that there's hope for the future'***

"If we can all learn about each other's histories, then I think we're all better off," said Noah Slepkov, a fourth-year York University student, active Hillel member and member of the eight-person organizing committee for Echoes who began volunteering for the Wiesenthal Center last year.

"Our aim is to honour the memory of the Holocaust and to show through art the idea that there's hope for the future," said organizer Alexandra Battiston, a third-year student at Osgoode Hall Law School.

The idea for the original exhibit came from the artistic and literary submissions that were sent unsolicited to the Wiesenthal office, she said. A volunteer at the centre for more than two years, Battison began working for its director of national affairs, Leo Adler, as a first-year law student as part of Pro Bono Students Canada, a program that matches law student volunteers with community agencies.

At the time Battiston, who is not Jewish, hadn't heard of the centre. "It's been a great learning experience," she said.

As of last week, organizers had received about 30 submissions from as far away as British Columbia. Artists include author Donia Blumenfeld Clenman, a Holocaust survivor, as well as Rwandan-born artist Gertrude Kearns, who is best known for a series of portraits of retired Canadian general Romeo Dallaire.

The event runs from noon to 6 p.m. on May 16 at the Wolfond Centre, 36 Harbord St. There is no charge for admission.

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גידי קורן וחברים

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במאמר בעיתון "הארץ" מסוכם מצב העניינים הפוליטי העכשווי בצורה שקשה להתווכח איתה: נכון לעכשיו-ישראל מנצחת בקרב את החמאס: אין ספק שיהיו עוד פיגועים, אך רמתם ירדה בצורה תלולה, אחוז הסיכולים עצום, וההצלחה בחיסול מנהיגי החמאס גובלת במדע דמיוני. ולצד זה- התארגשות כלכלית בולטת עם גידול משוער של שלושה אחוז בשנה תוך צמצום הוצאות הממשלה. העיתון זוקף את ההישגים האלה לנשיאו המיוחדו, הסבלנית אך העיקשת של שרון. אך בעיקר בעיקר- זהו לדעתו נצחון רוחו של הישראלי באשר הוא שם- יכולתו למשוך בימים קשים, יכולתו לעבוד קשה, ליזום ולייצר. ועיקר העיקרים- חזרתה של ישראל לנורמלי הטבעי- בלי לבנון, בלי עזה ובעתיד הלא רחוק גם בלי חלקים נרחבים מפלסטין. ישראל מציאותית, בלתי הזוייה, שיודעת את מגבלותיה ועובדת קשה לשפר עמדות לפי יתרונותיה.

ולצד זה- גם דברים קשים מאוד- 11 אחוז אבטלה, שש מאות וחמישים אלף ילדים מתחת לקו העוני. מראות קשים בטלביזיה של עובדי עירית חצור הגלילית שלא שולמו משכורת משך חודשים רבים. אבל בהמשך הכתבה מסתבר שמדובר במנגנון עירייה מנופח, שמשרד הפנים מסרב להעביר לו כספים נוספים לפני תוכנית הבראה מפורטת עם פיטורי עובדים וצמצום משכורות ענק לאלה שקרובים לצלחת. סיפור ישראלי טיפוסי, שנתניהו ומשרד האוצר יודעים בבירור שצריך לשים לו סוף כדי לאפשר רווחה כלכלית לטווח הארוך.

"מי נא-בבאבא"

ולצד האופטימיות הזהירה של עיתון "הארץ"- קיימת מציאות כמעט סהרורית שמביאה את ישראל ללב המורח התיכון. היתה מילה במילה כותרת עיתון "ידיעות אחרונות": "ראש הממשלה, הנשיא, שרים, ח"כים, שופטים, משפטנים, רופאים בכירים ואנשי עסקים נוהרים לבאבא רנטגן, לבאבא סי-טי, לבאבא אינטרנט, למקובל המכונה החלבן, לקוראות בקפה, לפותחים בקלפים, למתקשרים עם חיזורים, לאסטרולוגים, נומרולוגים, כירולוגים והשד יודע מה עוד. האנשים שקובעים את גורלנו יושבים במתח מול היידעוני התורן, חרדים לגלות מה יהיה בגורלם. איפה נגמר ההגיון הקר של האנשים האלה והמיסטיקה מתחילה להשתלט". אפשר כמובן לצחוק וגם להגיד שבכל אחד מאיתנו יש גרעין בלתי ראציונאלי. אבל היתה אתן לכם דוגמא כמה הגישה הזאת יכולה להיות קטלנית:

נלסון מנדלה, המנהיג הנערץ של תנועת השחרור של דרום אפריקה ונשיאה, טען בעקשנות שמגיפת האיידס איננה נגרמת על ידי וירוס קטלני ושאין לה קשר למגע מיני. בגישתו זו הוא העדיף הסברים סהרוריים של האנשים שהקיפו אותו על פני ראיות מדעיות חד משמעיות. הדרום אפריקנים האמינו לו ולא נקטו בשום אמצעי זהירות, שלא לדבר על כך שלא סיפקו לאנשיהם תרופות נגד איידס. הגישה הסהרורית הזו הביאה ישירות ובעקיפין למותם של מיליונים בדרום אפריקה ולתואר המפוקפק של המדינה עם אחוז האיידס הגבוה בעולם. אבל שישאר בינינו.

פראג , אביב 2004

אני ישן במלון "דון ג'יובאני" בפראג, עיר יפיפיה שנראית מערבית לפחות כמו פאריז, רומא או ויינה. ליד המלון שלנו אני הולך לביקור נימוסין אצל קולֶנָה שהלך לעולמו ב- 1924. ד"ר פרנץ קאפקא קבור בבית קברות יהודי לצד הוריו, שחיו אחרי שמת משחפת בגיל ארבעים ושמונה. אני מסַפֵּר לקאפקא שבדיוק באותו יום איבדנו קולֶנָה יקר, ד"ר רֶנָטיף. לא סתם קולנה, אלא רופא ילדים, שחקדיש את חייו לכך שילדים יהודים לא יניעו לבגרות. רק שיטל של מסוק התקפה סיים את הקריירה שלו בטרם עת. קפקא מקשיב בשתיקה. שר החוץ הבריטי לעומתו היה מזוווועזעע מחיסול האיש היקר הזה.

אני מזכיר לקפקא את שורותיו של ביאליק
"נקמת ילד קטן עוד לא בוּרא השטן".

Coast to Coast

Senate hears presentations on anti-Semitism

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Canadian Jewish Congress is urging the Senate to endorse a resolution against anti-Semitism passed by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

In prepared remarks delivered last month to the Senate's standing committee on human rights, Congress president Keith Landy said Canada should condemn manifestations of anti-Semitism "at every opportunity in multilateral forums… and in the context of its global bilateral relations.

"Canada should use the moral authority we have gained over the years as a nation dedicated to human rights, democracy and security of the person to enhance our leadership role in the international campaign against anti-Semitism," he said.

Landy also urged Canadian governments to consider the anti-Semitic motivation of terrorist groups and to consider ways of helping the Jewish community address its security burden.

Eric Vernon, a member of Congress' Senate delegation, said the presentation was purposely broad and the representatives had hoped to flesh out their views in a question-and answer-period that had been scheduled after formal presentations were concluded. Unfortunately, time was limited and that discussion never took place.

CJC urges government to help community address security burden

There is a possibility the committee will schedule a second hearing to again canvas the views of participants, he said.

Congress joined B'nai Brith Canada and the Canadian Race Relations Foundation in presentations that lasted barely an hour.

The resolution was introduced to the Senate by Senator Jerry Grafstein, treasurer of the OSCE's Parliamentary Assembly. It took Grafstein almost 1½ years to convince his Senate colleagues to agree to debate the resolution, which calls on member states to unequivocally condemn anti-Semitism and address legislatively the growing phenomenon.

Actor lends support to UTT

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL – They tried to keep it confidential at his request, but it didn't take long for the news to get out that actor Russell Crowe made an undisclosed donation to United Talmud Torahs (UTT) to help rebuild its library, which was firebombed April 5.

UTT spokesperson Shelley Paris confirmed that the actor called the St. Laurent school when it reopened after Passover and spoke to principal Soly Benamron and executive director Sidney Benudiz. Neither the school nor Crowe's publicist Lee Anne Muldoon would reveal the amount of his donation to replace books, and Muldoon told *The CJN* that Crowe was not available for comment.

"We tried to respect his request for anonymity, but the students were told and then, I guess, it soon spread and was picked up by the media," said Paris, adding that Crowe wanted the children to know that he was thinking about them, but otherwise did not want his act to be made public.

"He was very upset by what had happened, that a place of learning should be attacked that way… It was a huge morale boost for the school community," Paris said.

New Zealand-born Crowe, known for his Academy Award-nominated role in *The Insider* and his Academy Award-winning roles in *The Gladiator* and *A Beautiful Mind*, has been in Toronto for the shooting of *Cinderella Man*, a movie about the life of boxer James J. Braddock.

UTT has received countless messages of support and offers of material help from throughout Canada and other countries.

Among the most recent is that of the Montreal chapter of the Association of Jewish Libraries, which, in association with the librarians of other Jewish day schools and the Jewish Public Library, has formed a committee to help with the planning of the new UTT library. They are working with UTT librarian Dan Holobow in designing what is hoped to be a state-of-the-art facility.

"As professional librarians, we have offered our expertise in collection development, physical layout and integration of technology for the new library," said Marsha Lustigman, a Bialik High School librarian.

Elsewhere, UTT and Herzliah High School (St. Laurent) graduate Samantha Singer is planning a 30-hour roller/ball hockey game for May 15-16 at the Butler Building in Cote St. Luc's Pierre Elliott Trudeau Park. Players are seeking sponsors as a means of raising funds for UTT.

Singer said last week she was still waiting for permission to hold the event, but was hopeful. Close to 30 players have already signed up.

Singer, who graduated in 2001, said, "My heart broke when I heard the news and my eyes filled with tears and my stomach churned as I stood in the library.

Continued on page 35

Family Moments

only from The Canadian Jewish news

Mazel Tov to…

Dr. Shery Zener and Allan Zener
are ecstatic to announce the engagement
of their daughter
NAOMI ELANA TO EVAN CAREY BERMAN
son of
Jerry Berman and the late Linda Berman
The engagement took place on
Saturday April 17, 2004
Naomi's sister Rebecca and Evan's brother Michael are thrilled to share in this wonderful and magical event!

Abie & Zelda Marshall celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary last Aug. 22 with their children, grandchildren, family and friends.

Earl & Bonnie Moskovitz and Harold & Merle Nudelman are delighted to announce the engagement of their children Marla Seigel & David Nudelman.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!
Label the back of all photos and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Send all your photos to:
The CJN, Family Moments,
1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205,
North York, ON, M3B 3K4.

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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

INSCRIBE YOUR LOVED ONES ON THE YAD VASHEM HOLOCAUST WALL OF REMEMBRANCE, TORONTO
416-785-1333

What's New Deadlines: Monday, May 10 is the deadline for the May 20 issue and Monday, May 17 is the deadline for the May 27 issue. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Thursday, May 6

SUPPORT VE'AHAVTA

Join Ve'ahavta for an "Opening Night Party" at The Blue Dot Gallery in the Distillery District. 6-9 p.m. $36. Call 416-964-7698.

INTERMARRIAGE

Jews for Judaism presents **Rabbi Michael Skobac** on "The Challenge of Intermarriage: Is There a Light at the End of the Tunnel?" Pride of Israel Synagogue. 8 p.m. 905-761-0040.

THE GRIEVING PROCESS

Kolel presents **Dr. Vivian Rakoff** on "The Inveitable Grief, Mourning and Hope," exploring the psychological aspects of grieving. 8 p.m. 151 Eglinton Ave. W.

SEARCHING FOR TRUTH

Temple Har Zion is offering **Rabbi Stroh**'s four-week course on "Faith, Revelation and Reason: Searching for Truth," a study of The Guide of the Perplexed, to commemorate the 800th Yahrzeit of Maimonides. Thursdays at 8:15 p.m. through May 27. $5 for non-members. 905-889-2252.

Saturday, May 8

ETHICS OF CURSING GOD

Congregation Beth Haminyan presents **Prof. Jim Diamond** on "The Ethics of Cursing God" during services at West Prep School, 70 Ridge Hill Dr. 9:30 a.m.

ONE FAMILY

Avihu Cohen, director of One Family, will speak on "How One-Family Helps Victims of Terror in Israel" at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. 7 p.m.

Sunday, May 9

SINGLES DANCE

Shaar Shalom Singles 35+ is hosting a Lag b'Omer dance with DJ Dave Jones, 7:30 p.m. at 2 Simonston Blvd. $15. 416-224-9494.

NARAYEVER AT THE MOVIES

The First Narayever Congregation and The Toronto Jewish Film Festival present *The Children of Abraham and Sophie Israel*, followed by a dessert reception featuring **The Spring Fling Quintet**. 7 p.m. at the Miles Nadal JCC, 750 Spadina Ave. For tickets, call 416-927-0546 or visit www.narayever.com.

LAG B'OMER IN THE PARK

Aish20s will light up Earl Bales Park with bonfires, storytelling, music and a great crowd. Sheppard and Bathurst St. at 7 p.m. Free. 905-764-1818, ext. 225 for information.

Monday, May 10

BOOK REVIEW

The Holy Blossom Library Book Club will discuss *Lost in Translation* by **Eva Hoffman** with **Andrea Most**. 10 a.m. 416-789-3291, ext. 235.

POWERS OF PSALMS

The Jewish Health Alliance, a network for health-care providers, presents **Rabbi Paul Plotkin** on "The Spiritual Healing of Psalms: What We Can Learn From Loneliness, Sickness and Despair," at Israel's Bookstore, 870A Eglinton Ave. W. Refreshments at 7:30 p.m. Lecture at 8 p.m. $10. To reserve, visit www.jewishhealthalliance.com or call 416-208-0610.

ETHICS OF THE FOUNDERS

Beth Tzedec Congregation presents **Rabbi Debra Landsberg** on "*Ben Bag Bag* and *Ben Hei Hei*: The Wisdom of Converts Found in Pirkei Avot." 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 11

MEMOIRS WRITING COURSE

Join Holy Blossom's "Memoir Writing Course," May 18 and 25 at 9:30 a.m. Members $25, non-members $50. Call **Anne** 416-789-3291, ext. 235.

Continued on page 33

State of Israel Bonds
Women's Division

National Women's Division
State of Israel Bonds Canada

GOLDA MEIR CIRCLE

Golda Meir Luncheon

Wednesday,
May 19, 2004
12 o'clock noon

Honours

Sandra Waldman

Recipient of the 2004
Golda Meir Leadership Award

For information or reservations Call:
Raquel Benzacar-Savatti
416 789-3351 ext. 124

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SPECIAL THANKS TO:
Amanda Graphics Ltd.
Label Supply
Schawk Toronto
Progress Packaging

What's New

Continued from page 32

MOTHER'S DAY DINNER
Adath Shalom Sisterhood will celebrate Mother's Day with a dinner at 6:30 p.m. To reserve, call 416-635-0131. $36.

PUBLIC WORKSHOP
Medina Theatre Ensemble presents a workshop of *Good Friends*, a new play by **Aviva Ravel**. Tonight and Thursday, May 13 at 7 p.m. at 15 Hove St. Free.

HIGH-ABILITY LEARNERS
Tikun Chaim presents a forum for parents and educators who seek to provide guidance, challenge and encouragement to able learners with gifted education consultant **Joanne Foster**. 7:30 p.m. at the Lipa Green Building. 4600 Bathurst St. RSVP to 416-633-7770, ext. 528.

BETH TIKVAH FASHIONS
Beth Tikvah Sisterhood presents "A Family Affair," with fashions for the whole family. Boutiques open at 7 p.m. Fashion show at 8 p.m. $36.

A TRIBUTE TO MOTHERS
Beth David Sisterhood presents an opportunity for moms to feel special with B'nai Brith Canada president **Rochelle Wilner** on "A Tribute to Mothers." 7:30 p.m. Guests $5.

JWI MEETING
Jewish Women International, Unionville chapter, is holding its monthly meeting. Call **Gail** at 905-294-9706 for information.

Wednesday, May 12

JOSHUA NELSON CONCERT
Jewish African-American gospel singer **Joshua Nelson** will perform Jewish songs gospel-style at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue in an event co-presented by Associated Hebrew Day Schools of Toronto, United Synagogue Day Schools, the Toronto Heschel School, the Bathurst JCC and the Koffler Centre of the Arts. $18. 7:30 p.m. For tickets, call 416-224-8737 ext. 1752.

TAU OPEN HOUSE
An information evening for those interested in enrolling at Tel Aviv University for a semester, a year or a master's program. Scholarships available. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at 3130 Bathurst St., suite 214. 416-787-5692.

DEALING WITH LOSS
The Caring Committe of Temple Har Zion is offering a workshop with panellists **Liz Kalmar** and **Sheldon Meingarten** and moderators **Sim Greene and Dr. John Fleming**. This is an opportunity to learn how others are dealing with the loss of a loved one. 8 p.m. 905-889-2252.

POMEGRANATE GUILD
Enjoy a creative pin workshop with **Lucy Garvin**, the doll lady, and create 2-3 inch stuffed images to wear as pins or to give as gifts. Bring sewing kits and items such as beads, baubles, buttons, bows, etc. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation at 8 p.m.

WHAT WOMEN READ
Beth Tzedec Sisterhood presents "Women Networking With Women," an evening with **Rhonda Rovan**, style editor at *Canadian Living* and *Homemakers*, discussing "Inspiration, Entertainment, Affirmation: How Women's Magazines connect with their Readers in 2004." 8 p.m. 416-781-3511.

Other news

ARTISTS TOUR AND SALE
The Thornhill Visual Artists studio tour and sale takes place Friday, May 7, 12-5 p.m and Sunday, May 9, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. www.thornhillva.com.

THE SECRET LIFE OF GOD
Rabbi David Aaron, dean of Isralight, an international organization dedicated to inspiring a renaissance in Jewish Life, will speak on "The Secret Life of God." Thursday, May 13 at 8 p.m. at Beth Jacob Congregation, 147 Overbrooke Pl. 416-633-5770 or torahinmotion.org.

MEMORIAL EVENING
Join **Dr. Harriet Morris** for Sharon Cole Memorial Evening, when she will be reviewing the book *Bel Canto* by **Ann Patchett**. Thursday, May 13 at 8 p.m. at Temple Sinai Congregation. Free.

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
Yale Reisner, founder of the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation Genealogy Project in Warsaw, will discuss "Raising Atlantis: Restoring Jewish Memory in Poland," at the Jewish Genealogical Society meeting, Thursday, May 13, 8 p.m at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. Non-members $5.

SPRING CONCERT
The Toronto Jewish Folk Choir spring concert will include the klezmer sounds of **Beyond the Pale**, Sunday, May 16, 3 p.m. at Lawrence Park Collegiate, 125 Chatsworth Dr. Tickets $22. Call 416-489-7681 or visit www.winchevskycentre.org /choir.html.

PIANO RECITAL
Beth Radom Congregation presenst a performance by **Michael Berkovsky**, an award-winning young Russian-Israeli, presently studying at the Juilliard School in New York. Sunday, May 16 at 7 p.m. Recital $25, recital and reception $50. Call **Sylvia** at 416-636-3451 or **Raul** at 416-250-1918.

TEMPLE SINAI CONCERT
Temple Sinai's Ben Steinberg Musical Legacy Award Concert will take place Monday, May 17 at 8 p.m. The concert includes pianist **Andrew Burashko**, violist **Rebecca Gitter** and violinist **Jonathan Swartz**. For tickets and information, visit www.templesinai.net.

URINETOWN
Support Hadassah-WIZO and see the comedy *Urinetown* at the Bluma Appel Theatre, Thursday, May 20 at 7 p.m. $90 includes dessert reception. For tickets, call 416-368-3110.

MONTREAL REUNIONS
Wagar High School is planning a reunion for 1973 graduates on Saturday, May 22. For information, visit http://ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/wagar73/.

The Jewish General Hospital School of Nursing is having a reunion May 28-30. For information, call **Marsha Ptack** at 514-340-8222, ext. 5448 or e-mail mptack@nurs.jgh.mcgill.ca.

FOR SENIORS

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre Good Age Club: Thursday, May 6, Casino Rama trip. 750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Casino Rama, May 12, Casino Niagara, May 20. Saturday dance, May 15. Sunday dance, May 9. 416-395-7881.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the boardroom at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. June 9, *Fiddler on the Roof* at Stage West. Call 416-630-9444.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. May 6, bingo, May 13, sing-a-long. Call **Menachem Wallach**, 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla**, 416-630-5771.

Lunch & Learn in Retirement and **Beth Tzedec Congregation Senior Haverim Programme** are hosting "The Barons of Barbershop: The Golden Oldies," Monday, May 10, 1:30 p.m. at Beth Tzedec. $2.

WAGMAN CENTRE
55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

A spousal bereavement group for widows and widowers aged 55 and over meets at Baycrest Centre and is facilitated by a social worker. Begins on Tuesday, May 18 and runs for 15 weeks. 1:30-3 p.m. Call **Shawn Fremeth**, ext. 2986.

The Terrace/Wagman Choir, conducted by **Judy Ross**, runs on Tuesdays from 11-11:45 a.m. in the Gathering Place. Call ext. 2275.

A Tai Chi class takes place on Thursdays from 1-2 p.m. in the Common Room. Call ext. 2341 to arrange a trial class.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE
1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

"War and Peace in the Middle East" with **Avner Meiri**. Tuesday, May 11, 18, 25 and June 1. 10-11:30 a.m.

Arthritis Management Clinic, Thursday, May 13. Call to make an appointment. 416-979-7228, ext. 381.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speakers meets Tuesdays at 2:30 p.m. May 11, lecture, May 18, Jerusalem Day party. Call **Anna**, ext. 110.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www.milesnadaljcc.ca.

Lunch 'N Learn with **Rabbi Moshe Stern**, Friday, May 7, 12-1 p.m. Coffee and tea served.

Learning Experience "Eating Disorders Affect All Ages" with psychotherapist/nutritionist **Simone Finkelstein**. Tuesday May 11, 1-2:30 p.m.

Open Klezmer Jam with Martin van de Ven and special guests. Bring your own instruments. Tuesday, May 11, 8 p.m. Admission: $10 in advance, $12 at the door.

The 12th Annual Toronto Jewish Film Festival continues through May 9. For tickets, call 416-324-9121 or visit www.tjff.com.

Toastmaster meets every Monday except holidays at 6:15 p.m. RSVP **Alan Devine** 416-244-4452.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

Koffler Music Jazz presents **Mark Sepic**, Sunday, May 16 at noon BJCC Lobby. All welcome.

Koffler's Nashir Children's Choir is holding open rehearsals/auditions for the fall season for children ages 8-15. Sundays through May at 3:30 p.m. Call ext. 228.

Intermediate Bridge with **Daniel Bernstein** starts Monday, May 10, 7:15 p.m.-9:45 p.m. Call ext. 259.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 36

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To place an unveiling notice, please call at least 15 DAYS prior to the date of the unveiling

OBITUARIES and Related Notices

To place any other family related notice, please call at least 10 DAYS prior to the issue date

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Dr. Henry Thomas	Apr 6/04	1592 Islington Av
Maria Bielak	Apr 5/04	3560 Bathurst St
Alfred Brown	Apr 4/04	550 Cummer Av
Golda Spector	Apr 7/04	3560 Bathurst St
Salim Diamand	Apr 6/04	206 Rosemary Rd
Jerry Friedman	Apr 7/04	45 Beechwood Av
Harry Reibstein	Apr 8/04	18 Warren Rd
Mary Horn	Apr 9/04	155 Antibes Dr
Myer Krigstin	Apr 9/04	14 Millpond Pl
Harry Bernstein	Apr 10/04	15 Barberry Pl
Elsie Tylman	Apr 10/04	120 Shelborne Av
Gail Rosner	Apr 10/04	35 Whitburn Cr
Benjamin Schneider	Apr 12/04	2 Neptune Dr
Sharon Kaplan	Apr 12/04	4000 Yonge St
Minnie Rotenberg	Apr 10/04	205 Cummer Av
Dr. Israel Strashin	Apr 12/04	1 Concorde Place
Matilda Zelman	Apr 14/04	3879 Bathurst St
Alvin Pearson	Apr 16/04	2121 Bathurst St

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Stastny, Eva	Gomori, Klara	Weiner, Anne
April 18, 2004	April 21, 2004	April 24, 2004
Gutin, Zezilia	Klein, Elisabeth	3560 Bathurst St
April 18, 2004	April 21, 2004	Koll, Ira
4750 Bathurst St	10 Tichester Rd	April 24, 2004
Cohen, Zvi	Herman, Thelma	6101 Bathurst St
April 20, 2004	April 22, 2004	Pinto, David
83 Vaughan Blvd	Schwartzberg, Leib	April 25, 2004
Myers, Morton	April 23, 2004	22 Mortimer Crt
April 20, 2004	7601 Bathurst St	Khaimovich, Emma
Simonoff, Sylvia	Davidson, Fanny	April 21, 2004
April 20, 2004	April 24, 2004	Montreal

HEDREW DASIC

Jason Givner — Apr 23/04 — 107 Parkmount Rd

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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SYDNEY SPIEGEL ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 9th, 1:30 p.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
(Dufferin St., n. of Major Mackenzie Dr.)
Temple Sinai Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
RICHARD PELLOW ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 16th, 12:00 noon
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
986 Wilson Ave.
Pride of Israel Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
Eugenia (Ibi) Rafael ז"ל
beloved wife, mother & grandmother
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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ESTHER MANOV ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 10th, 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Judea Benevolent Society Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SAMUEL STERLING ז"ל
will take place
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Coast to Coast

Now who's massacring the truth?

Martin Himel's documentary, *Jenin: Massacring Truth*, which premiered April 28 on Global TV, explored how much of the European media misreported Israel's military operation in Jenin in April 2002, leading to charges – eventually disproved by the United Nations and major human rights organizations – that Israel massacred hundreds of Palestinian civilians.

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

The documentary received mainly favourable comments in the Canadian media. One dissenting note came from the *Toronto Star*'s media columnist Antonia Zerbisias. Her column, "Yet one more salvo over Jenin" (April 27), while not totally critical of the documentary, made the point that it was Himel who, ultimately, did a disservice to the truth.

Zerbisias, who has written not infrequently – and usually critically – about Israel, did explain the context in which the Jenin operation occurred: "In April 2002, after a wave of horrific suicide bombings in Israel that killed and maimed hundreds of civilians, the Israeli [sic] Defence Forces moved into the heavily populated Jenin refugee camp."

She noted that the Palestinian side grossly exaggerated the Palestinian death toll in the operation, saying hundreds had been killed, a number many journalists quoted.

In the end, investigations proved that 26 Palestinian civilians and 23 Israeli soldiers were killed. Zerbisias even wrote that the IDF fatalities "might have been avoided had the military attacked from the air rather than rely[ing] on its infantry."

At the time, about 25 per cent of the terrorist attacks against Israel originated in Jenin. As Himel's documentary revealed, the IDF decided not to use air power specifically to avoid killing large numbers of Palestinian civilians. The IDF chose to conduct house-to-house fighting in order to identify the Palestinian fighters from among the civilians.

Such actions are a testament to the moral fibre of the IDF. Himel contrasted the Jenin operation with NATO's bombing of Serbia and Kosovo over several weeks in 1999, which resulted in the deaths of hundreds of civilians. In the latter case, no charges of massacre or war crimes were ever leveled.

Zerbisias saved most of her criticism for what she described as Himel's determination "to demonstrate that anti-Semitism is to blame for how the 'Euro-British media' reported on Jenin."

She referred to Himel's interview with the *London Times*' Janine di Giovanni, who wrote, in April 2002, that Jenin was worse than Chechnya and Bosnia. In the documentary, di Giovanni asked Himel if he was Israeli or Jewish. Zerbisias, who recognizes di Giovanni's malice, nonetheless accused Himel of using her to "tar all journalists" with an anti-Semitic brush – a charge that is completely unfounded.

Zerbisias then took aim at Alan Dershowitz, the Harvard law professor and author of *The Case for Israel*, whom Himel interviews in the documentary. Zerbisias wrote that Dershowitz "supplies observations that darkly allude to how anti-Semitic any criticism of the Israeli government really is."

Nothing Dershowitz said in the feature even vaguely supports her allegation. In addition, had Zerbisias read his book, which she attempts to demean, she would have found this passage: "So long as criticism [of Israel] is comparative, contextual, and fair, it should be encouraged, not disparaged. But when the Jewish nation is the only one criticized for faults that are far worse among other nations, such criticism crosses the line from fair to foul, from acceptable to anti-Semitic."

Indeed, on the CBC program *Counterspin* (October 8, 2003), Dershowitz criticized some Israeli policies: "I'm opposed to the occupation, I'm opposed to the settlements." Using Zerbisias' logic, Dershowitz would have to call his own remarks anti-Semitic.

Zerbisias' sloppy reasoning extended to *The Battle of Jenin: A Case Study in Israel's Communications Strategy*, edited by Hirsh Goodman and Jonathan Cummings. To support her viewpoint, Zerbisias quoted one small paragraph from the introduction to the report, disregarding the fact that overall, a large number of the experts who contributed to the study (including Ze'ev Schiff and Ehud Ya'ari, among others) bolstered Himel and Dershowitz's arguments.

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

Crowe supports UTT

Continued from page 31

"It was beyond my understanding that something so terrible could happen so close to my home and so close to my heart."

Singer wants to ensure that students "feel the same way I did when I attended UTT. It was my second home, and I believed that nothing bad could happen there."

Notre-Dame-de-Grace MNA Russell Copeman talked about how upset he was by the UTT incident in his speech to the National Assembly on Yom Hashoah. Copeman, who is Jewish, visited the library soon after it was destroyed by fire. He said he was struck by the image and odour of burnt books.

"I had thought such things could not happen in our home… It might happen elsewhere but not here, in Quebec, in 2004…

"It may be that this was a unique event, committed by a crank. That's possible. It may equally be that this event was perpetrated by a group. But I am sure of one thing, Mr. Speaker, in view of the communication left on the scene, that this was more than an act of simple vandalism."

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Food, Scrumptious Food

Dairy-good ideas for Mother's Day or Shavuot

By NORENE GILLETZ

The month of May brings warm weather and several special celebrations, including Mother's Day on Sunday, May 9th and Shavuot, a two-day holiday that begins at sundown May 25th and lasts until sundown on May 27th. Celebrations are always associated with food and finding delicious and unusual dishes to serve your guests. I found many wonderful ideas in Phyllis and Miriyam Glazer's *The Essential Book of Jewish Festival Cooking* (Harper Collins, $45.95 Cdn).

Phyllis Glazer is an American-born food journalist and cookbook author based in Tel Aviv. Miriyam Glazer is a professor of literature at the University of Judaism in Los Angeles and the editor of several books. The two sisters have teamed up to provide a new and fascinating approach to Jewish festival cuisine.

The Essential Book of Jewish Festival Cooking is a valuable resource for the Jewish holidays. Organized by season, the 10 chapters cover the major holidays and feast days of the Jewish year. There are more than 200 tempting recipes, featuring flavours from around the world, plus menus and tips for creative and meaningful holiday entertaining.

Each chapter provides an introduction illustrating the origins, traditions and seasonal and biblical significance of each Jewish holiday and its foods. The recipes add a fresh, contemporary twist to the flavours of the foods enjoyed by our ancestors.

For Shavuot, whose meals are characterized by the season's traditional bounty of milk and the wheat harvest, you'll learn how to make fresh homemade cheeses, creamy blintzes, cheese bourekas, Sweet Noodle Kugel, Biblical Cream Cheese and an unusual Halvah Cheesecake. There are also many interesting combinations for unusual salads.

Here are some dairy-good dishes to serve for your Shavuot celebration, Mother's Day brunch or any special occasion. Enjoy.

BIBLICAL CREAM CHEESE

Long before the advent of bagels and lox, goat or sheep cream cheese was part of our ancestors' diet. Prepared soft, it could be used as a spread or as a first course for dipping in bread. Allowed to drain slightly longer, it could dry out sufficiently to be made into balls and covered in olive oil and herbs for extended storage. Here is a superb substitution for regular cream cheese in any recipe. Use full-fat sour cream that does not contain stabilizers – available in Persian or Middle Eastern stores.

4 cups (2 pints) dairy sour cream
½ tsp. salt (optional)
cheesecloth or muslin bag

Line a strainer or colander with a double layer of cheesecloth and place over a bowl. Pour the sour cream and salt into the strainer and allow to drain for 1 hour. Gather up the edges of the cheesecloth and tie them, lightly squeezing out as much moisture as possible.

Hang the bag over the kitchen sink and leave for several hours or overnight. For a softer-spreading cheese, check after 3 to 4 hours. Refrigerate when the desired consistency is reached. Makes 3¼ cups.

LISHANSKY'S FAMOUS HALVAH CHEESECAKE

Veteran cookbook author and maker of liqueurs and jams out of every conceivable fruit, herb and vegetable, Ya'acov Lishansky, who recently passed away in his 90s, was the first (and only) Israeli man to win first prize at the "Queen of the Kitchen" cooking contest. This recipe is adapted from one of his.

Crust:
1 cup unbleached all-purpose flour
⅓ cup sugar
1 egg yolk
1 tsp. freshly grated lemon zest
¼ cup (½ stick) butter, melted
¼ tsp. vanilla extract
Cold water

Filling:
2½ pounds cream cheese, at room temperature
1¼ cups sugar
1 cup mashed vanilla halvah
3 tbsp. all-purpose flour
¼ tsp. vanilla extract
6 eggs
¼ cup heavy cream

Preheat oven to 400. Prepare a 9 or 10-inch springform pan by cutting a circle of parchment paper to line the bottom. (The 9-inch pan will result in a higher cake.) Affix to the bottom with a little butter or non-stick cooking spray. Cut a 3-inch-wide strip of parchment paper and affix to the sides of the pan.

Mix flour and sugar in a medium bowl. Beat egg yolk, lemon zest, melted butter and vanilla together with a fork. Make a well in the flour mixture and pour in the liquids, then stir the mixture with a fork, adding just enough cold water to form a ball.

Transfer to a lightly floured surface and roll out to ⅛-inch thickness to fit the bottom and side of the prepared pan. (The dough does not have to come all the way up the sides.) Prick the bottom and sides with a fork, or add pie weights or dry beans placed on a circle of parchment paper and bake for 15 to 20 minutes, until lightly browned. Remove and let cool.

Increase oven temperature to 500. In the bowl of a standing electric mixer, beat the cream cheese, sugar, halvah, flour and vanilla together until smooth. Add eggs one at a time, blending lightly after each addition, and pour in the cream. Do not overbeat or the cake will crack in the centre while baking. Pour filling into baked crust.

Bake for 12 to 15 minutes. Turn heat down to 200 and bake 60 to 90 minutes, until a toothpick comes out clean and only slightly moist.

Let stand in the oven with the oven door partially open for 1 hour. Remove and let cool completely; chill until firm. Cover with plastic wrap after the top has firmed, and refrigerate at least 4 hours or overnight. Serves 12 to 14.

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Amid mourning, Likud Party rejects Sharon's plan

By DINA KRAFT
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — On its own, the murder of a pregnant Israeli woman and her four daughters in Gaza would be considered a tragedy.

But the fact that the roadside slaying of Tali Hatuel and her young daughters took place on Sunday, the same day the Likud party voted against Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan for a unilateral withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, also gave the killings a painful irony.

The vote dealt a political defeat to Sharon, who had championed the withdrawal plan as the right thing for Israel's security.

Likud members who voted in the referendum disagreed. Of those who turned up at the polls – fewer than half of Likud's 193,000 eligible voters – roughly 60 per cent voted against the plan and about 40 per cent in favour, according to preliminary results.

"I think this is a bad day for the country," Israel's absorption minister Tzipi Livni said after the vote.

Livni was among the cabinet ministers who backed the plan calling for a unilateral Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and parts of the northern West Bank, including the dismantling of Jewish settlements in those areas.

"It indicates that Likud members are against any concessions, and this threatens to make the party irrelevant," Livni said.

But in Gush Katif, the largest Israeli settlement bloc in Gaza, there was some relief.

"Now the plan has to be stopped," said Ezra Eldad, who lives in the Gaza settlement of Ganei Tal. "We have won the struggle."

Any sense of triumph, however, was tempered by grief at news of the shooting Sunday that left five of Gaza's Jewish residents dead.

Hatuel, 34, who was eight months pregnant, was driving with her four daughters down the main road that connects Gush Katif and a main Gaza border crossing when her station-wagon was fired at by Palestinian gunmen in a nearby car.

Thousands of mourners attend the funeral of Tali Hatuel and her four daughters. [Isranet photo]

The hail of bullets forced the vehicle off the road, and the two terrorists approached the car and fired at the family. Hatuel and her four daughters – Hila, 11, Hadar, 9, Roni, 7, and Merav, 2 – were killed immediately.

The two gunmen were killed soon afterward by Israeli troops, the Israeli army said.

Hatuel was believed to be on her way to protest Sharon's withdrawal plan.

A blood-soaked baby seat and children's books were found in the car, which displayed a bumper sticker reading, "Uprooting the settlements, victory for terror."

The five were buried Sunday night in a funeral attended by thousands. David Hatuel stood over the bodies of his wife and daughters, sobbing. He had been away from home a lot in recent weeks, helping campaign against Sharon's pullout plan.

Continued on page 38

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Lower taxes approved

The cabinet has approved Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's tax cuts for medium and low income earners, and the reduction in corporate tax of one percentage point to a new level of 35 per cent. The corporate tax cut is effective retroactive to the start of 2004.

Annan criticizes Arafat

United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan last week urged Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat to give the Gaza disengagement plan a chance, saying Palestinians should crack down on militant violence to help revive a broader peace effort. In unusually tough language, Annan – in a letter obtained by Reuters – also criticized Arafat for failing to meet obligations under the U.S.- and UN-backed "road map" peace plan, such as implementing security reforms and ending suicide bombings.

Army apologizes for killing

Israel apologized for killing a Palestinian academic during a counterterrorist raid. Yasser Abu Leimun, who lectured on insurance administration at two West Bank universities, was shot dead in his home last week at Tallouza, outside Nablus, as Israeli troops battled Hamas gunmen nearby. On Thursday, the Israeli army admitted Leimun was killed by accident.

Jews remember Wingate

About 800 people last week commemorated the British World War I general who helped shape the precursor to the Israeli army. The ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C., where Orde Wingate is buried, drew dignitaries and Jewish leaders and marked the 60th anniversary of the general's death. Wingate, who became a fervent Zionist during his time in pre-state Palestine, died leading a U.S.-British force in Burma. He is widely credited for making the Haganah an effective fighting army. Paul Bernstein, the Jewish War Veterans' national commander, said Wingate "gave Israel the tactics to fight five Arab countries at once."

Chess players to Libya?

Libya has invited Israel's chess team to participate in the World Chess Championship in Tripoli. Following talks with World Chess Federation officials, who insisted that Israel be allowed to participate, Libyan leader Muammar Gadhafi's son Saif Al-Islam welcomed any player who wishes to participate in the June 18 to July 13 competition.

Nuclear watchdog to Israel

The United Nations' chief nuclear watchdog is expected to visit Israel. Officials would not discuss the agenda for the July visit by Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, calling it routine.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

Political impact of referendum not clear

Continued from page 37

Two soldiers and an Israeli civilian were also wounded in the incident.

Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the Popular Resistance Committees claimed joint responsibility for the attack, saying it was carried out to avenge Israel's recent assassinations of Hamas leaders Sheik Ahmed Yassin and Abdel Aziz Rantissi.

Later Sunday, Israel launched a counterattack, with a helicopter strike against a Hamas-aligned radio station in Gaza.

It was not immediately clear if the Palestinian attack influenced Likud party voting either way. Many observers predicted in recent days that support for the plan had dwindled, with opponents gradually gaining a majority.

The margin of defeat for Sharon's plan in voting Sunday was larger than polls had predicted the weekend before the referendum.

The campaign against the plan had been fierce. At the sprawling plaza outside the convention centre in Jerusalem where some Likud members cast their ballots, banners were strung between trees warning that approval of the plan amounted to a "prize for terrorism." Teenagers also distributed bumper stickers and pamphlets opposing the plan.

Rami Shalom, a 75-year-old retiree, was among the few voters at the convention centre who openly said he supported the plan.

"We cannot drag this out forever," he said, referring to Israel's occupation of Gaza. "It is a difficult situation and it will not be easy to dismantle settlements, but it looks as if there is no choice."

Opponents of the plan took pains to say they were voting not against Sharon, but against his withdrawal plan.

Sharon had hoped to clinch support for the plan after U.S. President George W. Bush endorsed it last month. Bush also said that Israel had the right to retain some West Bank land in a future peace deal and that Palestinian refugees from Israel's 1948 War of Independence should not be granted the right to return to their former homes inside Israel. Instead, they can live in a future Palestinian state, Bush said.

Sharon had warned Likud members in recent days that a vote against his plan might lead to the end of his government.

As voters headed to polls, he said the vote would determine the direction in which Israel was headed.

"This is a fateful decision, tough but the most important. It will determine whether Israel will move forward in all areas – in security, in the economy, in education, in industry, in our relations with the United States – or move backward," Sharon said at a cabinet meeting Sunday. "And each person must think good and well about the future of his children and his own future, and vote for my plan."

But after the vote, it was unclear what impact the non-binding referendum would have on Sharon's plan, the Likud party or the prime minister's political future.

Aides indicated that one thing was certain: Sharon would not resign.

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Technion NEWS

Alfred E. Mann announces Intention to Commit $100 Million to the Technion

Biomedical industry entrepreneur, innovative scientist and noted philanthropist Alfred E. Mann has announced his intention to commit $100 million to the American Technion Society (ATS) in furtherance of his plan to establish the Alfred Mann Institute (AMI) for Biomedical Engineering at the Technion - Israel Institute of Technology.

Initially, the institute would be dedicated to the development of medical devices and processes to improve human health and well being. This would make the Technion the first university outside of the United States selected by Mann to be a part of his vision of establishing institutes at the world's top research centers (the first AMI was established at the University of Southern California, and affiliated institutes are planned to be formed at UCLA, Johns Hopkins University and others). The $100 million will also be the largest philanthropic commitment ever to an Israeli institution.

Mann said the Technion's standing as a world leader in scientific research and its high academic ranking played significant roles in his decision. "The Technion is a world-class research university characterized by excellence, passion and brainpower that is as good as any on the planet," he said.

Moreover, he pointed out that the interdisciplinary nature of the university and the presence of a medical school will be an advantage to the AMI institute, which is based on the melding of science, medicine and engineering.

"There is so much cross fertilization at the Technion among inventive minds in medicine, engineering, chemistry and biology, that success can be the only result," Mann said.

Because he is a prolific scientist who has launched scores of successful products and companies dedicated to combating multiple diseases, as well as a pragmatic visionary, Mann's faith in the Technion is especially gratifying, said Technion President Yitzhak Apeloig. "All of Israel will be very proud to have the AMI at the Technion," he added.

Alfred E. Mann is chairman and co-CEO of Advanced Bionics Corporation (ABC) since 1994. ABC is a manufacturer and distributor of cochlear implants for the restoration of hearing and is introducing a broad range of neurstimulation systems. He also serves as Chairman of the Board and CEO of MannKind Corporation, a diversified biopharmaceutical company focused on the development of novel therapeutics and drug delivery technologies for diabetes, cancer and inflammatory and autoimmune diseases.

Microscopic computer identifies, destroys cancer

Continued from page 1

These medications are attached to the ends of the DNA molecules that make up the computer and are released by activating the relevant enzyme.

Since the diagnosis is not always clear-cut, the computer has instructions to release the medication only if the certainty of the diagnosis is above a predetermined level.

Though each molecular computer can only test for one type of disease, millions of such computers can be contained in a single drop of solution, Shapiro noted.

However, he warned, the prototype computer he and his colleagues designed is still far from being ready for use. Their product, he said, was built and tested on a solution that contains no proteins, fats or sugars – materials that occur in every living organism and that could both interfere with the working of the computer and be damaged by the computer.

It will take many years, perhaps even decades, of additional work before the computer is adapted to be able to function in a living environment, Shapiro said.

In addition to Shapiro, the other members of the research team were Dr. Rivka Adar and graduate students Yaakov Benenson, Binyamin Gil and Uri Ben-Dor.

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Even if you, the heir, has previously contacted the Claims Conference, you must contact us again by phone, mail, e-mail, or fax by May 15, 2004. Many heirs are being sent letters - but even if you do not receive a letter, you must contact the Claims Conference.

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Claims Conference
15 East 26 St., Room 906,
New York, NY 10010

Tel: 646-536-9100
Fax: 212-685-5299
heirdeadline@claimscon.org
Www.claimscon.org

Please note:

- Only heirs must contact Claims Conference. **Survivors who were approved for payment do NOT need to contact the Claims Conference to receive the second installment of the payment** under the Claims Conference Program for Former Slave and Forced Laborers.
- If you are **the heir to a survivor who was approved for compensation under this program, but who has since died, you must** contact the Claims Conference by May 15. Failing to do so will prevent the Claims Conference from further processing the application.
- If you are **an heir to a former slave/forced laborer who died after February 15, 1999, and you applied to the program on behalf of that person,** you must contact the Claims Conference by May 15. Failure to do so will prevent the Claims Conference from further processing the application.
- **New applications cannot be accepted.** The deadline for applying to the Program for Former Slave and Forced Laborers was December 31, 2001.
- Only one heir for each application is required to contact the Claims Conference.
- **If an applicant dies after May 15, 2004,** heirs must register their claims within six months of the date of death.

Claims Conference ועידת התביעות
The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany

Israel & the Jewish World

Will expanded EU be more pro-Israel?

By PHILIP CARMEL
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

PARIS — With the European Union often at odds with Jewish groups over its opposition to Israeli policy, hopes were raised last year when a number of key eastern European countries defied most of their future EU partners to fall in line with the United States on Iraq.

That led Jewish leaders to believe many of the new states would act as a counterbalance to current EU policy, which is often seen as highly critical of Israel.

But as 10 new countries entered the union May 1, some European Jewish leaders and Israeli officials are reassessing their predictions.

"At the moment, we have to persuade 15 countries" to support issues of concern to European Jews, "so it's not going to be easier to persuade 25," said Maram Stern of the World Jewish Congress (WJC) office in Brussels.

That said, certain key countries in eastern Europe have tended to be less critical of Israel. Anti-Israel rhetoric in the media, generally widespread in western Europe, has been far less prevalent in the east.

But it's not clear if the eastern European countries joining the union can influence their western European partners to adopt more favourable positions toward Israel. In fact, things could just as well go the other way, said Lawrence Weinbaum, who analyzes trends in the former eastern bloc for WJC.

"As they come more under the influence of other European countries in Brussels, they may move closer to traditional EU positions on Israel," Weinbaum said.

What might change, Polish Jewish writer Konstanty Gebert told JTA, "is the relatively more balanced approach that some new members, especially Poland, have taken on the Middle East conflict. As the EU attempts to integrate the foreign policies of its members, it can be expected that the newcomers will more closely toe Brussels' line, which is markedly critical of Israel."

The entry of 10 new countries into the union cements the process begun with the fall of the Communist bloc in the early 1990s and unites the economically weaker eastern countries with the world's largest trading bloc.

Israeli diplomats in Europe said the new countries' entry won't produce a major change in European policy on the Middle East.

"There are sociological trends at work here," said Haim Assraf, a senior official at Israel's EU mission in Brussels. "They recognize they're the new boys, so they'll look to integrate into the EU by following a consensus line."

In the short term, at least, that won't improve Israel's diplomatic position, Assraf said, because the consensus would now be presented by a more powerful bloc of 25 states.

Much also will depend upon proposed amendments to a future EU constitution, particularly the abolition of individual states' veto over EU decisions, he said.

A change to majority voting would likely ensure backing for traditional EU foreign policy positions, which have been perceived by Israel's supporters and European Jewish groups as hostile to the Jewish state.

Most notably, the EU has expressed fierce criticism of Israel's West Bank security fence and its assassination of Palestinian terrorist leaders. Most recently, Europe gave a cool response to U.S. President George W. Bush's support for Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip.

European economic analysts note that it will likely take some time before the new states feel comfortable enough to take independent foreign policy positions.

In addition, many of the new states undoubtedly will be more concerned at first with improving their standards of living than in engaging in major foreign policy initiatives.

For example, the European Central Bank said two weeks ago that Poland – by far the largest of the 10 new states – may need 40 years to reach the economic development of current EU members. Even countries such as Hungary and the Czech Republic could need more than a decade to catch up.

Currently, all the new members run trade deficits, while most of their trade is with current EU member states.

While general policy would still be formulated by the European Commission – the EU's executive branch – the composition of the European Parliament, where elections are scheduled for the middle of June, remains a problem for Israel's supporters in Europe.

The European Parliament has been the most problematic legislature for Israel among democratic states, Assraf said, adding that it was difficult to see how it would change with input from the new countries.

But Serge Cwajgenbaum, secretary-general of the European Jewish Congress, said he saw more positive signs from European Socialist parties in eastern Europe, particularly in Hungary and Poland.

As the principal opposition bloc in the European Parliament, the Party of European Socialists has been at the centre of much of the legislature's anti-Israel rhetoric.

But polls suggesting the center-right bloc of European Democrats will increase its majority in the Parliament offer more promising signs for Israel.

"There are many paradoxes with the entry of the new countries. Some of them have a more balanced approach to Israel, but there are also some strong nationalist elements there," Cwajgenbaum said.

Weinbaum agreed, pointing out that anti-Semitic rhetoric was still strong in certain countries such as Hungary, while other states maintained certain ambiguities in relation to the Holocaust.

"We see countries where local populations had a direct hand in the Shoah deliberately attempting to whitewash the past," he said. "In the Baltic states, for example, the Jews are seen as having a hand in the Communist rule" of the former Soviet Union.

In fact, far-right groupings already are looking to form their own inter-European partnerships. Jean-Marie Le Pen, leader of France's National Front party, attended a recent nationalist rally in Budapest and two weeks ago helped kick-start the European election campaign of the neo-Nazi British National Party.

Threats from far-right groupings – which base much of their political platform on strong opposition to EU integration – could grow if the new entrants fail to achieve rapid economic growth in the EU.

"There are going to be winners and losers from EU enlargement," Weinbaum said. "Faced with economic hardship and higher prices in the short-term, the losers could be attracted to the nationalist camp."

Nevertheless, positions in the east on Israel generally are far more promising than in the west.

"For obvious historical reasons, U.S. influence is very strong in the east, so the general view is that it can't be any worse for us," Weinbaum said.

Canadian family inaugurates Israeli Holocaust education centre

By JENNY HAZAN
CJN Israel Bureau

JERUSALEM — Since its inception in 1972, Toronto-based businessman and philanthropist Alex Grossman has contributed millions of dollars toward the development of the Massuah Institute for the Study of the Holocaust at Kibbutz Tel Itzhak.

The 85-year-old Polish Holocaust survivor's latest million-dollar contribution, which has enabled Massuah to establish the Grossman School International Center for Holocaust Studies, was recognized at a ceremony last month on the eve of Holocaust Memorial Day, when in view of his inability to make the trip to Israel himself, Alex's son George along with wife Kitty, daughter Lisa and nephew Yoram, gathered for the official inauguration of the new school.

"I'm honoured to be here today because I am here to represent our family, not only to open up the dedication, but to carry on the work that my father started and that should be continued," George told a crowd of survivors and dignitaries, among them former Tel Aviv Mayor Shlomo Lahat.

"Over 35 years ago, a light went on for my father, Alex Grossman. The time had come to shed the darkness of the Holocaust. No longer were the secrets and truths of the Holocaust to be kept hidden from the next generation," George said. "The torch must be passed and the young must be shown the light, and I am proud to be the one to carry on my family's tradition."

George's presence at the ceremony encapsulated his message about the importance of Holocaust remembrance.

"As the Holocaust survivors are aging and the generation is passing on, it is necessary for the second generation to make a conscious effort to educate our children in order to ensure that the youth of this generation and the next and the next know the communities that formed their roots; the naked truths of the Nazi's plans; and the stories of those who lived and the millions that perished," said George, who offered the example of Remembrance Day in Canada.

"Although the children in Canada wear the poppies, they know almost nothing about World War I," he said, adding that the history of the Holocaust is even more fragile, since it's often not specifically taught in Canadian schools.

"I don't think we want to have our Jewish children not know anything about the Holocaust," he said.

"More and more, we see the second generation taking on the commitment of remembrance and education from the first generation," added Massuah director Aya Ben-Naftali. "George is a very good example of this. He is carrying on his father's legacy, with a firm belief in the fact that Massuah has a unique vision."

He said Massuah is an international Holocaust teaching institute for both students and educators from around the world that regards educational activity as the most meaningful way to commemorate the Holocaust and its victims.

"We promote an informal, value-oriented kind of education," explained Ben-Naftali, saying courses use interdisciplinary materials such as literature, art, history, psychology and computers in order to be as accessible as possible to youth.

"Students look into the Holocaust, then look into their own day-to-day lives to see the connection between the moral problems raised by the Holocaust and the relevance of those problems to their contemporary lives."

Alex Grossman

Alex Grossman, who moved to Toronto from Belgium in 1950 along with his wife Genia, escaped from Krakow, Poland, to Austria and then to Hungary and finally to Belgium. Unlike their entire immediate families who perished in Nazi death camps, Alex and Genia survived. They were expecting George, their second child, when they moved to North America.

After arriving in Canada, Alex started Belmont Construction with partners Abe Bleeman and the late Joe Silver. The company went on to become a major land developer in Toronto. Now president of Grossman Holdings, as well as chairman of Pinedale Properties and the director of Egis Holdings and Primegg, Alex has devoted much of his time and earnings to Jewish causes in both Canada and Israel.

He contributed $1 million (Cdn) to complete Massuah's new campus in 1990, and last year he moved on to his next million-dollar project, "Six Million Accusers: The State of Israel vs. Adolf Eichmann," Massuah's main historical museum exhibit.

"It's not an ordinary museum, but a kind of interactive educational one," said Ben-Naftali, explaining that students who visit the pavilion are able to re-enact part of the trial in a three-dimensional courtroom.

The Eichmann exhibit "cannot help but have a profound impact on all who touch it," George said.

"It is a crowning achievement of the union between technology and the human soul. It is an educational tool that leaves an indelible imprint."

But the new Grossman School International Center for Holocaust Studies, which includes a new seminar centre and specialized workshop areas, is the Grossman family's largest project to date.

Since its inauguration, Massuah teaching professionals have been able to offer classes to three times as many students as before and to expand the curriculum to include a total of more than 28,000 seminars.

"Massuah is destined for new advances. Its mission should be to continue to proceed to the forefront of Holocaust education. Let its fine work continue for generations to come," George told the ceremony. "And let the Grossman School International Center for Holocaust Studies represent a recognition of past accomplishments and a step toward the future."

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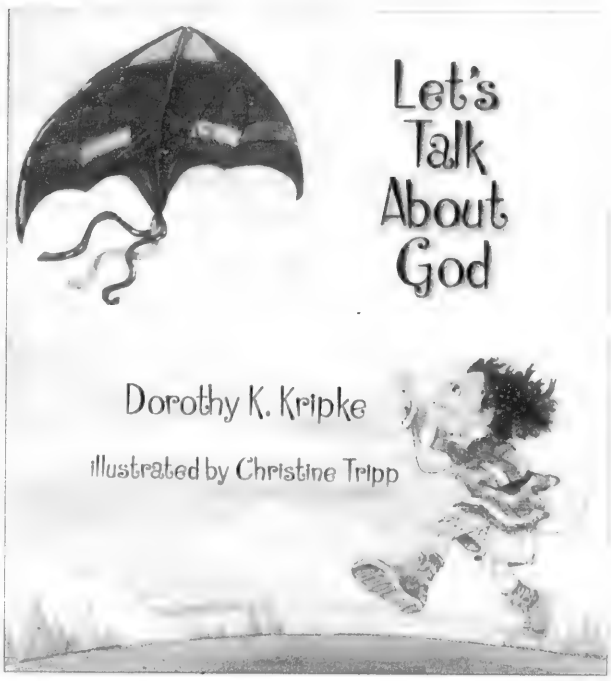
'God is the good that's in the world,' author says

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter



Do you ever wonder what God is like? Why can't we see Him? How does He talk to us, and can we talk to Him?

I have a surprise for you. Most people have questions like that, even adults.

A good way to get answers to at least some of the questions we have is in a terrific book, *Let's Talk About God*, by Dorothy Kripke, with illustrations by Christine Tripp (Alef Design Group, 2003, originally published 1953).

Kripke tries to answer some of the questions we ask about God. First, she writes a poem that talks about what God is: "God is not a person,.../ God is the good that's in the world/ And God is only One./ God is the good that's in the world/ And God made everything."

Kripke explains that God has many names. One of the main things we call Him is a parent. "Just as your parents love you and take care of you and help you, God loves all the people in the world," she writes.

When God made the world, the sky, the grass, the sun and the moon and all the animals, He made people too. He "put a little piece of God into people, to make them special and different from all other living things," and when He rested after making the world, he decided that people should rest too – and that's why we have Shabbat, "a special day for rest and prayer and fun with family and friends."

God is so wonderful, Kripke says, that He is everywhere in the world all the time, inside and outside, and inside everyone.

We know we can't see God the way we see the wind and the leaves, the author says, but we can see what He does – like giving us food, sleep, teachers, friends, puppies, butterflies, rainbows and the sound of rain. He heals us when we are sick, gives us courage and special gifts so that we can enjoy the world and make it a better and happier place.

God gave us the Ten Commandments and the Bible, which teach us how to be good, Kripke says. He wants us to be kind and loving, as He is.

But He doesn't force us to be good. He says, "You must choose for yourself. If you choose to be good, you will be a little like Me, and you will be happy."

You may think that if you make a mistake or do something wrong, God won't love you anymore. But that's wrong, Kripke says in her book. If we are sorry and make amends, then He forgives us. "God knows that no one is perfect."

Kripke teaches us that God is perfect: He can do everything, He never sleeps, and He never changes,

At the end, she says something that may surprise you. Adults sometimes act as if they know everything. But she says there are many things about God that we don't know and many questions even parents, teachers and rabbis can't answer.

What we do know is how He wants us to live, because the Torah tells us. "The bit of God inside each one of us tells us too."

This is a book you will enjoy talking to your parents and your teachers about.

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Think working out is hard? Try it at 92

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Champion athlete Harry Kay drives his car to work every day. He goes to the Bathurst JCC several times a week. And he has an exceptional memory.

There's nothing unusual about that, except for the fact Kay is 92 years old. He still works as a paralegal for Goodman and Griffin in Mississauga, discharging mortgages, searching titles and registering house sales. And while he travels all over Ontario, he doesn't have to race around as much as he used to.

"With technology, many things are done right in the office," he says.

Kay, who lives alone in north Toronto, spoke to *The CJN* about his youth, his physical activities, his marriage and his happiness at having lived so long.

In the early 1920s, when Kay was seven years old, he sold newspapers at the corner of Temperance and Yonge streets.

Many things have changed since his childhood in Toronto, he said, but "one thing hasn't changed and that is anti-Semitism.

"I can look back to the time when you couldn't walk across Queen and Spadina without having someone getting the Jewish boys into a fight. After all these years, I can't believe it is still here."

Kay attended the Central High School of Commerce and later owned and operated two car washes. He had an outstanding athletic career and performed exceptionally well in all forms of mathematics.

Among his many framed certificates of his accomplishments is a recent award of recognition for 20 years of employment from Goodman and Griffin and a booklet prepared by his children, Bernard and Shayla Kay and Barbara and Jack Goodman, and his four grandchildren noting their love and respect for his many achievements.

Photos of his championship softball, hardball, hockey and

Harry Kay, 92, with Mel Katzman, the son of Manny Katzman who played on the city championship Beaches Softball League with him 60 years ago.

volleyball teams show a young Harry (then Kaminsky) proudly wearing his team insignias: the Canadian Air Force, Bellwoods Park, the YMHA, the Canada Laundry Jewish Community Softball League and others. He was a pitcher for the St. Georges Junior Hardball Team when they won the Ontario championships and was a first baseman with Tri-Bell when they played in the softball world championships (though they didn't win).

"I think I played in every ball park in Toronto and in most parks in Ontario," Kay said, adding that he can still recall many of the games and his teammates.

During World War II, Kay served in the Canadian Air Force and after his discharge, he met Phyllis Nidelman of Owen Sound. They married in 1947.

"She was 20 and I was 36," he said, and joked, "I thought that if I married a younger person, I would have someone to look after me in my old age. You never know."

Kay said sadly that his wife, who has Alzheimer's, has been living at the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care for six years.

"I spend many evenings and most weekends with [her]," he said.

Along with his ongoing physical activities, Kay often demonstrates his mathematical prowess to schoolchildren. He invites others to compete against him in adding, subtracting and multiplying.

"When I went to school, I always got 100 [per cent] in mathematics. And today my mind is still so clear. I can challenge anyone when doing mathematics. No one adds or multiplies as fast as I can."

His greatest asset in his long life has been his sense of humour, he said.

"People stop me on the street and ask me to tell them a joke or two. And I take every day as it comes. I feel blessed that I have lived this long."

Besides humour, he said, people need to exercise, avoid overeating and "do mentally stimulating things every day such as crossword puzzles, read *Time* magazine and the newspapers."

Kay, who does all that, added one more thing: "When I can't sleep, I do mathematical problems in my mind."

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Toronto Jewish Film Festival features eclectic mix of movies

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Below are previews of a selection of films that will be screened as part of the annual Toronto Jewish Film Festival, which runs until May 9.

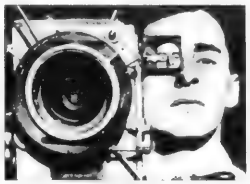
* * *

Janet Rosenberg Jagan is an unlikely revolutionary – a Jewish grandmother. In 1997, when she was 77 years old, she was elected president of multiracial Guyana, formerly British Guyana. "Bubbe of Guyana," one newspaper headline blared.

The life and times of this unusual and extraordinary woman unfolds in Suzanne Wasserman's feisty film, *Thunder in Guyana* (May 9 at 1 p.m. at the Bloor Cinema). Born in Chicago and raised in a staunchly conservative, middle-class family, she broke the mould when she married Cheddi Jagan, an East Indian from British Guyana who had been studying medicine at Wayne State University. Fervent Marxists, they organized sugar workers and worked tirelessly for Guyanese independence.

When Jagan's husband won the presidency, she served in his cabinet and was speaker of parliament. When he was deposed by the British, they were both arrested. Returning to office, they drew the wrath of Britain and the United States. After a long period in opposition, Jagan stormed back to power in 1992, only to die of a heart attack five years later. Dubbed the "mother of the nation" in the wake of her 1997 victory, she was forced to bow out after only 20 months in office. *Thunder in Guyana* is an empathetic portrait of a driven, committed and supremely self-confident woman.

* * *



Moisey (Mikhail) Kaufman was a renowned figure in the Soviet film industry. *Dziga and his Brothers* airs May 9th.

Bernd Fischer's *From Dachau with Love* (May 7 at 12 p.m. at Miles Nadal JCC) paints a vivid picture of a pretty Bavarian town weighed down by the burden of Germany's Nazi past. Fischer, who grew up there, successfully conveys the moral ambivalency that Dachau – the site of a concentration camp – must grapple with almost six decades after the defeat of the Third Reich.

On the face of it, Dachau, known for its Renaissance castle and a school of painting, is a perfectly normal place. But who can forget that 31,000 people, many of them Jews, were killed in the camp that bears its name? Dachau's notorious association with this Nazi killing ground is such that some of its 39,000 inhabitants still feel a deep sense of shame and pass themselves off as residents of a different town when travelling abroad.

Fischer's complex but accessible film introduces us to three types of Germans: those who keep faith with Dachau's past, those who blithely ignore it and regard Dachau solely as a tourist destination, and those who wish to capitalize on its notoriety.

The central figure in the movie is Max Mannheimer, a chatty Holocaust survivor who conducts tours of the camp and maintains friendly relations with a Carmelite nun whose convent rubs up against its outer wall.

* * *

Professor Mamlock (May 7 at 11 a.m. at the Bloor Cinema) was one of the first German films to deal with the persecution of Jews during the Nazi period. It was made in 1961 in what was east Germany, and is based on a 1933 play by Friedrich Wolf that the Nazis censored. Wolf's son, Konrad, directed this fine film, which revolves around a principled Jewish physician and decorated war veteran who is blind to the terrible realities overtaking Germany.

Mamlock, chief of surgery in a Berlin university hospital, inhabits a pure and rational world of science, enlightenment and German opera. He ignores the writing on the wall – the increasingly bitter political debates in his own hospital, the warning by a sympathetic colleague that fascism is on the rise, the street clashes pitting Nazis against Communists. Mamlock believes that Adolf Hitler is a passing phenomenon. His Christian wife is just as complacent.

When Jews are denied employment in public institutions, Mamlock protests. "We're Germans!" he exclaims. As the situation deteriorates, his daughter, Ruth, is humiliated by Nazis. Soon enough, Mamlock is ignominiously led away from the hospital, the word "Jude" scrawled on his white smock. As a war vet, Mamlock is granted permission to continue working in the hospital, but his unswerving principles forbid him to accept this exemption. Though somewhat didactic, *Professor Mamlock* is a graphic, deeply-felt film.

* * *

Rose's Songs (May 9 at 2 p.m. at Miles Nadal JCC), set in 1944 during the Holocaust in Hungary, is a co-Hungarian-Italian production. The Halasz family, having lost their livelihood, finds refuge in the walled villa of a famous singer. Every night, she serenades them and other Jews with operatic arias that perk up their sagging spirits. But the walls are closing in. On a tram in Budapest, Geza Halasz and his son are insulted by an anti-Semite. Then a gentile neighbour forbids his boy to play with Halasz's son. "Are Jews not Hungarians?" his son asks plaintively. "It's not so simple," Halasz replies in anguish.

Through bluff and bravado, Halasz manages to keep his family safe from harm. But the pressure they are under is such that his daughter says, "I don't want to be a Jew anymore."

Rose's Songs tries to portray the persecution of Jews in Hungary realistically. But its verisimilitude is shaken by a scene in which an observant Jew, his head covered by a yarmulke, asks his daughter for bacon.

* * *

The Kaufman brothers were a formidable force in Soviet cinema. David, known as Dziga Vertov, was a master documentarian. His brother, Moisey (Mikhail), worked with him before striking out on his own. Together, they made the first animated movie in the former Soviet Union (FSU) and also filmed Lenin's funeral. Later, they glorified the FSU's campaign of industrialization. Boris, the third brother, found work in France and Canada before immigrating to the United States. There he struggled to gain recognition. Eventually, he succeeded as a cinematographer and director, working with actors such as Marlon Brando, Ingrid Bergman and Henry Fonda. *Dziga and his Brothers* (May 9 at 12 p.m. at Miles Nadal JCC), a fascinating Russian documentary by Yevgeni Tsymbal, traces the brothers' careers in the FSU, France and Hollywood.

* * *

Seekers of Happiness (May 6 at 4 p.m. at Miles Nadal JCC), a 1936 Soviet production directed by Vladimir Korsh-Sablin, glorifies Birobidzhan, the pallid Soviet Jewish Autonomous Republic in the wastes of Asiatic Russia. The film, which turns on a proletarian Jewish family planting roots in a faraway land, looks and sounds like a quaint, naive relic from a distant era.

* * *

Purim Safari: Frederic Brenner's Journey Amongst the Jews of South Africa (May 8 at 11.45 p.m., Bloor Cinema) is quirky but unsatisfying. Brenner, a French photographer, proceeds from the fallacious assumption that the margin defines the mainstream. He profiles an ostrich farmer, a transvestite performer and a woman who operates a soup kitchen in a black township. His portraits, though interesting, are beside the point because Brenner misses the real story: South Africa's evolving Jewish community as it adjusts to a new political order after apartheid.

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

MAINTAINING A PROUD TRADITION, TORONTO JEWISH FOLK CHOIR PRESENTS 78TH ANNUAL SPRING CONCERT

Few local traditions within Toronto's Jewish community have persisted as long as the **Toronto Jewish Folk Choir's** annual spring concert, which enters its 78th season this month.

Toronto Jewish Folk Choir

This year, the choir is adding the infectious klezmer sounds of **Beyond the Pale** to the bill. The talent roster also includes conductor **Alexander Veprinsky**, soloists **Miriam Eskin**, **Mark Fox** and **Herman Rombouts**, and pianist **Lina Zemelman**.

The program features an eclectic mix of songs on Jewish themes, in Yiddish, Hebrew, Judeo-Spanish, Russian and English. The highlight is the choral ballade *Benyomin der driter* (Benjamin the Third) by **Max Helfman** (1901-1963), a musical adaptation of the classic novel by **Mendele Moikher Sforim**.

The concert is dedicated to the memory of three people associated with the choir: "Canada's music man" **Nicholas Goldschmidt**, longtime Toronto Symphony Orchestra cellist **Robert Spergel** and longtime chorister **Bella Shek**. All died in February – Shek at the age of almost 103.

Lawrence Park Collegiate, Lawrence Ave. W., east of Avenue Road. Limited free parking at the school. Tickets ($22 and $18; children under 12 free) are available at Jewish bookstores or at the door. Sunday, May 16, 3 p.m. 416-489-7681. www.winchevskycentre.ort/choir html.

* * *

Names in the News: Toronto jazz vocalist **Beverly Taft** launches her new CD, *How Ya Gonna Keep 'Em Down on the Farm?* at the Montreal Bistro, 65 Sherbourne St., Monday, May 10. Sets are at 9 and 10:45 p.m. and the cover is $10. Reservations, 416-363-0179… **The Ron Davis Trio** is also celebrating the release of a new CD, *Mungle Music*, at the Montreal Bistro next week. Fresh from a successful Japanese tour, the trio is at the venerable jazz spot May 11 to 15 (www.rddavis.com)… Singer **Janis Orenstein** and musicians **Aydin Sencan**, **Agah Ecevit**, **Gurani Koc** and **Ben Grossman** present *Ashki's Divan*, a concert of traditional Sufi music from Turkey: all are members of the Halveti-Jerrahi Order of Dervishes. They perform at the Music Gallery, 197 John St. (416-204-1080) on May 9, 3 p.m. Tickets range from $5 to $15… A new mural by **Ian Leventhal** was unveiled recently on the front of the office building at 111 Peter St. Commissioned by the owners, the Dan family of Toronto, the mural offers a colourful reflection of the street life as well as a "vivid, dynamic optimism that reflects the district," Leventhal remarked.

* * *

Capsule Review: *Cookin' at the Cookery*, the electrifying tribute to jazz and blues great **Alberta Hunter**, features a rousing, soulful **Jackie Richardson** whose voice captures the best of **Aretha Franklin** and **Bessie Smith** (if not necessarily Alberta Hunter). The second great surprise is that the show's other half, **Montego Glover**, also offers great singing and a vibrant performance. For fans of classic blues and jazz, *Cookin' at the Cookery* continues through May at the New Yorker Theatre, 651 Yonge St. 416-872-1111.

* * *

Theatrical Notes

• Encore Entertainment presents *A Fiddler, A Phantom and 3 Singing Cats*, a musical revue that pays tribute to and pokes fun at some of Broadway's biggest hit shows. Toronto Centre for the Arts, Studio Theatre, 5040 Yonge St. $25-$23. May 6 to 16, 8 p.m. (Sunday matinees 2 p.m.) For tickets, call 416-733-0558 or visit the box office.

• **Medina Theatre Ensemble** presents free public workshops of *Good Friends*, a new play by Canadian writer **Aviva Ravel**. Actors and audience invited to participate. B'nai Brith Lodge, 15 Hove St. May 11 and 13, 7 p.m. Morris Jacobs, 416-785-0344.

• **Temple Players** presents two performances of *Fiddler on the Roof*, directed by **Elaine Levine** and **Vicky Wylson-Sher**, and featuring a cast from the Hamilton, Burlington, Dundas and Ancaster areas. For tickets ($20) please call 905-528-0121. Sir John A. MacDonald Theatre, Hamilton. Wednesday, May 12 and Thursday, May 13, 7 p.m. www.anshesholom. ca/tickets.

* * *

Arts in Brief

• Israeli author and investigative journalist **Barry Chamish** discusses the current crisis in Israel and reveals some "astonishing, unpublicized facts." Presented in conjunction with Israel's Judaica Centre, his talk – "Save Israel! The Dirty Secrets" – takes place at the Toronto Zionist Centre, Jerusalem Hall, 788 Marlee Ave. Refreshments, no admission charge. Thursday, May 6, 8 p.m. 416-256-2858, ext. 22.

• Musical players are invited to bring their own instruments to an "Open Klezmer Jam" featuring **Martin van de Ven** and guests. Miles Nadal JCC, 750 Spadina Ave. at Bloor. $10 in advance, $12 at the door. Tuesday, May 11, 8 p.m. 416-924-6211.

• **Rabbi Paul Plotkin** speaks about his book, *The Lord is My Shepherd, Why Do I Still Want? Ancient Wisdom for the Modern Soul*. Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda, Tuesday, May 11, 8 p.m. All welcome, no charge. 416-633-3838.

* * *

At the Galleries

• "Rite of Passage," a show by **Lanny Shereck**, is on view at the Fran Hill Gallery, 230 Queen St. E., from May 8 to 29. 416-363-1333.

• In honour of Mother's Day, the Art Gallery of Ontario is extending free admission for all mothers to all of its collections and special exhibitions on May 9.

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Exhibit captures Spain's golden era for Jews

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Toronto-based art photographer, Orah Buck, who has a keen interest in Jewish history, is presenting an exhibit titled "The Golden Reign of Spain," with poetry by Spanish Jewish poets of the Middle Ages, at the ARTA Gallery in The Distillery district until May 14.

Buck, who has held exhibitions of her photographs in Canada, the United States and Israel, has created a unique work by teaming the poetry of prominent Spanish Jews of the Middle Ages (circa 900 to 1250 CE) with images from the National Library in Madrid, the Barcelona Rare Books Library (Biblioteca de Catalunya) and areas of historical relevance to Spanish Jews.

The exhibit features 36, 24 by 24 inch digitalized colour images. Many are from illuminated manuscripts of the Biblia Hebrea 1470, the Jewish astronomer of King Alphonso, and the Barcelona Haggadah.

Buck says the images cover several millennia, from biblical times to the Middle Ages.

"From a technical perspective, pre-Gutenburg illuminated manuscripts have been enhanced by today's latest digital process. Selected images are adorned with gold leaf to replicate the technique of medieval times."

She says that when you combine the images with verse, they become even more meaningful.

A portion of the Barcelona Haggadah photographed by art photographer Orah Buck, in the Barcelona Rare Books Library (Biblioteca de Catalunya)

Buck was born in Cincinnati and emigrated to Toronto in 1951 when she married Adam Buck. She taught high school and turned to photography, her first love, two decades ago. Since than, she has had extensive exhibits at Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care and a permanent display at Tel Hashomer Hospital in Israel.

Her photographs titled "Babatha's Story" were exhibited at Beth Tzedec Congregation's Reuben and Helene Dennis Museum for four months before moving to the library of the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York.

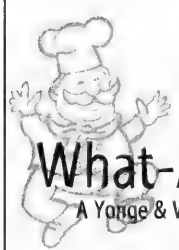
"I was inspired to create 'The Golden Reign of Spain' 15 years ago when I discovered a small Penguin paperback in my late mother Rachel's effects. The book featured English translations of the works of the Hebrew poets of Spain."

Although the book was literally falling apart and held together with rubber bands, Buck says, "Its contents made a lasting impression on me.

"Most intriguing to me is the miracle of today's digital technology that enables me to select each unique negative, enhance key patterns and colours that have faded over time to produce an image as it must have appeared in centuries past."

She says the technology "has allowed me to photograph the pre-Gutenburg illuminated pages of the Bible, handwritten in 1470 CE, as well as the astronomy tablets which probably guided Christopher Columbus and other explorers to the New World, and the Barcelona Haggadah, with its beautiful, emotive, heart-warming illuminations."

The ARTA Gallery in The Distillery district is located at 55 Mill. St., Building 9, Suite 102. For details, call 416-364-2782, or see www.orahbuck photo.com.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Photos of Canadian literary giants sat unseen for 35 years

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

In the summer of 1970, Sheldon (Shelly) Grimson, a budding photojournalist, was given a plum assignment. He was invited to photograph 13 of the country's leading poets, among them, literary giants such as Margaret Atwood, Michael Ondaatje, Irving Layton and Al Purdy.

"An English professor [at the University of Toronto] named Gary Geddes asked me if I wanted to shoot them for a book," Grimson recalls. "There I was, a 22 year-old kid, taking pictures of the most powerful minds in Canadian literature."

At the time, he had just completed his undergraduate work at the University of Toronto and was on the verge of choosing a career. Torn between his passion for photography and the need for a more practical occupation, Grimson says he ended up opting for law school. That fall, he sold his camera and put all the negatives from the 1970 shoot in storage.

Now, almost 35 years later, the original portraits are on display for the first time, in an exhibition running until May 29 at the Dessinée Art Gallery, 2470 Yonge St.

The photographs have drawn considerable media attention and will be the subject of a photo spread in the September issue of *The Walrus* magazine.

"The interest is a surprise to me," says Grimson, now a real estate agent. "No one has associated me with a camera for 35 years. At the time, I was inseparable from the camera."

About a year ago, he decided to print the pictures. He says he was inspired by his uncle, Irving Fistell. "Five years ago, my uncle mounted an exhibition of his photographs after years of keeping the negatives in a shoe box.

"The exhibition was called 'Shots from a Shoe Box.' For the last 33 years my negatives were sitting in a cardboard box, just like my uncle's."

Grimson set up a darkroom in his home and taught himself how to develop prints.

"I mastered the art of printing eight by 10 prints. I saw the potential of 50 shots [from 1970] that were worth looking at."

Last spring, he went to a workshop that lets photographers meet critics and gallery owners. "People from the National Archives flipped when they saw the portraits. The pictures have considerable historical importance for Canadian heritage."

He says he originally hoped to mount a show during the International Authors Festival, but it wasn't possible.

Then, through a friend he met Ayala Sheinberg. "She asked if she could show the portraits in her gallery. I said, 'Why not?' I wanted them to be seen."

Grimson, a self-taught photographer who got his first camera at 17, has vivid memories of the 1970 project. Geddes noticed him taking pictures on campus and invited him to snap photographs for his book *Fifteen Canadian Poets*.

"Gary was taking me to meet all the poets," Grimson says. "Some became giants."

But he was not aware of their literary stature at the time and was able to take some candid and revealing shots, he says.

Almost half the poets depicted in the exhibition are dead: Purdy, Eli Mandel and John Newlove all died within the last year, while others such as Milton Acorn, Earle Birney and Gwendolyn MacEwen have been gone for some time.

Yet some are flourishing: Margaret Avison won the prestigious Griffin Prize for poetry last year, while George Bowering is Canada's poet laureate.

After his photographs were rejected by an American publication, Grimson went into law. "I realized I couldn't make a living at photography. I thought I could always get back into photography."

Thirty-four years later, he's back at it, doing portraits and landscapes, which he describes as "Zen-like pieces."

Grimson says he's excited by his current work and very proud of the 1970 portraits.

"It's taken 30 years to see what I did. It's taken this long to get the wisdom to appreciate what I shot almost subconsciously."

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Re-issued classic is a Romeo and Juliet tale set in Montreal

By JOSEPH SERGE
Arts Editor

Where was *Earth and High Heaven* when I was studying Canlit back in the late '80s? To think that instead of plodding through Susanna Moodie's turgid *Roughing It In The Bush*, I could have been savouring Gwethalyn Graham's novel instead.

When originally published in 1944, *Earth and High Heaven* caused quite a stir. It earned Graham her second Governor General's Award and it topped the *New York Times* best-seller list for about 40 weeks. The film rights were sold to MGM Studios.

Unfortunately, *Earth and High Heaven* fell off the literary radar and today, few people have even heard of Graham.

But Comorant Press has re-released this book in trade paperback (326 pages) and added a new introduction by writer Norman Ravvin. Hopefully, now, this classic Canadian novel will be re-discovered.

Although at times overwritten and sentimental, *Earth and High Heaven* deserves to be read and discussed with other classic Canadian novels.

The story takes place in 1942 in Montreal, a city divided between three main ethnic groupings – French Catholics, English Protestants and Jews. As long as they stay out of each other's way, they get along fine.

But the status quo is threatening to implode in the Protestant Westmount home of Charles Drake when his daughter Erica, 28, falls in love with Marc Reiser, a 33-year-old Jewish lawyer, the son of Austrian immigrants.

Erica has a unique relationship with her father. He believes she is the only one he can have a serious conversation with and the only one who understands his duality – how he can talk like a progressive and act like a traditionalist. The two frequently hold intellectual debates in his study.

The theme of the novel is set beautifully in the opening pages when Marc is invited to the Drake home for a party by a Catholic friend René de Sevigny, whose sister has married Erica's brother.

Alienation sets in immediately. Marc is acutely aware of the gulf that separates him from everyone else in the room. He feels insecure and knows nobody. He withdraws alone to a corner of the room, trying to disappear, making his drink last as long as he can.

But he's not the only one trying to disappear. Erica, the self-described "invisible Drake," bored with normal party pleasantries, spots Marc and strikes a conversation.

Thinking her father would love to meet him, she goes to introduce Marc to him. But she only gets as far as "Reiser" before Charles snubs Marc, leaving the introduction incomplete.

Although Charles might consider himself progressive, he is rooted in old-world tradition: Jews don't interact with English Canadians (and they don't interact with French Canadians).

When she confronts him about his snub, Charles tells Erica, "Among the people we know, a Jewish lawyer sticks out like a sore thumb. He just doesn't fit; from a social point of view, he's unmanageable – he makes everybody else feel awkward. I have no objection to Jews, but that doesn't mean I want them in my home anymore than they want me in theirs – it works both ways."

Infuriated, Erica bites back: "We Canadians don't really disagree fundamentally with the Nazis about the Jews – we just think they go a bit too far."

When you consider Canada's poor record at accepting German Jews, that line is rather poignant. In the introduction, Ravvin quotes from a 1938 article that Graham, who is not Jewish, wrote in *Saturday Night* magazine.

"The Nazis jeer at us, say we make a great show of equality of race and creed, and criticize them for not wanting their Jews, while in actual fact we don't want them, either."

Erica's parents object when she makes a point of continuing to see Marc. He's not welcome in the house, so they have to arrange clandestine meetings. Charles insists that the only reason Marc is even interested in her is to improve his own social standing.

She responds by saying that the Drake connection isn't as important as it once was, "even to a Jewish lawyer. He's in the army, he's going overseas in a few months and he's got something else to think about besides running after the Drakes' daughter in order to improve his social, and indirectly his professional, standing."

But Charles refuses to be swayed. He believes he is acting in his daughter's own best interests.

"I don't want my daughter living in a kind of no-man's land where half the people you know will never accept him, and half the people he knows will never accept you."

He is also concerned that any children they might have together will be raised Jewish because, "Jews and Catholics could always be counted on to look out for their own interests – so Charles' grandchildren would be wholly Jewish by faith."

This does, in fact, turn out to be true. In a hotel-room rendezvous before he goes to Europe with his unit, Marc tells Erica any children they might have if they got married would be raised Jewish.

Erica is visibly shocked. "It was certainly going to take some getting used to."

Marc's parents, it should be pointed out, feel the same way as Erica's, although they play a lesser role in the novel.

On returning home for Yom Kippur services, Marc finds that his father's thoughts echo Charles' "no-man's land" statement.

"You'd just be nothing. It's like mixing oil and water. You can't do it, it doesn't work. You don't yet know how Jewish you are, otherwise you wouldn't be talking about marrying a Gentile; you'd realize that no matter how much you have in common, it doesn't make up for that one fundamental difference between you… no Jew and no Gentile that ever lived have the same outlook on life."

While it is easy to compare this book to William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, it is interesting to note that Graham herself fell in love with a Jewish lawyer whom her dad refused to meet. This may have stirred her imagination for this novel, but certainly the theme had been brewing since she took a tour of Europe in the mid-1930s, where she noted the rise of fascism and anti-Semitism in Germany.

In Graham's *Saturday Night* magazine article, she wrote, "Canada has done little or nothing for humanity as a whole. We merely exist, harming no one, and doing no one any good, either. It is a record of mediocrity."

In writing *Earth and High Heaven*, Graham has also inadvertently written a book that sheds light on our past and may serve to enlighten Canadians to the ethnic and religious prejudices that are rooted in our history.

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CJN Profile

Courts and the classroom

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

When Marvin Zuker began his career in education law, most people had no idea that the courts belonged in the classrooms of the nation.

Today, there are firms with whole sections dealing with the education system, and library shelves stacked with laws, regulations and some of Zuker's many books and articles interpreting a field of law that is growing daily.

Lawyers, parents and educators can now consider the implications of a cornucopia of problems. They may find themselves discussing, debating and litigating zero tolerance and misconduct policies that affect their students. Or they may have to respond to allegations of sexual misconduct by teachers.

Ontario Student Records are kept at all public schools and teachers' reports are filed with the Ontario College of Teachers, Zuker said, but private schools do not have to check either of these records. However, the courts have decided that students in public and private schools who have been suspended or expelled are entitled to due process hearings.

For parents, education law can become a lifeline when their children have issues in their schools. For teachers, it is a matter of understanding their professional obligations and rights. For kids, it can become a maze that will determine where and how they can proceed with their lives.

And for Zuker, it has been a specialty since he graduated with a bachelor of law degree in 1966 and then a master's in education a few years later. He has practised, taught and now adjudicates in a world that draws constantly from various aspects of law and education.

Zuker began his teaching career with part-time work at Centennial College and Ryerson Institute of Technology (now Ryerson University) just a few years after graduating from law school. He began his career as a judge in 1978 when he was appointed to small claims court. In 1990, he moved to the family court system.

Zuker, who grew up in Toronto, said he attended school at Brunswick Talmud Torah, the forerunner of Associated Hebrew Schools of Toronto, until they threw him out in Grade 2.

"I guess I was a bit of a wild kid," Zuker said with a chuckle, and suggested that he may have been rebelling against his father's Orthodox affiliations. At that time, his family belonged to the Shaarei Shomayim Congregation on St. Clair Avenue. Today Zuker is a member of the Adath Israel Congregation.

After his Talmud Torah experience, Zuker moved to the public school system and attended Palmerston Avenue and John R. Wilcox public schools and then Vaughan Road Collegiate. After completing a BA at the University of Toronto, Zuker went on to study law at Osgoode Hall Law School.

While still a student at the University of Toronto, Zuker began his writing career as a reporter for the sports section of the *Toronto Star*.

"I would cover oblique weekend events like canoeing or lawn bowling" while I was a student at U of T, Zuker said in an interview.

In law school, he published a little paperback titled *A Guide To Law*. A few years later, he co-authored two books with June Callwood titled *Canadian Women and the Law*, which was published in 1971, and *The Law is Not For Women*, which appeared in 1975. The books were intended to be legal handbooks for women.

"It wasn't so many years ago that there were separate laws for men and women," Zuker explained, noting that when he went to law school, only 10 per cent of his class were women. Today some classes contain 60 per cent women.

Zuker was 22 years old when his mother, Pearl, died of cancer. But he believes it was her influence that prompted him to become interested in the discriminatory treatment of women in the law. And from his father Louis J. Zuker, who was also a lawyer, Marvin learned that no one should have ownership of knowledge about the law.

"Writing and sharing what I knew became important to me," Zuker said.

After becoming a lawyer, Zuker went to the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto (OISE) to do a masters in education, and that is when his interest in combining the two disciplines began.

Marvin Zuker

"In January 1982, Prof. Melvin Robbins retired and I started teaching education law in his place," Zuker said. He's been at OISE ever since, explaining the complex body of law that pertains to the classroom. He says he has taught more than 2,000 teachers in 22 years. His recent publications on education and the law include *Education Law*, co-authored with Anthony F. Brown, and *Sexual Misconduct in Education*, co-authored with Grant Bowers and Rena Knox.

Zuker said that over the years, he has developed "incredible compassion for the teaching profession," and he openly expresses scorn for governments and people who bash the profession.

"Teachers today perform so many roles. They become parents, psychologists and social workers," he said.

Instead of allocating funds towards smaller classroom sizes, a task the provincial government has recently undertaken, Zuker would rather see money committed to mandatory junior kindergarten classes. In fact, if he could amend anything today, he would extend compulsory education in Ontario from the age of four to 18, instead of six to 16.

When it comes to zero tolerance policies, Zuker believes there are many reasons to avoid suspensions and expulsions, the least of which is that "the cost of keeping children in the schools is much lower than the cost of keeping them in the criminal justice system."

Even though he was once supportive of zero tolerance policies, he said he is less convinced that suspensions or expulsions can really resolve any long-term problems because neither deals with the issue of rehabilitation.

Students return to school after suspensions without changing at all. The bully is still a bully and the victim may still be traumatized, he said.

Attention needs to be paid to the child who is abusing as well as to the student who has been affected by the abuse.

"I would like to see a focus on the rehabilitation of the student as well as an involvement in the process with the victim." Otherwise, chances are that neither student will be able to fit back into the school environment successfully, Zuker said.

In terms of expulsions, Zuker suggested that keeping students in school may keep them out of the criminal justice system.

"I rarely, if ever, have had a young offender in court who was going to school," he said.

He advocates keeping school buildings open late into the evening so that kids can hang out on basketball courts and baseball diamonds instead of in malls and streets.

There needs to be a closer relationship between the Ministry of Education and the attorney general's office, Zuker said, so that more effort can be made to ensure that kids stay in school.

As for the funding of faith-based schools, he said that philosophically he "believes in free choice."

But, he added, the reality is that choice is dictated by income, and therefore tax credits limit the availability of certain schools to those who can afford private education. Instead, Zuker would support a voucher system where money is collected from everyone and then distributed to children who need it.

He also believes that if private schools were funded they would need to be regulated.

"If there was full funding for private schools, there would need to be some regulation in place. Of course, schools could always opt out of the funding and remain private," he said.

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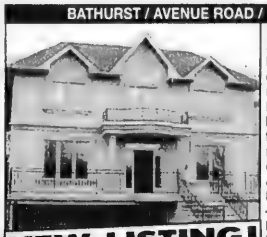

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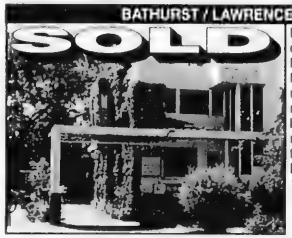

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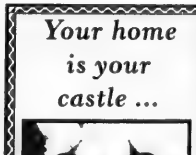
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Greater Toronto Area

Six-year-old sells lemonade for the heart

Amanda Belzowski, 6, is an old hand at selling lemonade. For the past five years, a few weeks before the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario's annual Becel Ride for Heart, Amanda and her family have set up a lemonade stand, and customers have bought her cooling drinks to help raise funds for heart and stroke research in Canada. On Sunday, May 16, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., the young entrepreneur and her family will once again be at her stand at 10 Briancliff Drive (off Lawrence, west of Leslie, and across from Edwards Gardens).

Young entrepreneur seeks to bring her total up to $10,000 raised for heart and stroke research

The Belzowski family, which participates in the Becel Ride for Heart every year, takes the foundation's work to heart. Amanda's grandmother and great-grandfather have both undergone successful heart surgeries (each had an artificial aortic valve replacement). In the past five years, Amanda has raised $7,000 selling lemonade. This year, her goal is to bring her total up to $10,000.

The May 16 lemonade stand event, an initiative by the Belzowski family with support from the community, will include entertainment by children's recording artist Dan the Music Man and balloonmaker Kenton Kruger of the Twisted Ones, as well as an opportunity for kids to make buttons with their favorite slogans (courtesy of World Star Entertainment) and go on pony rides (courtesy of Lionel's Pony Farm and Petting Zoo).

The 17th Annual Becel Ride for Heart kicks off on Sunday, June 6, at 8 a.m., with a separate in-line skating event beginning at 7:45 a.m. The biggest one-day fundraising event for the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario, the Becel Ride for Heart is expected to raise $1.55 million this year.

Registration for the ride takes place up until the day of the event at various locations in the Toronto area. For more information, call Diane Hargrave at 416-467-9954, or to register, call 416-486-RIDE, or visit www.heartandstroke.ca/rideforheart.

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RPI Engineer loves the NCAA hockey experience

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

There's something about the enthusiasm and sheer fun of sporting events in the United States that is rarely duplicated in Canada.

Oren Eizenman has experienced it first-hand. The freshman centre with the RPI Engineers of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, who play in the NCAA's Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC), is still awed by a key matchup earlier this season against the school's arch-rival Clarkson.

The game was billed as the "big red freak out" and 5,180 fans jammed into the team's home rink to cheer the Engineers to victory.

As Eizenman recalls it, "everybody wears red and pretty much goes crazy."

The fans maintained a deafening roar throughout the contest, but they kicked it up a notch when RPI scored a goal.

Eizenman, who played junior A hockey with Wexford Raiders in Toronto the year before, was instrumental in RPI's 3-2 win over Clarkson, scoring the tying goal and setting up the winner.

For the winner, he skated out of the corner, found open ice at the top of the faceoff circle, faked a shot and passed it to an unguarded winger at the side of the crease who put the puck into a gaping net.

"The place just erupted," he said. "It was amazing. They were screaming at the tops of their lungs. For the players, it was amazing."

College sport in the United States is huge, and many of RPI's home games in Troy, N.Y., are televised locally and via satellite.

It's a far cry from the Canadian Junior A experience, where fans sit quietly and enjoy the finer points of the game, or even from major junior hockey in the Ontario Hockey League (OHL).

In his last season with the Raiders, he scored 59 points in 45 games and was fifth in playoff scoring in the south conference of the Ontario Hockey Association. His performance attracted the attention of college scouts, who knew he came from a hockey-playing family. Older brothers Alon and Erez are both accomplished players.

Alon, who played at Penn State for four years and attended a Pittsburgh Penguins training camp before spending a year playing pro hockey in France, is now attending the University of Toronto. Erez, who's in the engineering program at U of T, also played competitive hockey, including for the Israeli national team. Oren credits both brothers with teaching him the game at an early age.

Prior to accepting a full four-year scholarship at RPI, Eizenman, 19, attended the Erie Otters' training camp and was offered a spot on the OHL team after winning its pre-season scoring title.

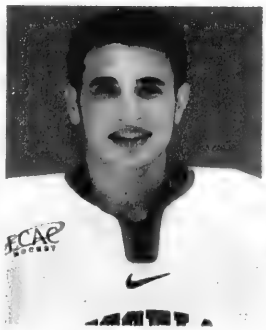
But he chose college instead, knowing he could still play high-calibre hockey, get noticed by NHL scouts, and receive an education that could prove crucial if his pro prospects don't pan out.

Eizenman doesn't regret his decision to play in the NCAA. In fact, he still gushes about the year he's had at RPI and the atmosphere in American college sports.

Hockey is the school's only Division 1 sport, so the team is highly regarded on campus, he said. What's more, there is something special about RPI, a feeling he had even when he was being courted by other NCAA schools, including Harvard and Yale.

"There's something about it. It's not tangible. I just knew this was the right place for me. I don't regret the decision. I'm getting a first-rate education and the hockey is great."

It took Eizenman a little bit of time to adjust to the college game, but he made great strides over the course of the season, said Andrew Will, the team's assistant coach.



Oren Eizenman

"Oren had a great first year for us," Will said. "He was in a group of freshmen called upon to really help the team. He kind of rose to the top of that group."

Although Eizenman's numbers were modest – six goals and 12 assists in 37 games – his on-ice responsibilities increased as the season wore on.

By the end of the year, he was centering the team's second line, taking key faceoffs in both the offensive and defensive zones, and was being asked to provide some offence.

"Oren is a playmaker," Will said. "He sees the ice very well. He does a very good job of trying to anticipate the play, to see it one step ahead."

With his good speed, passing ability and attention to defensive responsibilities, Will sees Eizenman becoming the team's top centre next season. Eizenman can expect work on the power play and penalty killing.

All he has to do is to work on improving his strength and his defensive work, Will said.

With his season over – RPI lost its second round playoff to Dartmouth two games to one after sweeping Princeton 2-0 in the first round – Eizenman has already hit the weight room. At six feet, 185 pounds, he believes he can add muscle and improve his ability to come out of the corners with the puck.

While working out this summer, Eizenman will pay close attention to the NHL entry draft. Rumour has it that Central Scouting has him rated as a fifth-round prospect, and attending a pro camp is something he would relish.

But RPI remains in his plans, and for next year "everyone's expecting our team to do well," he said. "I don't want to disappoint anyone, least of all myself."

Maccabi Tel Aviv European champions

Israeli basketball fans go wild in celebration. Maccabi Tel Aviv racked up record after record Saturday night as it crushed Italy's Skipper Bologna 118-74 to become European basketball champions for the fourth time in its history. [Isranet photo]

ספרותנו

יעל זליגר

המסע לשם, מאת: גלילה רון-פדר-עמית

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כך מגלה הנכד את סבו במסע המרגש וכן את עצמו ואת הדמיון ביניהם. "האם אני הנכד והוא הסב? האם שנינו ילדים אבודים במחנה-המוות טרבלינקה? ואולי שנינו נערים ישראלים, שיצאו למסע בפולין והמפגש עם הזוועות הסיר את כל המחיצות שהיו ביניהם, ומה שנותר הוא חסר גיל, חסר הקשרים משפחתיים וחברתיים? שני יהודים. זה הכול."

BLACK GOLD COOKIES

3 oz. unsweetened chocolate, chopped coarse
18 oz. semisweet chocolate, chopped coarse
1 stick + 1 tblsp. unsalted butter, softened
3 large eggs
1 cup + 2 tblsp. white sugar
1 tblsp. instant espresso powder
1 tblsp. vanilla
6 tblsp. sifted all-purpose flour
3/4 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. baking powder
1 1/2 cups walnuts
1 1/2 cup pecans

Preheat oven to 325°F
In double boiler or metal bowl set over a pan of barely simmering water melt unsweetened chocolate, 9 oz. semisweet chocolate and butter; stir occasionally; remove from heat
In bowl with an electric mixer beat eggs with sugar until light and fluffy. Add espresso powder, vanilla, and chocolate mixture; beat until smooth. In small bowl whisk together flour, baking powder, and salt and add to chocolate mixture, beating until just combined Stir in remaining semisweet chocolate and nuts until combined well.
Scoop out 1/2 cup measures of cookie dough, arranging them 3" apart on ungreased baking sheets. Bake cookies in batches in middle of oven 25 min. or until tops began to crack (do not overbake). Cool cookies on a rack
Yield: 12, 3"-4" cookies

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Money Matters

Rabbi Jay Kelman

Judaism sees economic activity as part and parcel of a moral way of life that brings us closer to God. Government, as a prime source of economic activity, has an obligation to create a climate in which honesty and integrity in our financial affairs is the norm. This demands constant vigilance to ensure not only that deceptive practices – such as misleading advertisements – are banned, but that the temptation for wrongdoing is minimized. Even creating a perception of misconduct is a violation of Halachah (because it is *ma'arit ayin*).

This is especially so with public figures who have easy access to money and power (or its distribution) and are often fodder for gossip and slander. Thus our sages rule that the kohanim servicing the Temple were not allowed to have pockets, lest they be accused – falsely or perhaps not – of personally pocketing money. In fact, seven keys and seven people were needed to open the vaults of cash in the temple. Our internal controls must be the strongest when dealing with religious and charitable institutions.

Jewish law insists that public funds are to be collected only in groups of two and distributed in groups of three. To allow otherwise invites accusations of, or perhaps even actual, corruption. It thus appears that one should not give charity in cash to a lone individual. If there is no witness, one should write a cheque. In fact, the Torah itself spends many verses detailing Moshe's accounting of monies raised to build the tabernacle, an accounting necessitated by grumblings that Moshe was benefiting personally from the public till. Even (and perhaps especially) a Moshe Rabbeinu must not allow even the slightest pretext for charges of wrongdoings.

These concepts call for all public institutions to conduct their activities in a transparent manner. Paper trails must be kept and no expenditures should be approved without proper mechanisms being followed. Contracts must be awarded on the basis of merit, not nepotism or convenience. At the same time, there is no reason to insist that all governmental contracts be awarded only to those firms who have no connections with government. As long as the decision-making process is conducted in an independent, open and honest fashion, all members of society should be allowed to compete equally, including former partners or relatives of cabinet ministers.

Managing Jewish fear

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

URBAN WRITER

Have you ever been a victim of anti-Semitism in Toronto? Most of us haven't and don't know anyone who has. I believe it's appropriate to say that we live in a city and country whose fundamental ideology is inclusive and accepting of Jews and others. It's a much different situation than in Europe, whose nationalism is built upon exclusion.

Despite this, a recent increase in higher profile acts of anti-Semitism in the Toronto area has set off a seemingly disproportionate level of fear in our community.

Clearly, anti-Semitism is increasing worldwide, is scary, and requires our serious and ongoing attention. However, how we manage and respond to our fear of anti-Semitism in Toronto needs to be strategic and kept in context so that it does not immobilize our community but instead empowers us.

One way of doing this is by looking at our past, a time when more people in the community were involved in the actual fight. As an example, in the 1960s, 70s and 80s, certain community members organized themselves into cells that safeguarded our cemeteries and Jewish institutions. These groups were made up of men and women from all walks of Jewish life who took great pride in their hands-on efforts to strengthen our community and personal freedoms.

They were frontline Jews who witnessed the realities of anti-Semitism in Toronto, as well as the reality that not every non-Jew is hateful toward us or at all supportive of anti-Semitic acts. Their physical involvement allowed them – like Jews living in or visiting Israel, who experience less fear than Jews in the Diaspora following a terrorist attack – to manage their fear in a healthy, more empowering way.

Nowadays, however, the Jewish community relies more on security companies to guard us. We do because the onerous task of fighting anti-Semitism has been left to a small group of overworked professional Jews and their relatively small contingent of volunteer counterparts. This phenomenon is reflective of changes in society in general, in which caring and helping those in need has become more institutionalized, and less individualized, over the last decade or so.

Effectively, this model has placed the responsibility on the shoulders of a few, and it has distanced amchah – the grassroots community – from enacting the Jewish imperative of *shomer nafshoteichem*, guarding oneself. It has also heightened our sense of fear.

A modern day Jewish team of shomrim (guardians) may or may not be a good idea. I accept the fact that economics likely play a role in current decisions. However, the lesson we can take from these ambitious and proud Jews is the importance of a shared workload and the advantages of mass activism.

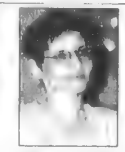
Like a very weary Moses who was commanded by God to set up courts to share the job of judging, the Toronto Jewish community also needs to broaden the responsibility for taking care of ourselves.

Jews respect courage. Evidence of this is found in hundreds of publications that celebrate rescuers during the Holocaust, and the popularity of films such as *Schindler's List* and the docudrama *Perlasca: An Italian Hero* about Giorgio Perlasca, a non-Jewish Italian who creatively and boldly saved 3,500 Jews in occupied Hungary.

It is not enough, however, to admire courage. We need to emulate it and find our own personal and collective bravery, resources and ingenuity in the fight against anti-Semitism and *for* peace with our friends.

By mobilizing ourselves in Toronto, during a time of peace, like the rescuers did during a time of war, we can better manage our fear and ensure that our future is filled with spiritual wealth and physical security.

"We came to your brother, Esau, and he is coming [with] 400 men… Ya'akov was afraid and distressed… [and] divided the people into two camps." (Parshat Va'yishlach)



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Preheat oven to 325ºF
In double boiler or metal bowl set over a pan of barely simmering water melt unsweetened chocolate, 9 oz. semisweet chocolate and butter; stir occasionally; remove from heat
In bowl with an electric mixer beat eggs with sugar until light and fluffy. Add espresso powder, vanilla, and chocolate mixture; beat until smooth. In small bowl whisk together flour, baking powder, and salt and add to chocolate mixture, beating until just combined Stir in remaining semisweet chocolate and nuts until combined well
Scoop out 1/2 cup measures of cookie dough, arranging them 3" apart on ungreased baking sheets. Bake cookies in batches in middle of oven 25 min. or until tops begin to crack (do not overbake). Cool cookies on a rack.
Yield: 12, 3"-4" cookies

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Money Matters

Rabbi Jay Kelman

Judaism sees economic activity as part and parcel of a moral way of life that brings us closer to God. Government, as a prime source of economic activity, has an obligation to create a climate in which honesty and integrity in our financial affairs is the norm. This demands constant vigilance to ensure not only that deceptive practices – such as misleading advertisements – are banned, but that the temptation for wrongdoing is minimized. Even creating a perception of misconduct is a violation of Halachah (because it is *ma'arit ayin*).

This is especially so with public figures who have easy access to money and power (or its distribution) and are often fodder for gossip and slander. Thus our sages rule that the kohanim servicing the Temple were not allowed to have pockets, lest they be accused – falsely or perhaps not – of personally pocketing money. In fact, seven keys and seven people were needed to open the vaults of cash in the temple. Our internal controls must be the strongest when dealing with religious and charitable institutions.

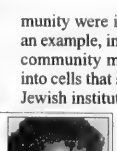
Jewish law insists that public funds are to be collected only in groups of two and distributed in groups of three. To allow otherwise invites accusations of, or perhaps even actual, corruption. It thus appears that one should not give charity in cash to a lone individual. If there is no witness, one should write a cheque. In fact, the Torah itself spends many verses detailing Moshe's accounting of monies raised to build the tabernacle, an accounting necessitated by grumblings that Moshe was benefiting personally from the public till. Even (and perhaps especially) a Moshe Rabbeinu must not allow even the slightest pretext for charges of wrongdoings.

These concepts call for all public institutions to conduct their activities in a transparent manner. Paper trails must be kept and no expenditures should be approved without proper mechanisms being followed. Contracts must be awarded on the basis of merit, not nepotism or convenience. At the same time, there is no reason to insist that all governmental contracts be awarded only to those firms who have no connections with government. As long as the decision-making process is conducted in an independent, open and honest fashion, all members of society should be allowed to compete equally, including former partners or relatives of cabinet ministers.

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

Managing Jewish fear

URBAN WRITER



Have you ever been a victim of anti-Semitism in Toronto? Most of us haven't and don't know anyone who has. I believe it's appropriate to say that we live in a city and country whose fundamental ideology is inclusive and accepting of Jews and others. It's a much different situation than in Europe, whose nationalism is built upon exclusion.

Despite this, a recent increase in higher profile acts of anti-Semitism in the Toronto area has set off a seemingly disproportionate level of fear in our community.

Clearly, anti-Semitism is increasing worldwide, is scary, and requires our serious and ongoing attention. However, how we manage and respond to our fear of anti-Semitism in Toronto needs to be strategic and kept in context so that it does not immobilize our community but instead empowers us.

One way of doing this is by looking at our past, a time when more people in the community were involved in the actual fight. As an example, in the 1960s, 70s and 80s, certain community members organized themselves into cells that safeguarded our cemeteries and Jewish institutions. These groups were made up of men and women from all walks of Jewish life who took great pride in their hands-on efforts to strengthen our community and personal freedoms.

They were frontline Jews who witnessed the realities of anti-Semitism in Toronto, as well as the reality that not every non-Jew is hateful toward us or at all supportive of anti-Semitic acts. Their physical involvement allowed them – like Jews living in or visiting Israel, who experience less fear than Jews in the Diaspora following a terrorist attack – to manage their fear in a healthy, more empowering way.

Nowadays, however, the Jewish community relies more on security companies to guard us. We do because the onerous task of fighting anti-Semitism has been left to a small group of overworked professional Jews and their relatively small contingent of volunteer counterparts. This phenomenon is reflective of changes in society in general, in which caring and helping those in need has become more institutionalized, and less individualized, over the last decade or so.

Effectively, this model has placed the responsibility on the shoulders of a few, and it has distanced amchah – the grassroots community – from enacting the Jewish imperative of *shomer nafshoteichem*, guarding oneself. It has also heightened our sense of fear.

A modern day Jewish team of shomrim (guardians) may or may not be a good idea. I accept the fact that economics likely play a role in current decisions. However, the lesson we can take from these ambitious and proud Jews is the importance of a shared workload and the advantages of mass activism.

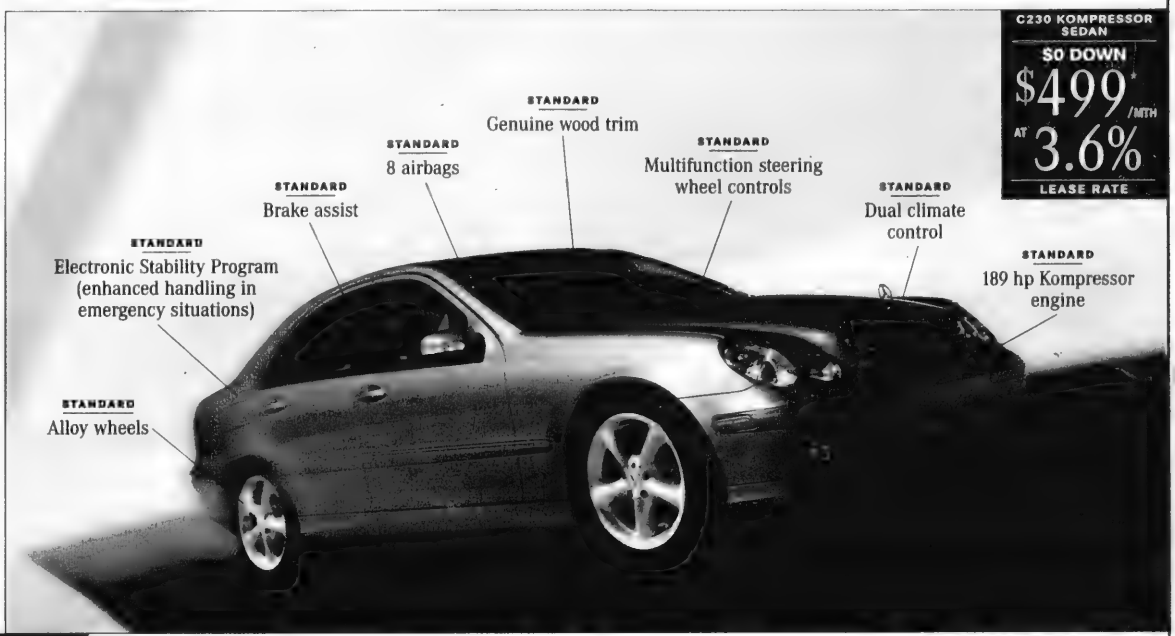
Like a very weary Moses who was commanded by God to set up courts to share the job of judging, the Toronto Jewish community also needs to broaden the responsibility for taking care of ourselves.

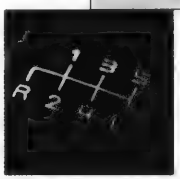
Jews respect courage. Evidence of this is found in hundreds of publications that celebrate rescuers during the Holocaust, and the popularity of films such as *Schindler's List* and the docudrama *Perlasca: An Italian Hero* about Giorgio Perlasca, a non-Jewish Italian who creatively and boldly saved 3,500 Jews in occupied Hungary.

It is not enough, however, to admire courage. We need to emulate it and find our own personal and collective bravery, resources and ingenuity in the fight against anti-Semitism and *for* peace with our friends.

By mobilizing ourselves in Toronto, during a time of peace, like the rescuers did during a time of war, we can better manage our fear and ensure that our future is filled with spiritual wealth and physical security.

"We came to your brother, Esau, and he is coming [with] 400 men… Ya'akov was afraid and distressed… [and] divided the people into two camps." (Parshat Va'yishlach)





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This Week

National

European media anti-Israel, Foreign Affairs official charges. *Page 3*

Zundel calls Jewish leaders to testify at deportation hearing. *Page 6*

Canadians ride for Reform Judaism in Israel. *Page 22*

No Place Like Home

Everything you wanted to know about your home. *Section B*

Books & Authors

Daniel Pearl may not have been sufficiently vigilant, author says. *Page 44*

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Israel appoints Arab jurist to top court

By YUVAL YOAZ and BARUCH KRA
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — In a historical move, the Israeli Judicial Appointments Committee last week named an Arab jurist as a permanent member of the country's highest court.

Salim Jubran, 57, will soon be sworn in as a justice of the Supreme Court, along with Esther Hayut, Elyakim Rubinstein and state prosecutor Edna Arbel.

Jubran, who has a degree in law from Hebrew University, was born in Haifa. His expertise is in the field of criminal law.

Salim Jubran

Arbel, 60, is moving to the Supreme Court bench following an eight-year stint as state prosecutor. She studied law at Hebrew University and also obtained a master's degree in law at Bar-Ilan University.

At 51, Hayut is the youngest justice in nearly a decade to be appointed to the Supreme Court. She has a law degree from Tel Aviv Universtiy

Rubinstein, 57, holds degrees in law, literature, contemporary Judaism and Arabic from Hebrew University.

Supreme Court President Aharon Barak and Justice Minister Yosef Lapid also chose Jerusalem Court district court judge Yonatan Adi'el for a temporary post on the court bench.

Lapid praised the panel after the vote. "The results of this vote are a message to the political arena saying that this committee is staffed by people committed to the interests of the judicial system," Lapid said. He also commended the balance in having two men and two women selected for the bench.

Arbel's term as state prosecutor ended amid controversy over her recommendation to indict Prime Minister Ariel Sharon on suspicion of bribery arising from allegations surrounding his time in office when he was the foreign minister in 1996.

The future face of Jewish Toronto

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto last week announced plans for a $250-million expansion and redevelopment of the community's institutions. At left is an architect's drawing of the Vaughan Jewish community campus, and at right is the proposed plan for the Centre for Health and Wellness on the current site of the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre. *Please see related story on page 7.* *[UJA Federation photo]*

Peace is possible: former Shin Bet head

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Ami Ayalon, the former director of Shin Bet, Israel's domestic intelligence agency, expressed optimism last week that Israel and the Palestinians can achieve a peaceful accommodation within his lifetime.

Ayalon, 58, will be in Toronto next week to promote the People's Voice initiative, a grassroots peace movement he and Palestinian political activist and educator Sari Nusseibeh founded two years ago and officially launched in 2003.

Nusseibeh, president of Al Quds University, was formerly the Palestinian Authority's representative in eastern Jerusalem.

Ami Ayalon

He and Ayalon will deliver speeches at Holy Blossom Temple on Wednesday, May 19 starting at 8 p.m. Bob Rae, the former premier of Ontario, will introduce them.

The People's Voice envisages an end-of-conflict accord and a two-state solution based on the June 4, 1967, borders, with the possibility of mutually agreed territorial exchanges.

"In my lifetime, we won't have a European kind of peace," Ayalon said in an interview from London last week. "But stability with the Palestinians, based more or less on the principles of our initiative, is possible."

Continued on page 25

Parsha: Behar-Bechukotai
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Havdallah: 9:22

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Gaza settlements were historic mistake: Mofaz — please see page 35

Greater Toronto Area

CANADA

Grants Available

TORONTO — The group Friends of Yiddish of Toronto is seeking applications for its annual grants from its Fund for the Advancement of Yiddish. The grants are for financial support to study Yiddish in the coming year at academically accredited institutions in order to make a contribution to the maintenance and advancement of Yiddish language and culture. For application forms, call 416-781-8331.

New Genealogy Group

HAMILTON — The Jewish Genealogical Society of Hamilton and Area attracted what it called a "sell-out crowd" to its first meeting late last month at the Hamilton Public Library's Dundas branch. The new group was launched by amateur genealogists Moishe Gold, Hazel Boon and Barry Skinner, who spoke about "Finding Your Jewish Roots." Next meeting is June 15 at Hamilton's Jewish Community Centre. E-mail HamiltonJewishGen@canada.com for details.

WORLD

Anti-Semitism Up

PARIS — Anti-Semitic attacks in France rose sharply in the first quarter of 2004. Figures from the Interior Ministry, which collates statistics along with Jewish groups, showed 67 acts of violence against Jewish people or property since the start of the year, up from 42 in the last quarter of 2003. But the number of incidents fell from 191 to 160 over the same period last year. The rise in recorded attacks could stem from increased police activity and the Jewish community's efforts to urge victims to report attacks, the ministry said.

Papon Appeal Denied

PARIS — France denied Maurice Papon's appeal of his conviction for his World War II-era crimes. France's highest court of appeals ruled April 29 it would review the case against Papon, but only to decide if the law was properly followed, not on the substance of the conviction. Papon, 92, was sentenced in 1998 to 10 years for his role in the deportation of some 1,500 Jews from southwest France to Nazi death camps in 1942, when he was a Vichy France official. In 2002, he was released on medical grounds.

Rabbi Attacked

PARIS — A rabbi was attacked May 1 near his shul in a suburb south of Paris. Rabbi James Mallul of the Chabad-Lubavitch synagogue in Creteil, was hit in the face and stomach by two men as he walked to evening services with his son. In another incident, a swastika and Nazi slogans were scrawled on a synagogue in northern France. Members of the tiny Jewish community in Valenciennes filed a police complaint, and security has been stepped up outside the building.

B'nai Brith Gets Coat of Arms

TORONTO — B'nai Brith Canada received a coat of arms from Ontario Lt.-Gov. James Bartleman last week, the first time a national Jewish organization has received the honour. "This is a great moment in the history of our organization," outgoing B'nai Brith president Rochelle Wilner said.

Bombed Bus in D.C.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The burned-out shell of a bus blown up in a Jerusalem terror attack will be displayed in Washington, D.C., for a month. Zaka emergency services sent the bus, previously displayed outside the International Court of Justice at The Hague, to be displayed opposite Capitol Hill as part of a worldwide campaign against Palestinian terror.

Life Insurers Sued

LOS ANGELES — Insurers refusing to issue life insurance policies to Americans who have travelled or plan to travel to Israel are being sued. Filed in Los Angeles Superior Court, the lawsuit accuses 14 insurance companies of unfair business practices under California law and seeks an injunction forbidding firms from denying insurance to travellers to Israel. Allen Estrin, the plaintiff, said he applied for insurance but was turned down because of a trip he made to Israel two years ago. Jack Dolan, a spokesperson for the American Council of Life Insurers, said that travel to any country "where health or security concerns exist is a legitimate factor… in deciding whether to underwrite a life insurance policy."

Kosher Meat & Greet

NEW YORK — Diners feasted on quail, cow udder, venison, goat, bison and other exotic meats at a special Orthodox Union dinner last week. After a daylong conference in on how to recognize appropriate species of animals and make them kosher, diners met at Manhattan's Levana restaurant for a $161-a-plate meal of hard-to-get kosher meats. The purpose was to perpetuate Jewish traditions about certain kosher animals that are rarely eaten today, OU officials said.

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European media anti-Israel, Gideon Meir charges

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

The European media are fostering anti-Semitism without intentionally being anti-Semitic, a top-ranking official of Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs declared in Toronto last week.

Through "biased coverage" of Israel's conflict with the Palestinians, newspapers and television and radio stations in Europe are fanning hatred of Jews and Israel, claimed Gideon Meir.

As deputy director general for media and public affairs, he often appears on foreign news programs as an Israeli spokesman.

"The way the media covers the story in the Middle East goes against the standards and ethics of journalism. It's time for a new ethos."

Some journalists are indifferent to "the facts" and perceive Israel as David, and the Palestinians as Goliath, he charged.

"You see more and more articles in Europe questioning the legitimacy of the Jewish state."

Citing an example, he mentioned the case of a Sky TV interviewer in Britain who asked a senior Israeli cabinet minister why Zionists settled in Palestine rather than in Uganda.

Belittling the point that media bias is caused by Israel's failure to resolve its differences with the Palestinians, he observed, "The media should reflect reality and not be biased."

Turning to Canada, Meir said media outlets here possesses "some of the characteristics" of the European media.

Asked whether the Canadian media foment anti-Semitism, Meir – the deputy chief of mission at the Israeli embassy in Ottawa in the mid-1980s – admitted he lacked sufficient data to address the issue properly.

But he praised *The Gazette*, a Montreal daily, for running a photograph of Palestinian gunmen using children to draw Israeli fire.

Ambassador Gideon Meir, left, addressing CIJA-sponsored luncheon on media bias, seen here with former New Brunswick Premier Frank McKenna, center, and CIJA Board member Dennis Bennie.

"No other paper published this photo," he said, later urging Jews to support Canadian media supportive of Israel.

In Toronto on the tail-end of a Canada-wide tour sponsored by the Jewish National Fund, Meir explained he was here "to tell the world the truth" about biased media coverage of the Arab-Israeli dispute.

"I'm not blaming the media for being anti-Semitic," he said at a press conference at the Windsor Arms Hotel. "The media is not anti-Semitic. Journalists are not anti-Semitic."

But their reporting engenders anti-Semitism, he asserted.

Saying he does not expect journalists to be pro-Israel, and admitting Israel deserves to be criticized at times, Meir said all he expects of the media is fairness and accuracy. "I don't want to see a journalist working on behalf of Israel."

Speaking of journalists who file one-sided stories, Meir said some of the worst offenders are Jews. He did not elaborate.

A double standard is at work when the media deal with terrorism facing Israel and terrorism facing the rest of the world, he pointed out.

Terrorists are moulded by the doctrines of radical Islam, not the Arab-Israeli dispute, he noted.

Continued on page 15

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Brutally detailed honesty

From the editor's desk

Israelis are renowned for their honesty. Truth is a social as well as a moral imperative. Politesse and nuance are mere etiquettes. In their eyes, an imperative will always supercede an etiquette. North Americans do not always see things the same way. Our code of behaviour allows for the supremacy of etiquette where we perceive personal sensibilities are at risk. In those circumstances, truth is less an imperative than a value-added bonus.

There is, thus, very little doubt about the provenance of the brutally honest novel *Clean Death in Tel Aviv*. It could only have been written by an Israeli.

The protagonist in Rachel Elboim-Dror's first novel, Ruth Levin, is a bright, highly-touted, all too human, vulnerable researcher/scholar at the Biological Institute of the University of Tel Aviv, who plunges into a no-holds-barred struggle with the truth of her own life that is precipitated by a crisis in her professional career.

Early in the story, in the throes of a gut-heaving panic attack, Ruth sets the course of the novel's literary trajectory.

"Of all the people I know, I am most baffled by myself. I experience my life as a mirage, as a fictitious narrative, lacking reality. Only when I am deeply hurt and in pain do I know myself as a material entity. If I were asked: who are you? I could not give an honest answer. Who the hell am I? What is the essence of myself? What is the essential me? Who am I behind the mask of a docile smile, behind the act of obedient daughter and wife, what is the real thing-in-itself? When people call my name, I wonder whom they are calling? The facade? I am unable to peel off my own masks. I devised a mask and it became me. I will never be able to lift the disguise to meet myself, confront myself fact to face."

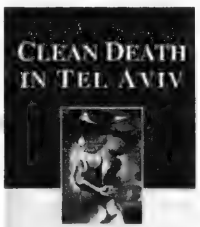
Of course, the deeply self-doubting Ruth is wrong. For "lifting the disguise," "confronting" herself is precisely what she proceeds to do quite brilliantly in the ensuing pages of the book, with consequences, however, that are unsettling, if ambiguous.

Her self-evaluation begins with her earliest memories of life in eastern Europe and arrival in pre-state Israel as a very young child. She describes the intra-familial relationships poignantly and painfully.

The seminal family relationship, not surprisingly, is that with her mother. And though she clearly loves her mother, Ruth does not flinch from describing the woman in unambiguous terms: problematic, domineering, abusive and manipulative.

Ruth's father was an intellectual who threw himself and his family into the millennial ideal of living the Zionists' pioneer dream – reclaiming the land and building a communal utopia on the ancestral homeland.

Between the dream and the reality, however, as a poet once wrote, fell the "shadow" of the experience, especially as depicted by Elboim-Dror.



Rachel Elboim-Dror

Irrigating a parched, barren land, or draining mosquito-infested swamps, or fending off marauding Arab gangs, or living in bare, cramped, subsistence quarters, or remaining unfettered in a tangled web of problematic relationships and troubled emotions was, for the most part, arduous, bone-wearying, dangerous work. Elboim-Dror boldly captures this raw truth without lacquer or lustre, as perceived by the developing cognitive and psychological filter of a maturing, young woman.

When Ruth marries and leaves her parental home for her new matrimonial home, she merely exchanges the tyranny of her mother for that of her cold, self-centred husband, a successful, highly respected neurosurgeon.

The tearing conundrum with which Ruth agonizingly wrestles throughout the novel is: why? Why did she submit to the domination of both her mother and her husband? The question taunts and torments her. And like the patriarch Jacob, who is wounded wrestling with a mysterious stranger through a long, foreboding night, Ruth too is left impaired by her own nightmarish struggle.

Ruth's courageous insights into self and surroundings, of course, operate at two levels: the personal and the universal. Herein, of course, lies one of the work's chief rewards.

Elboim-Dror is an accomplished scholar. The first woman to become a full professor at Hebrew University, she has both a master's and a doctoral degree from Harvard University. She was also one of the first women to become a commissioned officer in the IDF.

Clean Death in Tel Aviv was chosen by the Pais Saphir Foundation for Literature as one of the best Hebrew-language novels published in Israel in 1999. It has also been published in Spanish and is now available in English through iUniverse, Inc. Books (ISBN 0-595-27062-X). It is a compelling read, that often causes the reader to wince in sadness.

—MBD

GETTING READY: Associated Hebrew Schools Grade 5 students recently took part in an orientation with their Grade 7 guides at Associated's Danilack Middle School, where they will begin Grade 6 next year.

Watchdog fights anti-Israel bias in the media

By CARA EDELL
CJN Intern

Frustration is the immediate reaction for many Canadians who see inaccurate or unfair media coverage of Israel and the Middle East, the head of a new media watchdog group says.

"One of the biggest dangers of the media is that it is highly influential on how people see the world," said Dov Smith, the Toronto-based executive director of HonestReporting Canada, an affiliate of the American group HonestReporting.

Smith said that when people come across one-sided Canadian reporting on the Middle East, they are often unsure about how to constructively address the issue.

HonestReporting Canada works with its 4,000 members to fight anti-Israel bias in the news media, he said.

"Bias creeps into news reporting for a variety of reasons, and often at an unconscious level," said Smith. "We do not expect the news media to give Israel a free ride, just a fair shake."

He said his group urges Canadians across the country to function as "patrollers" of the news they consume.

Smith said HonestReporting Canada wants the media to stop using distortive terms such as "cycle of violence," because they remove accountability and "trivialize what's much more complex."

Distinguishing between aggression and the response to aggression in the Middle East has been another objective, said Smith.

He said there is an obvious difference between a headline that directly blames Israeli soldiers for killing Palestinian civilians and another stating that Jewish civilians died in a bus bombing with no mention of those responsible.

HonestReporting Canada's website, www.honestreporting.ca, highlights examples of biases that taint what should be balanced journalism, Smith said.

Examples of the group's work include a release titled "Reading Between the Lines at the *Toronto Star*," which contends an April 20 *Star* editorial suggested that "Israeli occupation is the problem, and Palestinian violence a mere reaction."

The organization also informed its members about what it called biased wording in the CBC website backgrounder titled "In Depth Middle East."

Smith said 30 members who were outraged by the document's presentation of the history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict wrote letters to demand that its wording be changed.

Part of the initial wording read: "Since May of 1948 when the modern state of Israel was proclaimed, the land has had two parallel histories, one for the Jews who control the state and one for the Palestinians whose homeland the nation was built on."

After protest, the passage was changed to: "… and one for the Palestinians who say the nation was built on their homeland."

"While the change is subtle, it is just a first indicator of success in what will be an ongoing campaign to encourage fairer coverage," Smith said.

HonestReporting Canada is also urging the media to identify organizations designated as terrorist groups under Canadian law.

Smith said so-called Palestinian "militant groups" such as Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades all fall under this category, although Canadian media shy away from reporting it.

"We must push them to do that, because fundamental facts are not being communicated," he said.

Since part of its goal has been to expose parts of the Middle East story that mainstream media outlets have ignored, HonestReporting Canada is promoting *Relentless: The Struggle for Peace in Israel.*

The one-hour documentary, produced by the group's U.S. affiliate, examines "the history of the Mideast conflict and how the peace process unravelled in a surge of violence," HonestReporting Canada's website says.

"The film is made up of primary footage, events that actually occurred," said Smith. "It shows powerful scenes, like the education of children to hate and to kill."

Smith admits that some viewers have been "deflated" by the film, which has so far been screened mainly for Jewish audiences.

He said the answer is for people to get involved with his group by subscribing to its mailing list. He also urges people to monitor the media and report biased findings.

As well, HonestReporting Canada is seeking volunteers to participate in bias studies and community advocacy training sessions, he said.

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Greater Toronto Area

Zundel calls Jewish leaders to testify at deportation hearing

Holocaust denier says pressure led to charge he's a security threat

By RON CSILLAG

Staff Reporter

Leaders from Canada's two main Jewish organizations could find out this week whether they must testify at the deportation hearing of Holocaust denier Ernst Zundel.

Federal Court of Canada Justice Pierre Blais reserved judgment last week on subpoenas served by Zundel's lawyer on Keith Landy, the outgoing president of Canadian Jewish Congress, and Frank Dimant, executive vice-president of B'nai Brith Canada.

Zundel's lawyer, Peter Lindsay, told his client's hearing that he wants Landy and Dimant to testify in order to prove that the federal government succumbed to political pressure when it issued a national security certificate against Zundel a year ago.

Lindsay argued that Ottawa, in effect, over-reacted by issuing the certificate, which is used rarely and only against non-citizens who pose a security threat, notably those with ties to terrorist groups.

The matter before the court is the legality of the certificate. If it is upheld, Zundel, 65, could finally be deported to his native Germany after more than 20 years of legal wrangling.

The notorious pro-Nazi publisher, who is a landed immigrant in Canada, has been held in a Toronto jail for more than a year since being deported from the United States last winter for overstaying his visa.

Lindsay argued Canada wants Zundel deported because of his views and not because he poses a legitimate security threat. He implied the security certificate was signed by two cabinet ministers who caved in to interest groups.

The lawyer for the Justice Department told the court there is "not a scintilla" of evidence to support the argument that the government bowed to pressure from Jewish advocacy or other groups.

Judy Chan, who represented CJC at the hearing, told *The CJN* that Landy's subpoena should be quashed because it seeks evidence that is neither relevant nor necessary.

She said there is "no possible way" for the CJC president to know what evidence led to the issuing of the security certificate against Zundel. That information is secret and was forwarded to cabinet by the RCMP and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS).

She called the subpoena aimed at her client "unwarranted," and "an instrument of harassment and inconvenience." For one, it is unrealistically broad in scope, she said, because it asks CJC to produce all documents related to Zundel and CSIS.

Chan also argued that the subpoena was invalid because it was issued without leave from the court. She noted that subpoenas may be issued without leave only in trials or in matters involving a legal reference – not at hearings of this kind.

Expecting this argument, Lindsay asked the judge in a separate motion to make the subpoenas valid.

Lindsay's manoeuvrings amount to "a fishing expedition ...a tactic to delay the final hearing in this matter," Landy told *The CJN.*

Landy said he shies away from the word "pressure."

Congress "has always urged that Zundel be deported. We believe [he] is a menace and a danger to Canadians generally. It's up to us to as an advocacy group to make representations to the government."

He said CJC was never privy to the information that led to the issuing of the security certificate.

Marvin Kurz, lawyer for B'nai Brith Canada, also sought to have Dimant's subpoena quashed on the grounds it was issued improperly.

He said Lindsay's argument implied that Jewish groups were involved in a "conspiracy" to have Zundel deported. Kurz also warned that Zundel would use Landy's and Dimant's testimonies "as a forum for anti-Semitism."

Blais also reserved judgment on two other subpoenas, one issued against a former lawyer for Zundel who is now a judge, and the other against the author of a book about alleged wrongdoing at CSIS.

Ontario Court judge Lauren Marshall, who was on Zundel's defence team at his 1985 false news trial, retained a lawyer to have the subpoena quashed, saying she had no relevant evidence to offer.

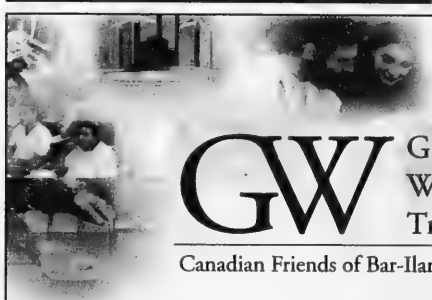
Also trying to stay off the witness stand is Andrew Mitrovica, author of *Covert Entry*, a book about CSIS. Zundel's lawyers are said to be especially interested in the book's allegation that in 1995, the spy agency failed to warn Zundel about a pipe bomb it knew had been mailed to him.

Zundel's drawn-out deportation case came up in the Senate last week, where Conservative Senator David Tkachuk wondered how much longer it will go on. He also asked whether the Department of Citizenship and Immigration has conducted a review of why Zundel was not turned over to German officials, as they had requested, when U.S. authorities deported him to Canada.

Senator Jack Austin, the government leader in the Senate, responded by saying that Canada's system of laws is "balanced in favour of the presumption of innocence of the person who is the subject of the proceeding. The Crown has the obligation of demonstrating why he should be removed."

Austin said Zundel "has the right to the benefits of Canadian law, and he has the right to use our judicial process, and he is exercising that right."

Zundel was convicted in 1985 of spreading false news, and again in 1988 in a new trial. In 1992, the Supreme Court of Canada overturned the conviction and struck down the false news section of the Criminal Code as a violation of free speech.



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Canadian Friends of Bar-Ilan University

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For ticket information, please contact Canadian Friends of Bar-Ilan University at 905.660.3563 or admin@cfbiu.org.

CANADIAN FRIENDS OF BAR-ILAN UNIVERSITY

Greater Toronto Area

Artist's sketch of the proposed new CHAT campus. **[UJA Federation photo]**

UJA Federation launches $250 million development campaign

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Gerry Schwartz and Larry Tanenbaum, chairs of the Tomorrow Campaign, a UJA Federation of Greater Toronto project, announced last week that $100 million of the $250 million needed to complete the project has already been raised privately.

The rest of the funds to be raised for the Tomorrow Campaign, being billed as the largest community development project in the country, will also go to develop facilities and programs, including community services, fitness, health and wellness, seniors, education, day care and day camps, in three parts of the Greater Toronto Area: Spadina Avenue and Bloor Street (the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life and the Miles Nadal JCC), Bathurst and Sheppard Avenue (on the site of the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre) and a new campus at Bathurst and Weldrick Avenue in Richmond Hill.

At the launch, held at the Design Exchange, event chair Paul Godfrey, president and CEO of the Toronto Blue Jays, quipped that if his team could have the same lineup as the cabinet in the Tomorrow Campaign, it would be having a different season.

Among those present at the launch were Toronto Mayor David Miller, Vaughan Mayor Michael DiBiase, federal Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development Joe Volpe, and Ontario Finance Minister Greg Sorbara.

Tanenbaum, a native of Toronto, said that "this city is my life. I was born and grew up here, and if you are a Toronto resident, there is a 75 per cent chance that your children and grandchildren will grow up here as well."

Prior to unveiling plans for the City North centre in York Region, he noted that "the growth of the Jewish population in York Region has been nothing short of dramatic. It has increased 40 per cent in the last 20 years.

"The city north of Toronto is a crucial part of this campaign. It will serve residents [of all ages] and will revolutionize our vision of suburbia."

Schwartz, who was born in Winnipeg, said that he has chosen to make Toronto his home, and this is a chance for him to give something back to the city.

"We have all enjoyed the buildings that our forefathers have built for us, and this is an [opportunity] for this generation to leave something for our children and grandchildren."

In introducing the Centre Square project, he said the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre has been the heart of Jewish life for 40 years. "This ambitious plan [to redevelop and rebuild the centre] will be a celebration of community services and Jewish life. Our community's growth calls for a project of this ambition."

Miller said the Tomorrow Campaign is the most ambitious and complex project he has ever seen a non-profit organization take on.

"It is a model of community engagement that [any] city should learn from. It is designed to benefit all residents of the GTA."

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Campaign, don't debase or degrade

A federal election is imminent. Of that, there is no doubt. Pundits are vying with each other to predict the day the writ will fall. Question period in the House of Commons has descended into deeper troughs of edgier nastiness. The parties have announced their election readiness. The roster of candidates is being filled out. And the leaders have all recently taken to making high-sounding pronouncements rather than engaging in plain-sounding conversation.

This will be the first election in more than a decade in which the voter will be choosing from among four established parties, fully three of which are bona fide, nationally viable parties. Only one party, the Bloc Québécois, is parochially regional. This will also be the first election in more than a decade in which each of the three national parties will be campaigning under the charge of new leaders.

Differences among the leaders are stark. Differences among the respective parties' philosophies of governing are also stark. Thus, so too are the choices. For that reason, we urge the parties to campaign on their respective policy platforms and to use the campaign as an opportunity to instruct, if not to educate, voters on essential policy differences.

We especially urge the parties to avoid "attack advertising," the particularly odious, ad hominem method of negative campaigning that has become so popular in recent times.

It is undeniably true that all voters cast their votes on the basis of a combination of factors, some of which will naturally relate to personal traits of candidates rather than to policy considerations of the candidates' parties. After all, our affinities towards candidates and parties can follow a path through the heart as well as through the mind. But by its very nature, with "attack-ad" negative campaigning, parties focus only on the individual. They do not put forward ideas; they point fingers. They do not help to perpetuate democracy-building values; rather, they smear reputations and tear away at the protective covering around one of the important pillars of decent, freedom-loving societies: the notion of respect for the other.

The harm occasioned by attack-ad campaigning is manifold. In the first place, voters are deprived a campaign that is issues-oriented and true to the requirements that civics and citizenship demand. In the second place, such a campaign merely adds to the cynicism about politics, distaste for politicians and distancing from the political process. Thirdly, and perhaps most importantly, negative campaigning sets a horrible example for the younger generation who see in the comportment of older generation politicians a standard of behaviour that society purports to abhor. The hypocrisy is too rich and too obvious to sustain.

We expect our politicians to campaign hard, but we demand that they not degrade each other and thus debase the entire process through attack ads or personal vilification.

Criticizes Sarner's views

Once again, *CJN* columnist Robert Sarner goes too far when it comes to his favourite pet prejudice against haredi Jews ("When the Sirens Wail," *CJN*, April 22). It seems that haredi-bashing is to some Israeli journalists what Israel-bashing is to the world media.

Recently, *The CJN* ran a brief notice about the publication of Natan Sharansky's excellent article, "Anti-Semitism in 3D." In it, he offered a simple three-point test that distinguishes between legitimate criticism of Israel and criticism that is anti-Semitic. *The CJN* would do well to print the entire piece. It is a very handy paradigm to have available in one's back pocket. I came across it in – lo and behold – a haredi newspaper. It's just what Sarner needs to reframe his contempt for haredim into points that can be debated with balance and perspective.

To take just one example, one of Sharansky's three "Ds" stands for "double standard."

We all defend Israel as a vibrant democracy, and a hallmark of any democracy is a wide-ranging tolerance of dissent. If some army reservists can refuse to serve in the territories as a form of dissent, then haredim can ignore the sirens as a form of dissent, too. On Tisha b'Av, the traditional and halachically mandated day of mourning for tragedies throughout our history, haredi Jews unite with all religious Jews as they fast and sit on the floor in shuls throughout Israel. That other Jews don't join them has been described as disappointing or tragic and even painful, but I have never heard Sarner's term "repugnant" ever used in that context.

Robert Levine
Toronto

* * *

Grants would not make up for loss

In "Community seeks provincial funds for security" (*CJN*, April 22), we read that the government of Ontario is considering granting funds to the Jewish community to help with security arrangements in Jewish schools.

Before jumping for joy over this news, however, we must bear in mind that this is the same government that cancelled whatever provincial funding previously existed for the parents in our schools. They did this in the most damaging way possible, and to date have refused to consider any alternative way of remedying the inequities in the funding of religious education in Ontario.

The money lost from this cancellation without an appropriate replacement is far more than any security costs our schools might incur. One might wonder if, by being effusive in praise of the government for their consideration of funding school security, we as a community are acting in a way that is penny wise and pound foolish.

Jerrold Landau
Toronto

* * *

Looking for Rhodes survivors

The Rhodes Project seeks to interview and record on film Holocaust survivors and their descendants who were on the Greek island of Rhodes during World War II. The project has two stages. Interviews have already begun this year, and there is a rush to capture the remnants of that catastrophic event.

The summer of 2005 will include a trip to recreate the journey that 1,700 Jews endured when they went from Rhodes to the island of Kos to pick up more Jews and then to the port of Piraeus and the Haidari concentration camp in Athens before their final, long trip by cattle car to Auschwitz-Birkenau, where most perished.

If you are from Rhodes or a descendant of some one from Rhodes, please contact me by phone at 503-287-1358, by e-mail at jmenashe@charter.net or by mail at P.O. Box 333, Lake Hiawatha, N.J., 07034. It is important to accurately retell this under-told story of how the Sephardi Jews were taken off the island.

Joya Menashe
Lake Hiawatha, N.J.

* * *

Time to rethink campus strategy

As a former student union executive and a full-time Jewish student at the University of King's College, I strongly agree with Joanna Cohen's article on campus representation ("Time to rethink campus strategy," *CJN*, April 22) and I would like to expand on it. What I find extremely troublesome is not the odd offensive comment that comes from either side, but how culturally polarizing this debate is. I do not feel comfortable attending cultural events that are organized by any of the Jewish student groups at my school because I do not feel represented by their politics. It seems militant support for the policies of Israel is somehow a prerequisite for engaging in Jewish life on campus.

When I mentioned my position at the King's Students' Union to a staff person at the Atlantic Jewish Council, he was dismayed that they had not heard of me before. Was it because he wanted to know a student leader who happened to be Jewish or was it because he wanted to know a Jewish student leader who could represent his organizations interests on campus? I got the impression it was the latter.

Some students are not prepared to be pawns in a political struggle; we will formulate our own opinions. A university campus is a place for political debate, but I will engage in this debate on my own terms. If Jewish student groups can learn to accept this, then perhaps they will be able to represent the broader interests of Jewish students.

Ben Pearlman
Halifax

* * *

Warsaw Jewish history

In Sheldon Kirshner's article, "Warsaw's Wartime Secret City Harboured Jews" (*CJN*, April 15), he reports on Prof. Gunnar Paulsson's groundbreaking scholarly book *Secret City* and says this intriguing topic, Jews residing in Warsaw on the Aryan side of the city, has not been comprehensively addressed.

In a conversation I had with Paulsson last year after a meeting where he spoke about his book, he mentioned that there are three volumes, called *Arishe Papirn*, by Michael Borvich, completely devoted to this subject. The problem is that the volumes, which were published in 1955, are in Yiddish and none of the work has been translated.

Out of interest, I purchased the books from the National Yiddish Book Centre. I translated the chapter headings and mailed them to Paulsson in the hope that they will be useful to him. I know he would like to find a sponsor to have Borvish's work translated.

Miriam Beckerman
Toronto

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10 Jewish communities in 10 new countries join the EU

By RUTH ELLEN GRUBER
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

Fewer than 150,000 Jews live in the 10 new member states who entered the European Union on May 1. The Jewish population in these countries ranges from 100 or less in Cyprus and Malta to as many as 100,000 or more in Hungary.

Following are brief profiles of the communities in each country, with comments from local Jewish personalities on EU enlargement.

• Hungary:

Estimates of Hungary's Jewish population range from 54,000 to more than 130,000. About 90 per cent live in Budapest, where there is a full range of Jewish cultural, religious, educational and social welfare services.

The vast majority of Hungarian Jews are non-observant, secular or unaffiliated. Only 6,000 or so are formally registered with the Jewish community and about 20,000 have some sort of affiliation with Jewish organizations or institutions.

The dominant religious affiliation is Neolog, similar to America's Conservative movement. There is a very small Orthodox community made up of both modern Orthodox and haredi Jews.

Chabad maintains a synagogue and yeshiva. A small Reform congregation established in 1992 functions outside official Jewish umbrella structures.

"Federation-style organized Jewish life is dying around the world," said Agnes Peresztegi, who helped found a grassroots modern Orthodox congregation in Budapest several years ago.

"People give their support in a very different and much more personalized way than was the norm even 15 years ago."

However, she said, "there's a need, of course, for federation-style organizations. Certain community functions may not be run by a small organization. But the federations need to change, and I'm sure that they will learn to work with grassroots Jewish organizations in the long run."

A lawyer who has worked on issues of Jewish property restitution, Peresztegi said she expects EU enlargement to impact issues related to works of art looted in the Holocaust.

The European Parliament passed a resolution last year calling for the creation of Europe-wide restitution rules and the creation of a single European agency to arbitrate art ownership disputes, she said.

The European Commission will draw up a report by the end of 2004 detailing how to put the resolution into practice, Peresztegi said. It will come up with specific proposals on a common European cataloguing system on looted cultural goods and common principles on ownership or title, and will define the potential powers of a cross-border arbitration body.

• Czech Republic:

Some 3,000 to 4,000 Jews are known to live in the Czech Republic, but estimates of unaffiliated Jews run much higher. Hundreds of foreign Jews, including Israelis, also live in the country.

Ten officially mandated Jewish communities and a number of secular Jewish institutions come under the aegis of the country's Federation of Jewish Communities.

About half of Czech Jewry lives in Prague, which boasts a full and lively range of Jewish religious, social, cultural and educational options. Though Orthodox Judaism is the main religious orientation, Conservative Jewry is also officially recognized and Reform services are present as well. Most Czech Jews are not Orthodox or secular.

Tomas Kraus, the federation's executive secretary, says joining the European Union could have both positive and negative effects on the community.

"The free movement of people could mean enlargement of Jewish communities, not only from the East"– with new immigrants looking for better economic and political conditions – "but also from the West, as it is now in many cases of American ex-pats who have found new jobs and positions in Prague and other Czech cities," he said.

But anti-Semitism also could rise in the new member countries, Kraus said.

"Western European moods can influence the moods in eastern and central Europe," he said. "With the Czech Republic being maybe exceptionally pro-Jewish and pro-Israel [though not without anti-Semitism or anti-Israel sentiment], this could be a new phenomenon."

• Slovakia:

Fewer than 4,000 Jews are believed to live in Slovakia. The main communities – each with about 500 Jews – are in the capital of Bratislava and in Kosice, in the eastern part of the country.

Most Slovak Jews are non-observant or secular, but there is a range of cultural, religious and educational activity.

Maros Borsky, a curator at the Jewish museum in Bratislava, also runs a general-service travel agency. He says Slovakia's EU membership could have a range of effects on Jewish communal life – including the potential for an exodus of young urban professionals.

"If so, it means the Slovak Jewish community would be demographically decimated," said Borsky, who is in his early 30s. "Some young people will stay, however, because new investment will generate an economic boom in the Bratislava region in some professional sectors."

In the long term, Borsky predicted a merging of Bratislava and Vienna into one urban zone, with the development of high-speed transportation that might aid co-operation between the two cities' Jewish communities.

"However, this would only be possible once the Viennese stop seeing Bratislavans as poor relatives, but rather as a community with similar demographic problems," Borsky said.

In general, he said, "I would imagine a depopulation of some smaller Jewish communities and a growing trend to large urban Jewish centres – Berlin, Budapest [and] perhaps Vienna-Bratislava."

• Poland:

Poland had Europe's largest Jewish population before World War II, at some 3.5 million Jews.

Today, estimates of the number of Jews in Poland range from the 7,000 to 8,000 who are officially registered with the community, belong to Jewish organizations or receive aid from the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, to the 10,000 to 15,000 people of Jewish ancestry who have shown interest in rediscovering their heritage, to as many as 30,000 to 40,000 people with some Jewish ancestry.

The Ronald S. Lauder Foundation, a prime mover in fostering post-communist Jewish revival in Poland, runs the country's most extensive Jewish educational programs, including a day school in Warsaw with more than 160 pupils.

Writer Konstanty Gebert, founding editor of the Jewish monthly *Midrasz*, says EU enlargement won't directly affect Jews in the new member states, aside from the mainly positive way it will change the lives of the general population.

"In the long run, however, it will be instrumental in bringing all the continent's Jews together and helping them avail themselves of new opportunities, both through EU sponsorship of some community programs and through the implementation of EU laws," he said. "The main issue, however, is whether there exists a 'European Jewry' able to profit from the opportunity."

Gebert warned that "what might change is the relatively more balanced approach some new members, especially Poland, have taken on the Middle East conflict. As the EU attempts to integrate the foreign policies of its members, it can be expected the newcomers will more closely toe Brussels' line, [which is] markedly critical of Israel."

• Lithuania:

About 4,000 Jews live in Lithuania, most of them in the capital, Vilnius, where there is a Jewish school, a Jewish museum and a range of Jewish cultural activity.

Synagogues operate in Vilnius and Kaunas, but attendance is low. Chabad is active.

Historian Ilya Lempertas said he expects some positive changes from Lithuania's EU entry, but not in the short term.

"It's the implementation of new laws and regulations that counts," he said. "I don't see any immediate change, but maybe we'll see something in three to five years."

The most positive effect, he said, would be that of bringing Lithuania out of what he called its "corner" into the European mainstream.

"To me, the one thing that the EU can give us is broader horizons," he said.

• Latvia:

About 10,000 Jews live in Latvia, most of them in the capital, Riga, where there is a synagogue, an active Jewish community centre and other infrastructure for Jewish life.

Latvia is believed to have had the highest rate of Nazi collaboration in Europe and has struggled to confront its Holocaust history since gaining independence from Soviet rule in 1991.

"On the one hand, EU enlargement will be good for us Jews here, as it means we won't be alone in Europe," said Meijer Melers of Riga's Jewish museum.

On the other hand, he feared the economic consequences, at least in the short run.

"We think entry into the EU is positive, but we worry a lot, too, that prices will shoot up and approach European levels," he said.

• Estonia:

About 3,500 Jews live in Estonia, the majority of them in Tallinn, the capital. There are three small communities in other regions of Estonia.

About 60 per cent of the community arrived in Estonia after World War II and are not considered Estonian citizens. The majority of them today are elderly and need social assistance.

Under communism, most of Estonia's Jews became highly assimilated and often estranged from Jewish religious and cultural traditions. Community leaders regard their main goal as fostering a restoration of Jewish identity through cultural, educational, religious and social programs.

"A positive effect of EU entry can be greater communication," said Aleksander Dusman, chair of the 150-member Jewish community in Ida Virumaa county. "We already had good co-operation with the Nordic countries. I hope after EU entry we have a greater possibility for free travel, jobs abroad [and] communication."

On the other hand, he said, he fears his community might receive less aid from international Jewish organizations.

"And we still don't know how to apply for EU funds," he said.

• Slovenia:

About 200 Jews live in Slovenia. In early 2003, the community opened a synagogue in a converted suite of office rooms, received a Torah as a gift and officially installed a rabbi, who divides his time between the Slovenian capital, Ljubljana, and the nearby Italian city of Trieste.

The synagogue is the first to function in Ljubljana since Jews were expelled from the city in 1515.

In a statement issued by the European Council of Jewish Communities, Slovene Jewish community president Andrei Kozar Beck complained that Slovene Jews were "treated as a small, irrelevant community. We practically have no contact with the state departments and they rarely even answer our mail."

There is no serious anti-Semitism in Slovenia, he said, but warned that "tolerance toward Jews and other non-Slovenians has been recently decreasing. That is a consequence of a nationalistic crisis in Slovenia and the adjustment of the upcoming entry into the EU, which does not seem to be very pro-Israel."

"Our government and press associate Israeli politics with Jews all around the world," he said. "The general political atmosphere is pro-Arab and not very fond of us."

• Cyprus:

Only two or three dozen Jewish families live in Cyprus, all of them in the Greek sector. Community officials say Cypriot Jews, like their non-Jewish compatriots, are generally happy about EU accession. One official said, "It is always positive to be a member of a bigger, more organized group like the EU."

• Malta:

About 100 Jews of all denominations live in Malta. Ashkenazi and Sephardi Jews pray together in an apartment owned by the community. About half of Malta's Jews are Orthodox.

Community president Shelley Deutch Tayar told the European Council of Jewish Communities that Maltese Jews are generally well-integrated into mainstream society.

"The Jews on the island are very respected and very accepted by the many interest circles. Nobody cares what religion one is, just what one does," Tayar said. "When Malta joins the European Union, it will be a lot easier for Jewish retirees to come to the island."

Duhaney Synagogue in Budapest [Isranet photo]

Opinions

All of Jewish history — in two minutes

I've just returned from a mission to Poland and Israel. Our group was left with one inescapable conclusion: Jewish history is a roller-coaster of horror and happiness. In Poland we saw piles of human hair and cans of zyklon-b pellets. In Israel we saw smiling schoolchildren and maternity wards. In Poland we saw cattle cars. In Israel we saw proud soldiers. In Poland we saw gas chambers. In Israel we saw new construction. Up close, Jewish history becomes an emotionally turbulent experience.

Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz in Montreal

The Israeli calender is even more chaotic. The day before Independence Day is Memorial Day.

Unlike in Canada, in Israel, Memorial Day is quite melancholy. Everyone attends a remembrance service, and the entire country stops when the sirens ring. When I asked our tour security guard, Amit, to say a few words about Memorial Day, he choked up with tears. He had served in a combat unit and lost friends in battle.

And then, immediately after this comes absolute celebration. As if by the flick of a switch, the entire country is transformed into one big block party, with revellers roaming the streets and families barbecuing in the park. In a uniquely Jewish fashion, we insist on commemorating tragedy immediately before celebrating independence. (Much like the Passover seder includes mention of both slavery and freedom).

This need to combine bitter and sweet memories together is at the heart of an authentic Jewish historiography. Jewish history consists of both exile and redemption. We don't view exile as meaningless historical time, something we'd prefer to forget. On the contrary, exile is carefully remembered. And this is the paradox of our history: we see exile and redemption, seeming polar opposites, as deeply connected experiences. And like all good paradoxes, it is meant to be a question that keeps asking questions.

This paradox teaches multiple lessons. It underlines the fact that Israel (and the Jewish people) continue to survive and thrive, despite our challenges. It reminds us that the manifold miracles of contemporary Israel, such as blooming deserts, the return to the Western Wall and cutting edge medical research, are expensive miracles. More than 20,000 soldiers have paid with their lives for these achievements. And it teaches us that we must continue to claim the moral high ground, unlike our tormentors.

At the end of Memorial Day, I was at a ceremony in which the Israeli flag, flying at half mast, was raised to full height. At that moment, I understood that I was experiencing all of Jewish history in two minutes. It's a history that lives at the intersection of exile and redemption, between half mast and full glory. It may seem an absurd way to look at history, but isn't it also absurd that this small, persecuted people has persisted in living on?

Israel, Happy 56th!

Balancing the joys and sorrows of being Jewish

Four days before Passover, in a session connected to Montreal's 1,000-person "day of learning" about Israel, I proposed that we leave one empty chair at our Seder tables to memorialize victims of terror. One mother asked, "Don't those kinds of things upset your kids?" "These are the realities of life," I replied. "My four children know about the sorrow of Israeli life. They also know about the joys. They have a full, multi-dimensional picture of Israel and Jewish life and can view this sadness in context."

Gil Troy in Montreal

Three days later, vandals torched the United Talmud Torah's school library. On the eve of the first seder, Montreal's Jewish children received an unwelcome lesson in the world's ugliness – one the criminals imposed following their own twisted timetable.

My 8-year-old daughter and 6-year-old son seemed less unnerved by the firebombing than many of their school chums. Their school is across town, but they discussed the attack in class and in an assembly, and they and their buddies contributed to the library rebuilding fund. Security also increased at our school – when we passed the closed building one Shabbat, my 3-year-old asked, "Where's the protector?"

Still, while responding to the horror, while contributing to the rebuilding effort, my children were not shocked. They processed news of the UTT crime in the context of the Palestinians' immoral turn away from negotiation and toward terror, and in the aftermath of Sept. 11 in a world where they have heard about suicide bombings, kidnappings of soldiers, anti-Semitism in France, and attacks on synagogues in Turkey and Toronto.

We don't shield our children from the bad news – but we have also steeped them in the good. My children have tasted sunrise over Masada and sunset at the Kotel, they have danced in the Shabbat with Birthrighters on the streets of old Jerusalem, and they have munched their way through the kosher McDonald's that are spread across Israel. They have frolicked on the beaches of Tel Aviv, played with friends at Neot Kedumim, where the Maccabees roamed, and dug for archeological treasures at Bet Guvrin. They speak Hebrew, delight in the Shabbat, and are learning Jewish values. For them being Jewish and identifying with Israel is a multi-dimensional, many-splendoured thing – with, alas, some dark spots too.

Moreover, the soldier we honoured at the seder – Benny Avraham, one of the three Israelis murdered by Hezbollah in October 2000 – looms large in my kids' imaginations. During the three years that Benny's fate was unclear, my children met Benny's parents and sisters, they drew pictures of Benny and for Benny while dreaming of his return. Yes, his murder saddened them – but they have also enjoyed befriending our new "family" in Israel, the Avrahams.

"I guess I would add Haim Avraham [Benny's father] to my list of heroes," my 6-year-old mused on Israel's birthday. "He's a very jolly man even though he lost his son." I don't know what pleased me more – that my first-grader grasped this lesson about living with and beyond tragedy, or that he has a list of heroes and role models who inspire him. The list includes many Jews who have triumphed over adversity, such as the warrior from the 2,200-year-old Chanukah story, Judah Maccabee; the great Torah commentator from Troyes, France of a thousand years ago, Rashi; and the short, bald, moral giant who stared down the Soviet Union 20 years ago, Natan Sharansky.

If you place yourself in the Jewish story, you will find heroes and villains, triumph and trauma. Unfortunately, we cannot shield our children from "bad news" – and if we try to, we cede the initiative in our children's education to the evil-doers, waiting for them to strike, then reacting. And we risk raising children who respond more powerfully to the negative than to the positive, who make anti-Semitism the driving engine of Jewish identity – rather than love of tradition or love of Zion.

I wish I could protect my kids from all evil. Failing that, the only way I know how to prepare them is to root them in a tradition, in a worldview, that is so rich, so complex and so filled with goodness and heroes that it can also be resilient enough to strengthen us all, young and old, for the challenges that will inevitably rise in today's world.

Travelling back to the depths of immigrant memory

This month inaugurates the expansion of the European Union from 15 member nations to twenty-five strong. Such a conglomerate entity would have been unimaginable during the Cold War years, and imagined only with dread during the late 1930s and early 40s.

Sara R. Horowitz in Toronto

Today, the global village brings all these nations into a closely woven web, and the far-off and exotic become close and familiar. Travel sections of major newspapers in Canada and the United States celebrate the new members with extensive feature articles, tempting would-be travellers with photographs of primordial forests and pristine seaside beaches, elegant hotels and sybaritic spas, regional cuisine and culture.

Amid the hoopla, it is hard to remember that fewer than 40 years have passed since the release of Sidney Lumet's stunning 1965 film *The Pawnbroker*. In a memorable scene, Sol Nazerman, a tormented survivor of Nazi atrocities, quashed the wanderlust of his rootless American niece and nephew by declaring, "Europe is a cemetery."

Today we live with an ever-shifting European map. Not only has Germany been unified, and Europe splintered into a multitude of small nations, but the continent now forms a united coalition, joining east and west. The castles and markets beckon.

For Nazerman, anguished memory made it obscene to view European travel as pleasurable. Like him, for decades many Jewish travellers avoided Germany as a vacation spot. With the fall of the Iron Curtain, destinations that were once difficult for North American wanderers became easier. Some Jewish voyagers permitted themselves trips to these countries, but only for sober pilgrimages to sites of Jewish catastrophe.

And now travel supplements brim with names that gurgle up like well-springs from the depths of immigrant memory: Lithuania, Poland, Latvia. Riga, Vilnius, Krakow, Bratislava, Prague, Budapest. Place names with centuries-old associations with scholars and rebbes and healers and storytellers, where Jewish cultural, religious and secular movements took off and flourished like nowhere else.

To be a Jewish tourist in Europe is to experience what the African American writer W.D. Dubois called "double consciousness" – a jarring vision of oneself, of one's people, as simultaneously both the familiar and the unassimilable "Other." One can admire the cultural treasures and become immersed in the long history of the continent, and at the same time feel the pinprick of Jewish history – the imprint of exclusion and demonization.

Last spring, I sat at a table in an outdoor café in the old part of Krakow. I was with a group of students touring Jewish memory sites. As I sipped coffee, I reflected that nothing had prepared me for the beauty of Poland: the lush countryside, the picturesque villages, the exquisite charm of the old cities. I had pictured the country in shades of grey and mud-brown. My family fled the pogroms of the early 20th century, and I grew up on stories of poverty and persecution. During the Shoah, the region contained unspeakable places of Jewish catastrophe. These formed my imagined Polish landscape.

When I was a university student, my family did not discourage the backpacking expeditions to Europe. Still, I understood that my elders would have agreed with the spirit of Sol Nazerman's assessment. This was true for all of Europe, but any place in Eastern Europe was beyond the pale. Before I departed for Krakow last spring, my aunts telephoned me to remind me that my ancestors would have sorely disapproved. Poland! In the Krakow café, I felt a momentary twinge of conscience for taking pleasure in a sunny afternoon and an espresso. Then it struck me that the beauty and pleasure, too, were part of the Jewish experience in Poland – something stolen, not freely repudiated.

The continent wants Jewish tourists. Local and national travel boards tout Jewish history and culture tours. And our roots run deep. The cognoscenti already know this. Disciples of a rebbe, scholars of the Haskalah, fans of klezmer have already cut the path of the pilgrimage that the casual tourist will walk.

So we will travel to these once far-off places, oddly empty of the Jews who once thrived there, speaking a babble of tongues. We will mourn the catastrophe and honour its victims, but also celebrate the richness of the Jewish experience that preceded it. For as surely as Jews are people of the Book, we are also people of pilgrimage.

The Kirshner File

Sharon regroups after referendum defeat

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was licking his wounds this week, scrambling to regroup and retool after the Likud party, in a non-binding referendum on May 2, overwhelmingly rejected his controversial plan for a unilateral Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and four isolated settlements in the West Bank.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Although Sharon claims he respects the result of the lopsided outcome, which had been forecast, he has promised to push ahead. "I want to say in the clearest fashion there will be another plan," he declared last week, in an unmistakable signal to hard-line opponents that he has no intention of resigning and intends to pursue his vision of peace. Sharon, having staked much of his political capital on winning the referendum, will probably submit a watered-down version of the plan following consultations with cabinet ministers and members of his fractured party.

Speculation is rife that Sharon, in a bid to placate adversaries who bitterly oppose any withdrawals and reject the land-for-peace formula, will propose a limited and phased pullout from Gaza and a more modest withdrawal from the West Bank. Alternatively, he may opt for evacuating major Palestinian cities and towns in the West Bank, reoccupied by the Israeli army during Operation Defensive Shield two years ago. On the other hand, he may call a plebiscite or new elections. Whatever path he chooses, Sharon is beset by fierce internal and external pressures.

The 7,500 settlers of Gaza, living in 21 outposts in a sea of 1.3 million Palestinians, believe their cause is just, and will likely resist any plan that requires them to relinquish Gaza. In a reflection of their zealous views, Uri Elitzur, in *Yediot Achronot*, wrote, "The uprooting of settlements is an inhuman act."

Sharon, the godfather of the settlement movement and the prime mover of settlements in Gaza, thus finds himself in the peculiar and ironic position of having to engage in political combat with the very people who voted him into power, not once but twice. The settlers are astute tacticians, though far from brilliant strategists, and, judging by the referendum, they have the backing of six out of 10 Likudniks.

Sharon, having warned that a unilateral withdrawal from Gaza is preferable to an internationally-imposed peace agreement, thinks his plan is in Israel's long-range interests. But the Likud, officially on record as opposing a Palestinian state, is simply not ready for meaningful territorial compromise, the sine qua non of any durable agreement Israel might sign one day with the Palestinians.

Sharon is being squeezed by all sides. Far-right members of his coalition want him to honour the results of the referendum. But Yosef (Tommy) Lapid, the leader of the Shinui party, an important partner in his government, has urged him to come up with an abridged version. Lapid has threatened to leave the coalition if extremists in Likud gain the upper hand. "We are not here to save Sharon from the Likud, but to save the state from the Likud," he caustically remarked.

Shimon Peres, the Labour party leader, is leaning on Sharon, too. Peres, a proponent of fresh elections, has told him he will support only a full disengagement plan. "It is inconceivable that 50,000 people will decide the fate of 10 million," he said in a reference to the number of Likud central committee members who voted against Sharon's plan.

Sharon must also consider Israel's pivotal relationship with the United States. On April 14, in a historic letter, President George W. Bush endorsed the idea that Israel could retain territory in the West Bank as part of a final agreement and rejected claims that Palestinian refugees have a right to return to their former homes in what is now Israel.

Ariel Sharon votes in May 2 Likud referendum.

Bush's seminal assurances rest on the assumption that Israel with evacuate Gaza. But if Sharon cannot deliver on his promise, the United States may well revise its policy, notwithstanding a White House statement on April 29 that Bush stands by his commitments. In fact, a reassessment may already have begun. Last week, the United States joined the three other parties sponsoring the road map to peace – the United Nations, the European Union and Russia – in calling for a full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and insisting that "unilateral actions" should not "predetermine issues that can only be resolved through negotiation and agreement."

The apparent reversal may have been influenced by a bluntly worded letter 60 retired American diplomats sent to Bush on May 4. Lambasting Bush for his "unabashed support" for Sharon, they asserted that his unilateralism bypasses the road map and undermines a negotiated accord. "By closing the door to negotiations with Palestinians...you have proved that the United States is not an evenhanded peace partner."

Striking a similar tone, Jacques Chirac, the president of France, said the question of final borders and the rights of Palestinian refugees should be resolved through talks. Otherwise, he noted, Sharon's plan was "doomed to failure."

The Palestinians, fearing that Sharon's advocacy of the plan is directly related to his desire to keep five settlement blocs in the West Bank, have generally panned it. Saeb Erekat, the chief Palestinian negotiator, has urged Bush to withdraw his most recent pledges to Israel and to revive the road map. And in an appeal to Sharon, he has asked Israel to return to the negotiating table. Sharon, though, has no interest in resuming talks with the current leaders of the Palestinian Authority, being utterly convinced they are untrustworthy and unreliable partners and are unwilling to crack down on terrorism. The views of the Palestinians are belittled by Sharon, but they carry weight at the United Nations and in the European Union and Russia.

In retrospect, Sharon bent over backwards to court Likud diehards in the runup to the referendum, realizing the outcome might be too close for comfort. Talking tough, Sharon, in a pre-Passover interview, said his plan would rule out a Palestinian state, at least for years, and "harm the Palestinians severely."

With an eye on far-right nationalist opinion within the Likud, Sharon said as well that Israel's response to Palestinian violence after a withdrawal would be harsher than ever. The targeted assassinations of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin – the spiritual leader of Hamas – and of his successor, Abdel Aziz Rantisi, on March 22 and April 18, plus Israel's repeated incursions into Gaza, left no doubt of Sharon's seriousness and resolve.

Sharon also went out of his way to reiterate that the disengagement plan should not be perceived as a reward for terrorism. For the settlers, this was a moot point, given their absolute determination to preserve the status quo at all costs.

Last but not least, Sharon's nullification of his pledge to Bush not to kill Yasser Arafat, president of the Palestinian Authority, was definitely meant to appease Likud hardliners.

Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz, who said last week that settling Gaza had been an "historic mistake," also threw himself wholeheartedly into the the battle for hearts and minds in Likud. A certified hawk, he said Sharon's plan would improve Israel's political, economic and security situation and lead to the rise of Palestinian "pragmatic forces" with which Israel could negotiate.

As Sharon and Mofaz lobbied Likud members, there were two developments that seemed to bode well for the plan. The Israeli army announced that a trench would be dug alongside the Philadelphia Road, on the border between Gaza and Egypt, to prevent arms smuggling. Israel's director of military intelligence, Gen. Aharon Ze'evi, predicted that a withdrawal from Gaza would lead to a decline in terrorist attacks. (Two months earlier, Ze'evi acknowledged that the Palestinians would interpret the plan as a victory for terrorism).

Much to Sharon's probable delight but to the consternation of the Palestinians, Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu injected an ominous note into the debate by noting that the plan would enable Israel to "fortify our hold" on the West Bank and invest millions of more dollars in the settlements.

For all his efforts, Sharon's public relations campaign failed miserably. In an astounding rebuff to Sharon on the eve of the referendum, Netanyahu, Education Minister Limor Livnat and Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom refused to lobby for the plan after having grudgingly accepted it, while Agriculture Minister Yisrael Katz warned it would lay the groundwork, wittingly or unwittingly, for the total removal of all settlements from the northern half of the West Bank. And then, in a crushing blow, 300 militant rabbis identified with the settlements proclaimed that relinquishing Gaza and parts of the West Bank would violate the precepts of Judaism and endanger lives.

Clearly, Sharon miscalculated. He lost the referendum, patently unable to muster persuasive arguments on behalf of his plan, and he lost control of the Likud's strongest wing. Now what?

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Jewish Life

Yom Yerushalayim

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

On May 19 (the 28th of Iyar), Israelis will celebrate the 37th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem. Even if you won't be able to visit the city's holy sites this Yom Yerushalayim, you can visit its wonderful websites.

If you are only going to visit one Jerusalem website, make it the Jerusalem Archeological Park. This site complements the real park, which extends from the Temple Mount to the slope of the Mount of Olives in the south. The site has an interactive timeline of the city, models of the Temple area that allow you swivel the view 360 degrees, videos, maps, biographies of some of the city's most famous archeologists and much more **[www.archpark.org.il/]**.

I have a question for veteran visitors to Jerusalem who think they've seen it all. Have you visited the Museum of the Seam? What about the Mount Zion Cable Car? I found out about those sites at the Gems in Israel website that highlights "Israel's lesser known tourist attractions and travel sites, the gems." The Museum on the Seam opened about a year ago to promote dialogue, coexistence and understanding between Israelis and Arabs and among members of Israel's varied society. The cable car dates back to the War of Independence when it was used to secretly evacuate wounded soldiers from Mount Zion over the Ben Hinnom Valley to safety at the St. John Hospital **[http://tinyurl.com/2pd49]**.

If you've studied Torah, then you know the emblem of Jerusalem is the lion, the symbol of the tribe of Judah. A couple of years ago, the municipality of Jerusalem placed dozens of larger-than-life statues of lions throughout the city, each painted by a different artist. Dror Bar-Natan has captured those lions on film and has put them on his website. Take a tour of the city by lion **[http://tinyurl.com/39fxq]**.

Although it may come as a bit of shock, residents of the Israeli capital don't spend their time commuting to work humming Naomi Shemer's *Jerusalem of Gold* (*Yerushalayim Shel Zahav*). They are much more likely to be listening to Galgalatz **[mms://stream.msn.co.il/gglz]** or, if they like classical music, dropping by the Jerusalem Music Centre in the beautiful Mishkenot Sha'ananim neighbourhood. You can listen to excerpts from some recent concerts at the site **[www.jmc.co.il/]**. If you would like to listen to *Yerushalayim Shel Zahav*, you can hear it at **[http://tinyurl.com/26724]** and read about the history of the song that a member of Knesset wanted to make the country's national anthem **[www.jerusalemofgold.co.il/]**.

Looking for more on Jerusalem? Michael Zank has put together an annotated list of other Jerusalem-related sites. They range from apolitical to others that take very opinionated views of the city's past and future **[www.bu.edu/mzank/Michael_Zank /jerusalem.html]**. Also, check out the links Jacob Richman has gathered **[www.jr.co.il/hotsites/i-jer.htm]**.

What would a visit to Jerusalem be without a visit to the Kotel? You can start off underground by taking Aish HaTorah's tunnel tour. The tunnel, which opened after a great deal of controversy in 1996, runs parallel to the Kotel and extends beneath the Arab Quarter of the Old City. This website lets you follow through the labyrinths while you read up on the underground (the site also promises an audio narration, but that feature wasn't working – at least not on the day that I visited) **[www.aish.com/seminars/tunneltour/]**.

Once back on the surface, you can take a look at the Kotel – a live look. Thanks to a webcam, actually a "Kotelcam" trained on the holy wall, you can see what's doing in real time. The image is refreshed every minute or so **[www.aish.com/wallcam/]**.

And what visit would be complete without putting a note in the Kotel? Jews traditionally leave notes – "*kvitelach*" – in the wall with requests for good health, prosperity or perhaps a shidduch. Now you can do it from anywhere in the world, via e-mail. Several organizations will print out your petition, fold it and insert it into the wall's crevices. Pirchei Shoshanim asks for a donation for delivering your note **[www.westernwall.org/prayer.htm]**. According to its website, the David Citadel Hotel offers a complimentary service **[www.tdchotel.com/note_to_ kotel.asp]**. What happens to your request after it's placed in the Kotel is anyone's guess.

Yom Yerushalayim samayach!

* * * * *

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

Timely wisdom from *Pirkei Avot*

By RABBI JOSEPH KELMAN

There is a Jewish tradition to study and read the chapters of *Pirkei Avot* (*Ethics of the Fathers*) from Pesach to Shavuot, but it is certainly appropriate to do this at any time.

Pirkei Avot is a section of the Mishnah considered so important that it has been included in our prayer book. While every aspect of the Torah and Talmud is important, this small volume contains very wonderful ethical insights that can influence our feelings and behaviour. Personally, every time I read or teach a chapter or verse of this volume, I am strengthened and encouraged to correct thoughts, actions and relationships.

In the fourth chapter, Ben Zoma, a great second-century scholar, asked four very basic questions and gives four unusual and wonderful answers. "Who is wise?" "Who is strong?" "Who is rich?" and "Who is honoured?"

"Who is wise?" Everyone can acquire wisdom and learn from "kol adam," from every and any person, Ben Zoma says. We can learn from people in all walks of life, old, young, scholars and streetwise.

"Who is strong?" Surprisingly, the biblical Samson, with his great physical strength, is not the example chosen. The Hebrew words describing the strong man is the "*kovesh et yitzro*," he who can overcome and master the temptations of life that can lead us astray. All of us are born with an evil inclination, *yetzer hara*, but we need to struggle and overcome it in favour of our *yetzer hatov*, our good inclinations. We need to be strong in resisting illegal and immoral activities for temporary gain and pleasure that in the end bring permanent harm and the loss of moral dignity.

"Who is wealthy?" One who is happy with his lot and is not jealous that others may have more. He or she does not feel compelled to keep up with the Joneses and does not begrudge another's happiness or lifestyle.

"Who is honoured?" Ben Zoma understands that we all want honour and wish to be respected. However, to earn respect, Ben Zoma says, give respect to others and people in all walks of life, since we can learn something from everyone.

I suggest that these four questions represent four stages of life. When we are young, we want to acquire knowledge and, after completing our education, the wisdom to be successful in our activities. Then, the second question reminds us that we should have the moral and spiritual strength to meet all of life's challenges as we get older. The third question addresses our need to acquire and finally be content with our own material blessings.

And no matter who we are, all of us, in the end, want respect, and rightfully so, but to earn it, we must also, by example, take the initiative to be respectful to others.

I invite you to consider how these questions and answers can enhance your own lives and fulfill the purpose of Pirkei Avot and Torah.

Rabbi Joseph Kelman is rabbi emeritus at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue in Toronto.

Jewish Life

First Israeli-born female rabbi visits

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

Temple Israel, Ottawa's only Reform synagogue, late last month hosted Rabbi Maya Leibovich, the first Israeli-born female rabbi, for a weekend of learning and celebration before Yom Ha'atzmaut.

With 30 members of the congregation, including Rabbi Steven Garten, in Israel on a community mission, Rabbi Leibovich served as visiting rabbi for the remaining congregants and made a number of appearances in the city throughout the weekend.

Born into a secular family in Israel of Czech parents who lost most of their families in the Holocaust, Rabbi Leibovich came to religion late in life. A visit to her parents' birthplace led her to an exploration of her heritage and the Bible.

At the age of 40, already a wife and mother of four, Rabbi Leibovich returned to school to become a rabbi. For the past 10 years, she has been spiritual leader of Congregation Mevasseret Zion on the outskirts of Jerusalem, a congregation of 160 families.

In her Sunday afternoon lecture at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre, Rabbi Leibovich talked about the lack of women's voices in the Bible. In the sacrifice of Isaac story, for example, she asked, "Where is Sarah?" In such a dramatic and frightening episode, surely the mother would have been distraught, yet her feelings were not even mentioned.

Rabbi Leibovich offered her own interpretations of various biblical passages while acknowledging that not everyone would, or must, agree with her.

But, she said, women's voices in Judaism will benefit us all.

"We will enrich Judaism because it is a unique, different voice. It is time to hear it," Rabbi Leibovich said. "The male voice is going to become softer and more sensitive... when you think '*Ki m'Tzion teytzei Torah*.' Part of that Torah will be Torat nashim [the Torah of women]."

Anti-Semitism has been a stranger to the Jews of India

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

Unlike any other community in the Diaspora, the Jews of India have had virtually no experience with anti-Semitism in the 2,000 years they have lived there, says a Bombay native.

"India has an unbroken record of... hospitality to Jews," said Ann Samson, a founding member of Toronto's BINA congregation, which holds services for Jews with Indian heritage.

"The Jews integrated into the wider community, but they never assimilated," Samson said recently at Beth Tikvah Synagogue. Speaking as part of a lecture series on Jewish communities around the world, Samson used slides and video clips to illuminate her own history and that of the larger Indian Jewish community.

The absence of anti-Semitism was in large part due to India's Hindu majority tradition of accommodating other cultures, she said.

"Jews were never involved with any kind of conflict with any of India's religious groups," Samson said.

In fact, the first experience of discrimination for some Indian Jews was when they immigrated to Israel and faced some unwelcoming co-religionists, she said.

A former school principal, Samson traced the history of the Indian Jewish community to 730 BCE, though some scholars say it began after the destruction of the Second Temple.

The first Jews arrived as castaways caught up in a sea storm just off the coast of Bombay. They came to be called the Bene Yisrael.

In trying to protect their women from unwanted relations with the local religious groups, the Bene Yisrael adopted oil pressing as their profession, a menial form of work that would ensure they were relegated to "untouchable" status within the caste system of the Hindu majority.

A second group settled in Cochin around the fifth century.

"They were helpful to the [Hindu Raja] with financial advice... and he decreed a tract of land to them," Samson said, noting the area was named Jew Town.

Samson said this was unique in the Diaspora, as the Jewish community had an independent principality ruled by a Jewish chief, in a foreign country.

Beginning in the 1830s, Jews from Persia, Yemen and Iraq arrived in India, settling primarily in Bombay and Calcutta.

Country's Jewish population peaked at 29,000 during WWII

A final group was European Jews, mostly from Germany, who fled the Nazis.

It was at this time, during World War II, that India's Jewish population peaked at 29,000. After mass emigration to Israel, Europe North America and Australia, today's population numbers less than 5,000 in a country of nearly one billion.

Samson has mixed ancestry, with grandparents and other relatives who came to India from Iraq, Yemen and South Africa.

Her slide show included photographs of Jewish landmarks in India, including synagogues, cemeteries and the site of the Bene Yisrael's arrival.

The Paradesi or "foreign" synagogue was built in 1568 in Cochin and still stands today, with its lavishly hand-painted marble tiles imported from China and opulent silver and gold Torah covers.

All synagogues in India followed the Orthodox Sephardi tradition. There were no ordained rabbis.

"All prayers were led by knowledgeable lay leaders or a chazzan," Samson said.

India's first rabbi came with the introduction of Reform Judaism to the country in the first half of the 20th century.

Samson was married in the Magen David Synagogue, which was built in 1861 by the Sassoons, a famous Indian Jewish family.

Of Iraqi descent, the Sassoons were major benefactors of both the Jewish community and the larger Bombay community. Some family members were knighted by the British.

The Sassoons established trust funds for the synagogues they built, allowing the community to be free from charging congregants with membership fees. The Jewish day school they funded, which Samson attended, was free. Today, it is open to students of all faiths.

Samson said she tries to preserve her Indian heritage by teaching her family prayers and customs from her homeland, such as the henna, a pre-wedding celebration to ward off evil and ensure fertility.

"It is important to me for my kids to learn and be proud of their heritage," she said.

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Survivors formed a club 'to create a family'

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

The song, *We Are Family*, could be the theme for a group of 23 survivors from Poland who came to Canada after the war and formed Club 10, a social group, but much more.

Most of them had no extended family, and many had young children. Over the years, the members' children, grandchildren and now great-grandchildren have become part of an extended family.

Of the 23 original members, there are now seven, all in their 80s: Fanny Berholz, Fela Hochman, Regina Kozlowski, Harry Kreitzman, Hanke Newman, and Mini and Isaac Peters.

On Mothers Day at the Borochov Centre, four generations gathered for a lunch to pay tribute to the original members, to share their memories of growing up as a family and support group, and to express their gratitude and love.

The club began in 1954, when Hanke and David Newman moved upstairs from Fela and Benny Hochman. Each couple recommended others and they began meeting at each other's homes every week.

"We were all looking for people [with whom] to start a relationship – to create a family," Harry Kreitzman told *The CJN*. "We met every Saturday night, had a full dinner and played cards."

He added that playing cards was only used as a reason to get together. They also helped each other in many ways, such as finding employment.

The group appointed Zalman Berholz as president and his wife Fanny as the first lady, says their son Harry.

"My father's job as president was to take calls on Sunday morning from those who had complaints about Saturday night," he said jokingly.

"Mr. Newman became the spokesman at family simchahs, and the Club 10 family always sat at table 1 or 2.

"We children felt like we were cousins – they were our aunts and uncles. Mr. Newman always began his speech with 'Dear family, friends and Club 10,'" Harry Berholz said.

Phyllis Rich, daughter of Regina Kozlowski, spoke of her memories of Jackson's Point. "We have wonderful memories of The Maples where many of the club's families spent summers together."

Although there were many sad occasions, she added, "looking back, our memories are filled with fun and laughter. We looked forward to our parents' meetings. There were no baby sitters then, so the younger children came along.

"The host family worked all week to prepare, and we, the children, would love to hear their stories and jokes. It was comforting for me and it was a wonderful feeling."

Marilyn Herbert, Fela Hochman's daughter agreed. "I have a cottage across the road from the place we went to as a child at Jackson's Point. The wonderful memories are the reason I'm there."

Seen at Club 10's 25th anniversary are: standing, from left, Ben Goldglas, Abraham Bimblich, Paula Bimblich, Zalman Berholz, Nathan Markovitch, Mendel Flint, Harry Kreitzman, Isaac Peters, Benny Hochman, Izak Kozlowski, David Newman and Hanke Newman; seated, Celia Goldglas, Fanny Berholz, Tosha Markovitch, Lucy Applebaum, Mini Peters, Fela Hochman, Regina Kozlowski, Marisha Flint and a guest of the Markovitch family.

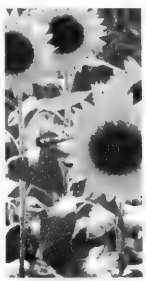
Her daughter, Adina Herbert, a student at the University of King's College in Halifax said, "I remember hearing many stories. When I think of my grandparents, I always think of this group."

"Although we had family here," Marsha Goldstein, the Peters' daughter, said, "Club 10 was also our family. Everybody became a great support group."

At the luncheon, May Bien, the Kozlowskis' daughter, presented a video made up of photographs of Club 10 activities over the past 50 years.

Club members stressed that Israel was always a primary focus. They often donated money to the Association for the Soldiers of Israel and other Israeli charities in honour of a simchah.

To mark their 50th anniversary, the members of Club 10 collected money for the David Newman Yiddish Fund at Bialik Hebrew Day School.



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HOLOCAUST MEMOIR - Henry G. Schogt - *The Curtain: Witness and Memory in Wartime Holland* (Wilfred Laurier University Press)

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Greater Toronto Area

Rabbi stresses importance of interfaith camaraderie

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

If the pursuit of peace is to be realized, people of all faiths must be willing to learn from, appreciate and help one another.

That was the message expressed by Adath Israel synagogue Rabbi Emeritus Erwin Schild, keynote speaker at the recent 18th annual Neighbourhood Interfaith Dinner.

"We must signify our willingness to accept partnerships and companionship," said Rabbi Schild, speaking at Beth Tzedec Congregation before an audience of 400 people.

"The lamp that we carry into the new millennium should be the lamp that invites people to help each other."

It was that mantra of mutual responsibility that prompted the event's founders – reverends Roy Wilson and Rob Oliphant, and Bill Glazer, Hart Rossman and David Hart of Beth Tzedec – to initiate the dinner concept in 1986.

Since then, the event has grown into an annual gala, with 13 churches and synagogues participating.

At this year's dinner, the founding members were honoured before an audience that included canons, reverends, priests, rabbis, as well as Toronto city councillors Joe Mihevc and Michael Walker.

It was fitting that Rabbi Schild spoke about interfaith camaraderie. A survivor of the notorious German concentration camp Dachau, Rabbi Schild has returned to his native Germany several times to lecture Christian audiences on various Jewish-related topics.

In 2003, Rabbi Schild returned to Dachau, where he delivered a passionate speech at the Church of Reconciliation on human rights in the Jewish tradition.

"It was not very easy for me to walk past the grounds where prisoners stood," Rabbi Schild said. "I felt almost as if I was there again."

But Rabbi Schild said his turmoil was eclipsed by hope for the future after seeing an overflowing audience and droves of visitors, many of whom were children.

In his dinner speech, Rabbi Schild urged the interfaith group to expand beyond its Christian and Jewish adherents.

"We are only at the beginning of the job," Rabbi Schild said.

"[We need] the integration of not only Islam… but with non-monotheistic religions. We have to embrace them."

The rabbi said "theological modesty" will help "lead us on the walk out of the darkness of suspicion and mistrust… into the light of mutual trust and appreciation."

Though he retired from Adath Israel in 1989 after more than 40 years as the synagogue's spiritual leader, Rabbi Schild has been active in communal affairs and interfaith relations.

For his efforts, Rabbi Schild has received the Human Relations Award from the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews and the Order of Merit, First Class of the Federal Republic of Germany. In 2001, he was appointed to the Order of Canada.

That same year, Rabbi Schild wrote an autobiography called *The Very Narrow Bridge: A Memoir of An Uncertain Passed*, which recounts his life up until his entrance into the rabbinate in 1947.

Keeping with the theme of diversity, the dinner followed a multifaith service, as Canon Cheryl Palmer said grace and Shari Rossman, wife of dinner founder Hart Rossman, said the *Hamotzi* blessing on the bread.

Meir slams European media

Continued from page 3

European reporters and politicians claim Israel has a right to self-defence. But when Israel exercises this right through military operations and checkpoints, they complain.

"So what do they mean by the right of self-defence? There is a lot of hypocrisy here."

In an attempt to explain the prevalence of media bias in Europe, Meir said Europeans generally judge Israel through the prism of their former experiences as colonizers in the Middle East and elsewhere.

He added that Europe's burgeoning Muslim population not only creates anti-Semitism but colours attitudes toward Israel.

In a slide presentation, Meir said Israel's incursion into the Jenin refugee camp two years ago touched off a frenzy of slanted reporting. "The 'massacre' story was a big lie."

Jenin was a classic case of media bias that should be studied at every school of journalism.

Meir acknowledged Israel should have permitted reporters into the camp immediately after the first battle.

By refusing reporters access during the first week of fighting, Israel effectively was complicit in fanning false rumors about Jenin, he conceded.

"It was a mistake," he said, referring to Israel's media policy.

Meir suggested the European press is guilty of moral equivalence by equating suicide bombers with their victims.

Some newspapers go even further, he said, calling attention to a headline in *La Razon* – a Spanish daily – the day after the Sbarro suicide bombing in Jerusalem. The headline read: "Bush is worried: Sharon is preparing to destroy the Palestinian people."

Meir blasted *The Independent*, a London daily, for publishing a grotesque cartoon before last year's election in Israel in which Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was portrayed as an ogre feasting on a helpless child.

He wondered why Sharon continues to be "demonized" despite his support for a two-state solution and his willingness to dismantle settlements in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

Meir attacked Orla Guerin, a BBC correspondent in Israel, for writing a commentary in a British newspaper alleging Israel is not a democracy.

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Tomorrow Campaign is officially underway

An unprecedented non-profit community development initiative

By DANIEL HOROWITZ

An historic chapter in the life of Toronto's Jewish community began last Friday as UJA Federation's $250 million Tomorrow Campaign – chaired by Gerry Schwartz and Larry Tanenbaum – was officially launched.

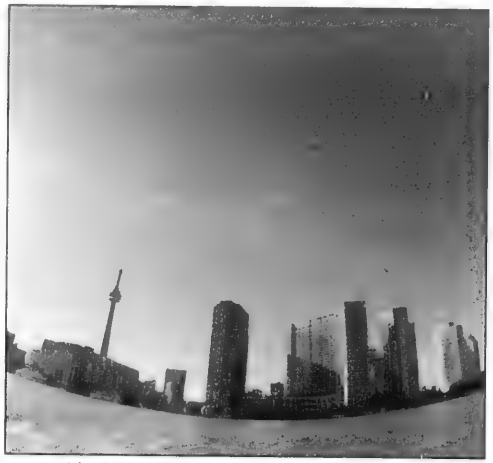
The Tomorrow Campaign is the largest, not-for-profit Jewish community infrastructure project in North American history, which will fund facilities, programs and services in three sections of the Greater Toronto Area – the downtown district, Central Square in the Bathurst-Sheppard area, and City North, on a 50-acre tract of York Region land. The programs and facilities to be provided cover health and wellness, hospital related services, education for children and adults, daycare, day camps, seniors' services and Holocaust remembrance.

"I applaud all those who devoted so much of their time and energy to make the Tomorrow Campaign a reality," said Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty. "This unique project – the largest Jewish community infrastructure project in Canadian history – promises to become a source of great strength, support and spirituality."

"From the visioning process right through to the nuts and bolts of business planning and architectural design, the Tomorrow Campaign is a true product of partnership, embodying the new face of philanthropy," said Leslie Gales, Chair, UJA Federation. "We started with a dream and are realizing it through a rigorous, diligent and partnered approach."

Also on hand at the launch at Toronto's Design Centre were Toronto Mayor David Miller, Vaughan Mayor Michael DiBiase, Ontario Finance Minister Greg Sobara, Joe Volpe, Federal Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, and master of ceremonies, Paul Godfrey, President and C.E.O. of the Toronto Blue Jays.

"As one of the fastest growing, most dynamic and culturally diverse Jewish communities in North America, we have a unique and powerful opportunity to contribute further to this great city of ours, through this unprecedented, pioneering initiative," said Schwartz.



The $250 million Tomorrow Campaign is the largest Jewish community infrastructure project in North American history.

"The Tomorrow Campaign is more than creating buildings," said Tanenbaum. "At a time of intolerant acts, directed at our community and others, we are expressing confidence in our remarkable city and contributing to the well-being of the entire GTA. We are addressing some of the most critical issues facing Toronto today – health, education and culture."

"The Jewish community is playing its role in the renaissance of Toronto's cultural and communal infrastructure," added UJA Federation President Ted Sokolsky. "The Tomorrow Campaign speaks of our contribution to a city that has allowed our community to flourish. It's all about helping to build a great city, featuring world-class architecture, ethnic diversity, and public space for all residents to enjoy. The Tomorrow Campaign is a precedent-setting non-profit venture for public benefit representing the new face of philanthropy, a marriage of communal vision and philanthropic entrepreneurship."

Central Square will include a new and revitalized Koffler Centre of the Arts.

City North will be built on 50 acres of prime York Region land.

Tomorrow's leaders

The unprecedented scope and ambition of UJA Federation's Tomorrow Campaign attracted two of Canada's most notable business leaders to chair the initiative - Gerry Schwartz and Larry Tanenbaum.

Schwartz, a native of Winnipeg, is best known as the founder of Onex Corporation.

In addition to his involvement with UJA Federation, Schwartz is vice-chairman and member of the executive committee of Mount Sinai Hospital, and a director, governor, or trustee of a number of other organizations, including Junior Achievement of Toronto, Canadian Council of Christians and Jews, and the Board of Dean's Advisors of the Harvard Business School.

Gerald W. Schwartz

"I am not a native Torontonian," says Schwartz. "Just like thousands of newcomers before us and after us, we were generously and warmly welcomed here, and we are all proud to be called Torontonians. I was propelled toward the Tomorrow Campaign by this over-riding pride in a remarkable city. Together, Central Square, City North and the Downtown District constitute a bold new benchmark for Canadian philanthropy and community development."

Lawrence W. Tanenbaum

Sports fans know Tanenbaum best as chairman of Maple Leafs Sports and Entertainment Limited for which he serves as the governor of the Toronto Raptors and the Toronto Maple Leafs. He is also chairman and CEO of Kilmer Van Nostrand Co. Limited – and serves as chairman of Kilmer Capital Partners, a private equity investment fund.

He is involved with numerous charities including Mount Sinai Hospital, Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care, Schulich School of Business, York University, and the National Board of the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews. Tanenbaum also serves on the executive committee of UJA Federation and co-chaired the 1998 UJA Federation annual campaign.

Both Schwartz and Tanenbaum are founding chairs of the Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy (CIJA), Canada's preeminent advocacy organization on issues of urgent Jewish concern.

"I was born in Toronto; I grew up here," says Tanenbaum. "My parents built a home brimming with values in a city that valued what we stood for. Hard work and collective concern for people in need. This city allowed us to flourish and we have been active participants in its growth. That's why I'm so excited to be associated with this unprecedented undertaking. This is a campaign that will change the face of our Jewish community and the entire GTA."

A thriving Jewish GTA

Toronto is one of the world's largest Jewish communities outside Israel and one of only a few Jewish centres worldwide with a growing Jewish population. In barely one generation, the community has doubled in size to close to 200,000 people - 75% of whom live in or within 3 – 5 miles of the Bathurst corridor.

- **Downtown District:**

An estimated 21,000 Jews live south of St. Clair.

- **Central Square:**

The central section of Jewish Toronto runs predominantly, but not exclusively, east and west of Bathurst Street and north of St. Clair. This is home to approximately 90,000 Jews.

- **City North:**

York Region boasts 60,000 Jews, the third largest Jewish community in Canada - more than Vancouver, Ottawa and Winnipeg combined. It's also one of the fastest growing Jewish populations in North America. The push northward along the Bathurst corridor has brought with it unprecedented needs for the families, children, seniors and newcomers who make up our burgeoning Jewish population.

JEWISH TORONTO IS PUBLISHED AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

The Tomorrow Campaign

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto has unveiled Canada's largest not-for-profit community development project – one of the boldest in North American history. Through the Tomorrow Campaign, UJA Federation, along with its community partners, will invest an unprecedented $250 million in three sections of the GTA, funding programs covering health and wellness, hospital related services, seniors, education for children of all ages, daycare, day camps and Holocaust remembrance. The three regions encompassed in the Tomorrow Campaign are Central Square, City North and Downtown District.

By EILEEN CHADNICK

City North

York Region is experiencing larger population growth than virtually any other North American urban area. Today it boasts 60,000 Jews, the third largest Jewish community in Canada - more than Vancouver, Ottawa and Winnipeg combined. It's also one of the fastest growing Jewish populations in North America.

To serve these growing needs, UJA Federation is developing a multifaceted campus on 50 prime acres of York Region.

City North, at the intersection of Bathurst Street and Weldrick Road, between Rutherford Road and Major Mackenzie, will be the site of a 21st century metropolitan experience. City North will feature beautiful indoor and outdoor public spaces, gardens, a ravine, courtyards, and streets that will serve as a shared backdrop for the 200,000 square foot Community Services Complex. The complex will house a diverse range of agencies, services and programs; the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT); elementary schools; and a Mount Sinai Hospital ambulatory clinic.

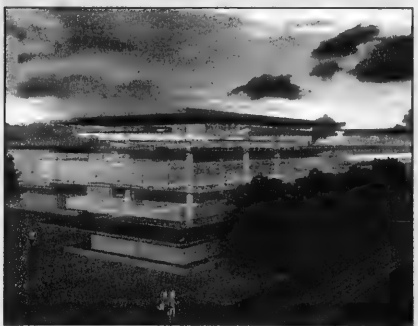
"We are now feeling the pulse of this community, which has responsed to City North with excitement and anticipation. We look forward to welcoming all residents of York Region to this outstanding facility."

-- City North Development Chair, Leo Goldhar

"The Vaughan Campus will benefit everyone, not only the Jewish population," says Vaughan Mayor Michael DiBiase. "I am so pleased to be a part of this ambitious endeavor."

The campus will feature a diverse range of family and social services, fitness and health programs, plus administrative and cultural agencies to ensure that City North becomes the location of choice for York Region residents. There will be a range of indoor and outdoor educational, camping, child care, sports, conference and meeting facilities for all ages.

City North is also working with a number of strategic partners to bring other world-class services to York Region.



City North will sit on 50 prime acres at the corner of Bathurst and Weldrick in the city of Vaughan.

Central Square

For over 40 years, the Central Square area, anchored by the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre (BJCC), has been the heartbeat of modern Jewish life in Toronto. Founded on the vision and tradition of caring for the Jewish community, it has provided cultural, social and community resources ever since Jews began migrating northward from downtown.

After four decades, the community spirit remains undaunted but time has taken a toll on the centre's physical infrastructure.

That's where the Tomorrow Campaign's Central Square comes in.

The new initiative is an ambitious, $100 million redevelopment on Bathurst, north of Sheppard, that will transform the BJCC site which also houses the Koffler Centre of the Arts, and the Lipa Green Building for Jewish Community Services, by creating a state-of -the -art facility and a vibrant hub of cultural, educational, athletic, recreational and communal life. Situated in the geographic heart of Jewish Toronto, within a magnificent ravine setting, Central Square will be host to eight Centres of Excellence – each serving a distinct need and aspiration.

A New and Revitalized Koffler Centre of the Arts

A vibrant focal point for teaching, exhibition and performance, The Koffler Centre of the Arts will provide audiences with programs that enlighten and entertain.

The Centre for Jewish Knowledge and Learning

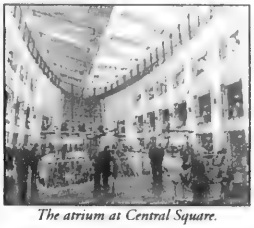
This facility will host a state-of-the-art multi-media educational resource centre and offer an extensive array of programming to invigorate Jewish learning and life.

The Centre for Collective Memory and Understanding

This centre will be a powerful resource that educates the community about the history and lessons of the Holocaust, memorializes those who perished, and offers a vibrant and active outreach and advocacy program that teaches tolerance and understanding.

"Central Square, through its bold architecture and innovative programming will showcase the best that our community has to offer and set a new benchmark for excellence."

-- Central Square Development Team Chair, Peter Cohen



The atrium at Central Square.

Children's Education Centre

Having established a reputation for excellence in the provision of early childhood education, the BJCC will continue to offer dynamic daycare and preschool programs - providing children with a "healthy Jewish start."

The Centre for Active Seniors

Dedicated to nourishing the mind and spirit of older members of our community, this centre will be committed to enriching the lives of its participants and promoting positive interaction among the generations.

Centre for Health, Wellness and Recreation

Continuing as a leader in this area, the BJCC will provide a comprehensive, holistic approach to health, wellness and lifetime fitness activities in beautiful new state-of –the-art facilities.

Centre for Celebration

The Centre for Celebration will be a fully equipped suite of meeting facilities and commercial services that respond to a wide range of community needs.

Community Services Centre

This centre will welcome each and every person who walks through its doors and embrace the services that it offers. Dedicated to caring for the welfare of the Jewish community, its programs will reach out to those in need and provide support services to families and individuals.

Downtown District

An estimated 21,000 Jews reside in downtown Toronto - south of St. Clair - making it one of North America's few growing Jewish communities in the city core. Today, the Downtown District serves more than 60,000 people a year – Jews and non-Jews alike.

The Downtown District is anchored by the new Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre at Bloor and Spadina and The Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life at Harbord and Huron. Together these two exciting projects – already up and running - are propelling downtown Toronto into a new era – building on the roots of Jewish culture while reaching out to the wider cultural mosaic of the surrounding community - bringing new vitality and vibrancy to the downtown core.

The Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre is the sparkling new 65,000 square foot, $18 million structure replacing the landmark Bloor Jewish Community Centre (JCC) at Spadina and Bloor. Already, the Miles Nadal Centre is the new downtown home for athletics, health, wellness, arts, spirituality, education and culture. The Centre houses the new 350-seat, multi-purpose Green Family Theatre. It is also home to the Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School.

The Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life

The $4.5 million Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life which opened in March, is the spiritual, intellectual and social centre of Jewish life on campus at the University of Toronto. Housed in a new 14,000 square foot building, the Wolfond Centre unites 4,500 Jewish students from U of T and welcomes the university community at large to experience the beauty of Jewish life.

These centres are serving as the cornerstones of Jewish life for the entire downtown Jewish community, and a bridge between all generations.

Any questions concerning information or photos that appear on these pages should be directed to jewishtorontonews@ujafed.org

JEWISH TORONTO IS PUBLISHED AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

כולל KOLEL TIKKUN LEYL SHAVUOT שבועות

Study all night long with Kolel, Congregation Darchei Noam, the First Narayever Congregation, Congregation Beth Haminyan and The Danforth Jewish Circle.

Erev Shavuot, Tuesday, May 25, 9:30 PM-6:00 AM!

151 Eglinton Ave. W. (4 blocks west of Yonge)

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(Kids are welcome— bring sleeping bags— we have babysitters through the night!)

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9:30 PM	Opening Dvar Torah: "A Study in Study" Baruch Sienna, Kolel
10:00 PM	Torah "Disrobed Again: Joseph and Mrs. Potiphar." Rabbi Tina Grimberg, Congregation Darchei Noam
11:00 PM	Nevi'im "Will the Rea! Elijah Please Stand Up?" Professor Benzion Shapiro, Professor Emeritus in the Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto - Beth Haminyan
12:00 AM	Ketuvim "Ruth: Looking for Love in All the Wrong Places." Professor Sara Horowitz, Associate Director, Centre for Jewish Studies, York University and Professor Jonathan Richler - First Narayever Congregation
1:00 AM	Ice Cream Break
1:30 AM	Rabbinic Texts "What's Most Important in Life?" Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, Kolel
2:30 AM	Siddur "A Blessing on Their Heads? – A Jewish Liturgical Response to Israel's Enemies" Rabbi Ed Elkin, First Narayever Congregation
3:30 AM	Zohar "Normative Mysticism: Zohar for the Masses" Dr. Seymour Epstein, Executive Director, UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education - Beth Haminyan
4:30 AM 5:00 AM	Break for Shavuot Delicacies Concluding Dvar Torah

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Teen Tikkun for those in high school

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9:30 PM	Krispy Kreme and Chat
10:00 PM	"Go ahead, Make My Day: Judaism on Iraq, Afghanistan, Yigal Amir, Targeted Assassinations and Self-Defense" Rabbi Ed Elkin, First Narayever Congregation
11:00 PM	"From Nose Rings to Nipple Rings: Judaism and the Body" Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, Kolel
12:00 AM	"My Identity: What do I See When i Look into a *Jewish* Mirror?" Rabbi Tina Grimberg, Congregation Darchei Noam
1:00 AM	Ice Cream Break
1:30 AM	"Human Sexuality in the Bible" Dr. Seymour Epstein, UJA Board of Jewish Education

For more info: 416-485-7007
e-mail: learn@kolel.org; www.kolel.org

Dietary laws observed

This event generously supported by the Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Foundations and co-sponsored by

כולל KOLEL

Congregation Darchei Noam — First Narayever Congregation — Congregation Beth Haminyan קהילת בית המנין — The Danforth Jewish Circle

Greater Toronto Area

Leading U.S. peacenik coming to Toronto

Rabbi Michael Lerner, editor of the leftist *Tikkun* magazine, co-chair of the Tikkun community and a leading voice in the Jewish Renewal movement, is coming to Canada for the first time for two events this month.

The first is "Spirit Matters: Wisdom Traditions and the Great Work," from May 13-16. Hosted by the Transformative Learning Centre at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), the conference will bring together a wide array of spiritual luminaries who will discuss and explore the teachings of over a dozen religions and traditions for the "wellbeing of the Earth community."

For details, contact Gayle Grisdale at 416-267-2185.

Rabbi Michael Lerner

The second event, titled "Building Bridges: Spiritual Politics and Reconciliation at Home and in the Middle East" is described as the first major effort of the Tikkun community of Toronto "to help to spread the Tikkun vision."

It takes place at the YMCA, 20 Grosvenor St., Toronto.

The gathering opens on the evening of May 15 with an address by Rabbi Lerner, followed by a musical celebration.

The next day will begin with the sharing of transformative stories, including by Rabbi Lerner. The rest of the day is to be devoted to workshops and activities on healing Israel/Palestine; spiritual politics; addressing the culture of fear; using religious celebrations creatively; and peace gardens/Earth spirituality. For information, call 416-762-5867.

There will also be a Tikkun Renewal Kabbalat Shabbat minyan on May 14 and a Shabbat morning Torah study and prayer session the next day.

Tikkun magazine has been described by the *New York Times* as "one of the most influential and innovative voices in American intellectual, cultural and political life," and the Tikkun community has been described as an international interfaith organization for peace, social justice and ecological sanity.

The Toronto chapter is billed as "a community inspired by a diversity of spiritual and social justice traditions and committed to tikkun olam, a Jewish belief in healing and transforming the world and ourselves. We work through the arts, politics and inclusive spirituality in a manner that is caring, creative, collaborative and fun."

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MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL

Open Meeting of the Board of Directors of Mount Sinai Hospital

Wed., May 19, 2004

12 noon-2 p.m.

Mount Sinai Hospital, 600 University Avenue, Executive Board Room, Main Floor

To confirm attendance or to receive agenda and procedures, contact the Corporate Secretary at 416-586-5082

JEWISH CLEAN-UP: Members of the Mosaic Outdoor Club of Ontario recently gathered to participate in Toronto Mayor David Miller's Community Clean-up. These environmentally conscious adults spent several hours picking up trash in the Bayview and Sheppard area of Toronto. Mosaic Outdoor Club of Ontario (MOCO) is a voluntary, not-for-profit organization that provides quality group experiences to foster the development of outdoor knowledge and a respect for the environment in a Jewish context. In addition, Mosaic seeks to provide a positive social atmosphere for sharing those experiences. Membership is open to individuals 19 years of age and older. The group offers a wide variety of activities, including hiking, biking, skating and many other outdoor and indoor events. For more information about MOSAIC, visit http://www.mosaictoronto.org/. Seen here, from left, Ken Gavendo, Gail Clenman, Shayla Gunter-Goldstein, organizer of the MOSAIC event, Sheldon Goldstein, and Jack Goldstein. [Jack Goldstein photo]

Lawyers help feed the hungry at Osgoode Hall

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

For Elana Mayers, 15, sleeping late on Sunday mornings is a thing of the past.

Every week since September, Elana jumps out of bed and heads downtown to Osgoode Hall with her father Harvey, an optometrist, to help out at a brunch run by the "Lawyers Feed the Hungry" program.

The 10 a.m., one-hour brunch, which often feeds up to 400 people, mostly men, is one of three weekly meals – there is also a Wednesday dinner and a Thursday breakfast – funded by the Law Society of Upper Canada.

The program is the brainchild of Toronto lawyer Martin Teplitsky, who says that, after volunteering at an Out-of the Cold program, he decided lawyers should do something to help the homeless and people who don't have enough money to eat properly.

"We started with the Thursday breakfast, and then added Wednesday's dinner. Four years ago, we added the Sunday brunch."

On Sundays, guests are served juice and cereal, a hot meal, dessert and coffee or tea, and are then sent on their way with a bagged lunch.

Elana says she began volunteering at the brunch in order to make up the 40 hours of community service work required of Ontario public secondary school students over their four years of high school. She has long since made up those hours, however, and says she plans to continue volunteering every week.

She gets there each week by 8:30 a.m. to help set tables and prepare the bag lunches. "I know the guests appreciate what I'm doing. I couldn't just stop coming."

Although she only engages guests in small talk, she gets to know some of them, she says. "Ken, who has an extensive vocabulary, chooses to live on the street because he enjoys the freedom. Another man who always wears a fur hat likes telling me about his daughter.

"When Gord's glasses broke, my father figured out his prescription and made him a new pair. Gord is very happy with them."

Elana says she always wonders how the guests "have ended up where they are, but I never ask. I try to be sensitive."

Linda Pasternak, a lawyer who teaches law at Seneca College, started coming when her daughter needed her community service hours. "Our aim is to give the guests a quiet sanctuary. The food is good and the quality of service is good. The guests appreciate it."

One of her students, Jason Lewis, has also been coming out for about one year because, "I enjoy the camaraderie with the other volunteers, and I like the fact that I'm helping out."

Volunteer Carol Carson, has had a resource manual prepared for volunteers and guests.

"One family has a place to live but has no furniture. I was able to tell them where to find assistance. Another man was looking for work painting or cleaning eavestroughs. I gave him some ideas on where to look.

Volunteers gather every Sunday to help feed the hungry. [Harvey Mayers photo]

"We stay on the periphery. We never intrude on people, but we can't just serve them food and walk away. If they ask us something, we like to help out," says Carson, who also helps out at Holy Blossom Temple's Out of the Cold program and on Ve'ahavta's street van.

"We get as much out of the program as the guests. They nourish us, as well. Many of them have told us that we are the only stability they have," she says.

Mike, a regular guest, says that "Carol brightens our day. She makes us feel part of her family."

Michael Bronskill, a medical physicist, and his wife Patricia started volunteering about 3½ years ago when their son David, then a law student, "dragged us down.

"Now, we're all here every week. Its a family thing. A volunteer organization is like a delicate flower. It has to be fed."

Teplitsky says volunteers don't have to sign up.

"Whoever comes, comes. We trust in God, and volunteers are always there."

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Architects changing the face of Jewish Toronto

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Susan Friedrich and Guela Solow-Ruda are the two architects responsible for the changing face of Jewish Toronto's south and north ends.

Friedrich designed the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life, which opens officially this month. The 12,000-square-foot building, which will be part of the annual Doors Open Toronto event on May 29 and 30, is the new home of Hillel of Greater Toronto and serves 4,500 Jewish students through Hillel at the University of Toronto. It is located on Harbord Street, just west of U of T's Robarts Library.

Solow-Ruda is responsible for the Vaughan Jewish campus, like the Wolfond Centre one of the main projects of Jewish Toronto Tomorrow, an initiative of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto. Its fundraising campaign, known as the Tomorrow Campaign, was launched last week. The multi-purpose complex bounded by Bathurst Street, Rutherford Road, Dufferin Street and Major Mackenzie Drive in Richmond Hill, is slated to include Jewish schools, agencies, residential, health and other facilities. The groundbreaking for its first building, the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, is scheduled for March 2005, with the school expected to open in Sept. 2006.

Both Friedrich and Solow-Ruda, as children of Holocaust survivors, derive a particular personal satisfaction from their involvement in these projects.

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To Susan Friedrich, who immigrated to Canada in 1966 at age 6, designing the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life – headquarters of Hillel of Greater Toronto and new home base for Hillel at the University of Toronto – felt like a "once in a lifetime" opportunity.

Susan Friedrich

"The reason the project is so exciting for me is that I'm a child of survivors," said the Toronto-based architect, who was born in Romania to Hungarian parents. "We lost the majority of our family, so the opportunity to build something like this for students and for future generations is a dream project."

Friedrich's 2,000-square-foot storefront office, where she heads a staff of six, overlooks a modest multicultural retail streetscape on St. Clair Ave. W., east of Christie Street. The narrow, two-storey space is naturally lit by a skylight above the open staircase. A distinctive free-form steel railing, which served as a conceptual prototype for the one Friedrich designed for the Wolfond Centre, borders the stairs.

In the new building, the staircase running from the main floor student lounge to the basement multi-purpose room – which can accommodate 150 for Shabbat dinner – has a cobalt blue railing made up of fan-shaped spokes. Like the railing in Friedrich's office, it allows natural light to pass through. With its bold colour that alludes to the Israeli flag repeated on select walls, it is what Friedrich calls a unifying element.

Aside from its colour and openness, there is nothing particularly symbolic about the railing, but there are many overt (and less overt) references to Jewish tradition elsewhere in the 12,000-square-foot building.

The skylit canopied entrance, for example, subtly echoes the design of the Hebrew letters that form the word "chai" (life). Jerusalem stone was used both inside and outside the building, and a wooden pergola, serving as a second-floor sukkah deck outside a spacious naturally lit study room, recalls the wooden roofs of traditional eastern European synagogues.

"But," says Friedrich, "the truth is, there's no such thing as Jewish architecture," particularly when it comes to buildings that are not synagogues. Jewish buildings typically reflect the indigenous architecture of their location, she noted.

To bring in Jewish symbolic elements, Friedrich did "a lot of research."

Her mandate included creating a building that would be a symbol of Jewish pride, as well as a landmark and at the same time a welcoming place for students, faculty and members of the community.

One of the features that expresses what Friedrich calls "a homey kind of quality" is the three-sided fireplace in the main-floor lounge. In addition, she notes, the image of fire is often used as a symbol in Jewish buildings and art, to commemorate the eternal flame.

An alumna of the University of Waterloo, Friedrich completed her architecture studies in 1983 and has devoted much of her career to educational facilities and special needs buildings including non-profit and barrier-free housing, a group home for autistic adults and several women's shelters.

An active member of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's real estate cabinet for at least 15 years, Friedrich will be among the recipients of the organization's Shem Tov award in June for volunteer service in the community. She was nominated by the Kehilla Residential Programme, where she serves on two affiliated boards. She has also won awards for her professional work.

In the past 20 years, however, Friedrich has never designed anything quite like the Wolfond Centre. Although there are several such buildings at Ivy League universities in the United States, to the best of Friedrich's knowledge, the Wolfond Centre is the first purpose-built Hillel House in Canada.

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"The People's Voice" Event

Join us to learn about a grassroots Middle East peace initiative – "The People's Voice" - Signing for Peace

The Honourable Bob Rae,
Former Premier of Ontario
Opening remarks

Ami Ayalon,
Former head of the Shin Bet (the Israeli Intelligence) and the Israeli Navy

Prof. Sari Nusseibeh,
President of Al Quds University, East Jerusalem
Presentation and Q&A

Invitation Committee

Mr. Bob Rae, Event chair
Mr. Eph Diamond, Ms. Joan Garson, Mr. Milton Harris
Mr. Elias Hazineh, Dr. Chaviva Hosek, Ms. Arlene Perly Rae

May 19, 2004 - 8 PM (doors open at 7 PM)
Holy Blossom Temple *1950 Bathurst Street, Toronto*
Free admission - Limited Seating

The People's Voice is an Israeli-Palestinian civil initiative, aimed at building public support for a permanent and final agreement between the Israelis and the Palestinians. The People's Voice has launched a public process of enlisting popular support on both sides. To date more than 180,000 Israelis and 140,000 Palestinians have signed the terms of agreement. Information about the initiative can be found at **http://www.mifkad.org.il/eng/**.

This is an opportunity for Canadians of all backgrounds to educate themselves on a grassroots peace initiative in the Middle East, and help Israelis and Palestinians come together to resolve their differences.

For more information send an email to **toronto@mifkad.org.il**

Architect says JTT project like 'building a little city'

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

It's not an exaggeration to say that the 50-acre "campus" being planned in York Region as part of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's three-pronged Jewish Toronto Tomorrow (JTT) project is unprecedented.

JTT, which was announced in 2000, has already wrought major changes in the downtown core, with the renovation of the Miles Nadal JCC at the corner of Bloor Street and Spadina Avenue, and the building of the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life, which has its official opening this month. Its second focus, the site of the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and the Lipa Green building is also scheduled for a major redesign, with a new building in the works to replace the current JCC and Leah Posluns Theatre.

But the 50-acre campus bounded by Bathurst Street, Rutherford Road, Dufferin Street and Major Mackenzie Drive in Richmond Hill, represents the biggest change for the Greater Toronto Area, with its innovative, multi-faceted design that will include schools, agencies, child-care centres, residential and fitness facilities in a pedestrian-friendly setting that will incorporate elements of nature.

"It's sort of like building a little city," said Guela Solow-Ruda, the award-winning architect behind the plans. Of almost 200 Jewish communities in the federation system, approximately 30 have such campuses – among them the Asper campus in Winnipeg – although they don't have the same type of outdoor public space that is being planned here, she said.

Solow-Ruda – a partner in Petroff Partnerships Architects whose previous projects include the Apotex Centre at the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care and two renovations at Adath Israel Congregation – works in the firm's downtown office, a light-filled former warehouse with exposed brick walls and ample open space. The building serves as the firm's non-profit branch. Its Markham branch is geared to commercial clients; a third office is in Shanghai.

Guela Solow-Ruda

The campus project, said Solow-Ruda, is "really about creating a place for ordinary Jewish life. It's not about the production of an architectural masterpiece."

But the plans – particularly those aspects reminiscent of European arcades in London, Milan and Lyon – elicited many oohs and aahs from an audience of York Region residents seeing it for the first time at a launch event last November.

The York region area that the campus will serve has a Jewish population of 60,000, third in Canada only to Toronto and Montreal.

Solow-Ruda's initial concept was limited to what would fit in the designated space – "a standard exercise," she said.

But when Ted Sokolsky, now president of the federation, told her that the organization wanted to build a community, "it threw the urban design door wide open to us," said Solow-Ruda.

Patricia Tolkin Eppel, the federation's director of planning for York region, explained that when a child goes to play basketball on the new campus, "in our minds, he's going in to build community."

Solow-Ruda noted that the involvement of federation staff and a 12-member steering committee is one of the "really exceptional" aspects of the project. "Usually there's more of an arms-length relationship between the visionaries and the doers."

With Sokolsky's vision in mind, Solow-Ruda and her team began to research sites in Europe, North America and Israel, taking note of "what kinds of public rooms foster community life, a sense of civilization and identity.

"We looked at urban examples [like Boston's Faneuil Hall] and tried to make them have meaning for everybody in the community from elderly to newborns, the more fortunate and the less fortunate."

"There's nothing of this scale in the Toronto area," said Solow-Ruda.

A graduate of the University of Toronto in 1985, Solow-Ruda did part of her training in Florence. A child of Holocaust survivors with no extended family in Canada, the Toronto-born architect – who has relatives in Europe, Mexico, Israel and the United States – said she feels at home in many cities. She believes her family background has given her "a kind of global vision. I think the experience of the Holocaust really does colour how you look at the world."

The Vaughan campus project is very dear to her heart, she said. All projects that are "for a cause" have an ephemeral goal, she explained. In this case, the goal involves "enhancing Jewish life and ensuring the continuity of Jewish life in Toronto."

The project materials – in this case stone, and steel and glass – represent "our ancient roots" and "our future and our optimism" respectively.

"A good piece of architecture reads on many levels," said Solow-Ruda. "We want it to speak to the whole community."

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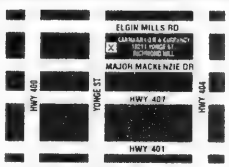

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Canadians ride for Reform Judaism in Israel

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Rabbi Sharon Sobel figured that participating on a five-day fundraising bike ride in Israel would be a great way to support the country's Reform movement, but she didn't realize just how challenging an experience it would be.

"I thought it would be a great way to raise awareness of the Israeli Reform movement – and a great way to go and physically support the work they do," she said. The executive director of ARZA Canada, the Zionist arm of Reform Judaism, also raised the most money of the 20 Israeli and North American participants, about $16,000 (Cdn).

Rabbi Sobel, one of four Canadian participants, is a fitness buff and avid cyclist but wasn't prepared for the kind of off-road biking she did on the 350-km first annual Bike Ride for the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism (IMPJ), held in late March to raise money for the movement's schools and educational programs in Israel.

"The first day we had 12 river crossings," Rabbi Sobel recalled of their route from Nahariya to Jerusalem. "We had to walk across the river with our bikes."

Referring to the rocky and steep terrain the cyclists encountered, Rabbi Sobel admitted that she "would have been more comfortable on a paved surface.

An additional challenge was a fall on the second day that left her knees, shin and arm badly bruised and scraped but did not deter her from continuing.

Among the Canadians who took part in the bike ride was Rabbi Sharon Sobel and (inset) Stephen Wise.

In fact, fellow Canadian Noah Spector, a 24-year-old mountain bike instructor at the Reform movement's Camp George for the past three years, may have been the only participant not to fall.

A recent bachelor of social work recipient from Carleton University and a grade 8 and 9 teacher at Ottawa's Temple Israel, Spector said he considered the level of the ride intermediate to advanced.

Spector, who raised $2,500, trained over the winter in large part by doing cardio-related exercise like cross-country skiing, only getting back on his bike a week before the event.

The sense of community he saw in Reform schools in places like Modi'in and Mevaseret Zion was a particularly striking aspect of the trip, he recalls.

The cyclists also visited some of the 12 Reform congregations in Israel, but the best part, according to Rabbi Sobel, was the opportunity for North Americans and Israelis to spend time together.

She said that "you would not have known you were in a country going through turmoil," despite the assassination on the second day of their trip of Hamas leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin. Even riding through Arab villages, Rabbi Sobel said, people were "so supportive."

Stephen Wise, a Toronto native now in his fourth year of rabbinical studies at Hebrew Union College in New York City, took part because he wanted to raise funds for and awareness about the Reform movement in Israel, and also to see a different aspect of the country. Coincidentally, Rabbi Sobel served at his synagogue, Holy Blossom Temple, when he was growing up.

Surprisingly, Wise doesn't even own a bike. "I guess I didn't really think it was going to be that hard," he said, referring to his generally good fitness level. But, he added, it was only by the fourth or fifth day that he was able to ascend the mountains without stopping to walk for a bit.

He would "definitely" take part again. "It was pretty remarkable," he said.

"Sometimes people get the feeling that Reform in Israel is mostly North Americans, and that [native] Israelis are either Orthodox or secular," said Wise, who raised about $4,500 (US). He was "pretty impressed" by the number of Israelis on the ride and the Israeli children he saw in Reform nursery schools.

Rabbi Sobel noted that Israeli parents are looking for ways to give their children "a spiritual upbringing, but not from an Orthodox perspective." The Reform movement, she said, is becoming a viable option.

TOMORROW campaign

Leslie Gales, Chair of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, is pleased to announce the appointments of Peter Cohen as Chair of the Tomorrow Campaign Central Square Development Team and Leo Goldhar as Chair of the Tomorrow Campaign City North Development Team.

Leo Goldhar

Peter Cohen

Peter Cohen is the President and CEO of the Dawsco Group, a private real estate and investment company. Leo Goldhar is the President of Whitehorn Investments Ltd. and founder of First Professional Management Inc.

The Tomorrow Campaign is Canada's largest not for profit community development project, investing $250 million in three areas of the GTA. Stretching from downtown Toronto, through the Bathurst/Sheppard district, and north to York Region, it will fund facilities and programs providing community services, recreation, health and wellness, seniors' services, education, arts and culture, child care, day camps and Jewish heritage. For more information on how you can participate in the Tomorrow Campaign, please call 416.631.5828.

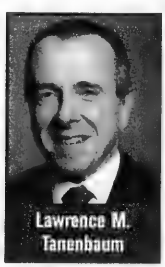
The Tomorrow Campaign is an initiative of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

UJA FEDERATION

TOMORROW campaign

Leslie Gales, Chair of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, is pleased to announce the Chairs of the Tomorrow Campaign, Gerald W. Schwartz and Lawrence M. Tanenbaum.

Gerald W. Schwartz


Lawrence M. Tanenbaum

Gerry Schwartz is the Chairman, President and CEO of Onex Corporation. Larry Tanenbaum is the Chairman of Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment, and Chairman and CEO of Kilmer Van Nostrand Co. Ltd. Both Mr. Schwartz and Mr. Tanenbaum are Board Members with many of Canada's most notable non-profit organizations.

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The Tomorrow Campaign is an initiative of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

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Funny, you don't look Jewish

Community no longer only white and Ashkenazi, panel says

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Since 1984, when the Israeli government airlifted jets full of Ethiopian Jews, the landscape of Jewish faces has changed, says Rabbi Jordan Cohen, associate director of Kolel: the Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning.

Speaking at the launch of a recent three-week series titled "Funny, You Don't Look Jewish," Rabbi Cohen said that no longer is a gathering of Jews dominated by white, Ashkenazi faces. "The racial diversity of a Jew is ever more prevalent in our society."

Also on the panel was Hamilton physician and convert, Dr. Tony McFarland, who is originally from Jamaica, and Claudette Edgehill, a native of Guyana who converted to Judaism in 1996.

"Through conversion, adoption, immigration and contact with Jews from previously remote communities around the world, it is becoming increasingly more obvious that Jews can came from any culture or nationality," Rabbi Cohen said.

"Jews of colour, and multicultural Jewish families, [however] still face unique challenges of integration in the Jewish community," he said.

Having worked and lived for three years among the Jewish communities of Asia, Rabbi Cohen said that he counselled many Asian women who converted to Judaism after becoming involved with Jewish men, as well as a number of North American families who adopted Asian children.

Linda and Jeffrey Cutler with their daughter Shoshana Kayla Shifeng.

"[With children], the question becomes 'How do I raise my child to identify and appreciate Judaism, but at the same time learn about the heritage given to them at birth?'

"The questions are enormous, and the answers are only starting to flow out," he said.

Among those trying to deal with this issue are Linda and Jeffrey Cutler, who last summer adopted a daughter, Shoshana Kayla Shifeng, from China.

The Cutlers, who also have two special needs children ages 9 and 7, wanted to find a way for their new baby to grow up comfortable being Jewish, so they decided to contact other parents.

With the help of Rabbi Reuven Tradburks of Kehillat Shaarei Torah Congregation, they started an e-mail list, and they had about 28 responses to an ad in *The CJN's* What's New column about a Chanukah party.

They have since formed the Jewish-Asian Society. "We know that our daughter may have some issues, but meeting other people from multi-racial families will help. We do not want her to feel isolated," said Linda, a family physician.

They want their daughter to learn about her roots, said Jeffrey, a lawyer who is now on parental leave. "That is who she is. She is also Canadian and Jewish. She is a blend of three cultures. Our challenge is to help her with her identity."

McFarland says it is important to him to blend his birth culture with his identity as a Jew, and each year he goes to Jamaica to celebrate the High Holy Days.

Edgehill said that when she emigrated from Guyana, she babysat for a Jewish family and helped them celebrate Shabbat each week. "That was my opening to Jewish life, I got so involved in the ritual that I began learning more about it. I eventually studied at Adath Israel Congregation.

"I cannot put into words why I did it, but the congregants opened their arms and welcomed me. I am blessed to be in such a synagogue."

We all have barriers around us to protect ourselves, said Rabbi Cohen, "but sometimes [those barriers] get in the way of looking at who can be a Jew."

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(די קעניגין וועט עפענען די טירן יוני 8)

פון לייבל ביילין, קאָפענהאַגען

שוין 20 יאָר ווי מיר האָרעווען אויף דעם אָרט היינטיקן יאָר וועט מען קענען זען דעם רעזולטאַט. אָלע יאָרן האָבן מיר גענומלט געלט צו עפענען אַ מחנה — סאיז ניט קיין קלייניקייט צו עפענען אַ מחנה. דער „דענישׂ־יידישער מחנה" וועט עפענען די טירן דעם 8טן יוני אין עפענען וועט ניט אבי ווער, נאָר אונדזער קעניגין מאַרגאַרעטע די צווייטע וועט זיך בראש דער דעלעגאַציע. דענמאַרקס קעניגלעכע משפחה איז אָלע מאָל גע־וען אונדזער טייערע „משפחה". יידן וווינען שוין דאָ איבער 400 יאָר, איינגעלאָדן פון קעניג קריסטיאַן דער פערטער אין יאָר 1600.

נאָך אַזוי פיל יאָרן איז שוין צייט מיר זאָל האָבן אַן אייגענעם מחנה. מיר האָבן די גרעסטע יידישע ביבליא־טעק אין אידאָפע — אַן אָפּטיילונג פון דער קעניגלעכער ביבליאָטעק. אוך איצט וועלן מיר אויך האָבן אַ מחנה. דאָנעבל ליבעסקינד האָט אויסגעצייכנט דעם מחנה אין דער געבייד פון דער קעניגלעכער ביבליאָטעק. עס האָט באַקומען דעם נאָמען „אַ מצווה" — אַ דאַנק פאַר ראָטע־וען אונדז אין 1943.

מיר האָבן גאָר אַ סך צו וויסן דער וועלט. כּזואָל דאָ דערמאָנען, אַז מיין פאָטער, דער יידיש־לערער, שמואל ביילין, איז געווען דער שרייבער פון „בונד" סטאָטוטן אין קאָפּאַלאָ פון דער דעמאָלטיקער יידישער ביבליא־טעק. ער איז געווען דער אינסטרוקטאָר פונעם יידישן טעאַטער אין דאָ ליגן אָלע פראָגראַמען פון 1906 ביז זיין לעצטן טאָג אין 1959. עס געפינען זיך אויך בריוו פון גרויסע פערזענלעכקייטן צו מיין פאָטער. מען קען דאָ זען ביכער פון הענריק איבסען אין יידיש; יידישע צייטונ־גען פון לאָנג יאָרן צוריק; אַ גאַנצער בארג מיט קאָרט־לער פון אָלע עקן וועלט; שיינע חפצים פון יידישע הימען אין נאָר אין נאָר. עס אנטווקלט זיך אַ פאָנא־ראָמע פון אונדזער יידיש לעבן, קלובן, שולן, אקטיוויטעטן אויף אָלע געביטן.

מען דאַרף גדענקען, אַז ביילין איז געווען דער שליח פון די נאָרדישע לענדער, וועלכער איז גפאָרן קיין פּא־ריז אין יאָר 1937 צו עטאַבלירן דעם „איקוף". וועגן דעם האָב איך געשריבן אין מיין בוך „מיין יידישער טאָטע אין איך", אילוסטרירט מיט גרויסע בילדער. אויך וועט מען זען דעם שול־מאַטעריאַל, וואָס ביילין האָט געגנבט, סיי אין די יאָרן פון פאַר דער מלחמה אין סיי פון נאָך דער מלחמה.

היינט איז אַזאַ יידיש לעבן, צום באַדויערן, ניט מעגלעך. די יידישע שפּראַך אין קולטור בי אונדז איז נאָר בלויז פאַר אַ מחנה. אָבער עס זיינען נאָך פאַראַן אַ קליינע צאָל יידן, וואָס האָבן ליב יידיש אין באַמיען זיך אנצוהאַלטן די שפּראַך. צוזאַמען מיט עטלעכע אַנדערע יידישיסטן האַלטן מיר אַן די „ראַדיאָ שלום", וווּ מאַמע־לשון ווערט געהערט.

מיט פרייד דערוואַרטן מיר די דערעפענונג פון אונ־זער יידישן מחנה דורך אונדזער קעניגין. דאָס וועט זיין אַ שמחה פאַר אַלעמען.

לייבל ביילין באָקומט פון אַ קאַנאַדער פריינד די יידישע קאָלומס פון אונדזער צייטונג, וואָס ער לייענט. ווי ער שרייבט, מיט גרויס הנאה. דאָ ווייל ער אַנווייזן אויף אַ יידישער געשעענעניש מעבר לים. מיר דאנקן אים מיט גרויס פאַרגעניגן און ווינשען זיי אַ האַרציקן מזל־טוב. - די רעדאַקציע.

Peace is possible, says former Shin Bet head

Continued from page 1

Ayalon, who commanded the Israeli navy from 1992 to 1996 before his tenure at Shin Bet, chuckled when asked whether the Palestinian national movement accepts Israel's existence as a Jewish state.

"Most Israelis believe the Palestinians want to throw them into the sea. But most Palestinians believe the Israelis want to throw them across the Jordan River."

Ayalon said the majority of Palestinians realize israel is here to stay, accept the Jewish state and know Palestinian refugees cannot settle there under a "right of return."

The People's Voice calls for Palestinian refugees to be settled in a demilitarized Palestinian state and for Jerusalem to be the capital of both states.

It is aiming to create grassroots momentum for a permanent agreement between Israel and the Palestinians through a signature campaign to induce politicians on both sides to settle the Arab-Israeli dispute.

So far, 180,000 Israelis and 140,000 Palestinians have signed.

"We hope to collect as many signatures as possble," said Ayalon. "The signatures are only a tool to create interest among politicians. We don't know how many signatures would be necessary to gain their attention. But if we get 500,000, it'll be great."

He said The People's Voice already has had an effect.

"I know they're influenced by what we're doing," he said in a reference to Israeli cabinet ministers. "I think we are very influential and could be even more influential."

Asked to substantiate his claim, Ayalon spoke of Deputy Minister Ehud Olmert's proposal for a unilateral redrawing of Israel's borders, an idea that has morphed into Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan for a withdrawal from the Gaza Strip .

> ***'Palestinians will have to fight the forces of terrorism and Islamic fundamentalism'***

"If someone had told me 12 months ago that Olmert would say something that comes very close to our initiative, a withdrawal to more or less the 1967 border, I would have said, 'You're crazy.'

"And if someone had told me that Silvan Shalom, our foreign minister, would say he supports a unilateral withdrawal, and a two-state solution, I would say, 'It's a dream.'"

Recent surveys show that upward of 70 per cent of Israelis and a lower percentage of Palestinians are in favour of the initiative, he said.

He said most Israelis refer his initiative to Yossi Beilin's Geneva accord.

"Geneva is perceived as an attempt by the left to regain political power and replace the present government. We're perceived as a non-partisan and civil society movement that deals with the future and the concerns of both sides."

Asked whether he agrees with Sharon's working assumption that Israel has no Palestinian negotiating partner, Ayalon replied, "We're not saying the current Palestinian leadership is reliable. To create a reliable partner, we have to start people-to-people talks. Then Palestinians and Israelis can influence their respective leaders."

Asserting it is not his business to pass judgment on the current crop of Palestinian leaders, Ayalon said, "I'm looking for a Palestinian leadership that can agree with our views. It's for the Palestinians to choose their leaders. But personally, I think Arafat has failed as a leader."

If a mutual peace agreement is to endure, he said, the Palestinians will have to fight the forces of terrorism and Islamic fundamentalism.

"Otherwise, we won't get security."

About a quarter of Jewish settlers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip will have to be brought back to Israel if a peace agreement is signed, Ayalon said.

A land exchange should be based on the precepts of security, demography and territorial contiguity, he added.

Sharon's plan for a unilateral withdrawal from Gaza is problematic, Ayalon said, adding, "It's not a plan, but simply one move. It's a plan only if we know where it will lead us. What's the destination?

"Whether it will lead to stability and a political process, or greater violence, is an open question."

Ayalon said he could support Sharon's plan if it is consistent with the internationally-sponsored road map peace plan and his vision of a settlement.

He said he did not know whether Sharon's ulterior motive is to trade Gaza for the West Bank.

"I've known Sharon for about 35, 40 years, and he's been successful in hiding what he wants," he said. "The role of leadership is to tell the people where they are being led.

"This has been the failure of our leadership in the past 10 years."

But Ayalon thinks Sharon is ready for a two-state solution.

"He understands this will be the future. He told us many years ago, 'There is a Palestinian state and let's discuss the borders.' He's pragmatic."

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On Campus

Two York U students disciplined

Two students have been disciplined in response to the March 16 clash between pro-Palestinian and anti-terrorist student activists in Vari Hall at York University.

York has expelled student activist Dan Freeman-Maloy for three years for repeatedly breaking university rules. Freeman-Maloy was one of the organizers of an unauthorized protest inside Vari Hall where students clashed during a checkpoint presentation (see "Pro and anti-Israel groups clash at York U," *The Canadian Jewish News*, March 25).

The event led to a one-week suspension of the activities of three campus groups including Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights, Hillel@York and Generations, a pro-Israel group.

Another student, Uri Nachim, is facing a hearing within the university for his participation in the day's events. This was Nachim's first offence.

University spokesperson Nancy White said Freeman-Maloy received several warnings verbally and in writing after he participated in an October 2003 anti-Israel Defence Force demonstration. Despite the warnings, he participated in the unauthorized, disruptive protest inside Vari Hall last month, she said.

"The expulsion cannot be appealed within the university," White said.

Hillel celebrates student accomplishments

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Almost three dozen students representing various Toronto campuses, along with an administrator from Ryerson University, were honoured last Thursday at the first-ever student awards night to be held at the new Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life.

The centre, which opens officially May 13, is "physical evidence that the community is invested in our students," said Agi Mandel, new president of the Hillel of Greater Toronto board.

"All of us here are well aware of the rise of anti-Semitic activities across our beloved country, in our cities and in the... campus communities," said honoree Leatrice Spevack, campus groups administrator at Ryerson University.

Spevack, who received a Founding Friend of the Campus award, said it was heartening that Jewish students were not only running for campus government positions but winning elections.

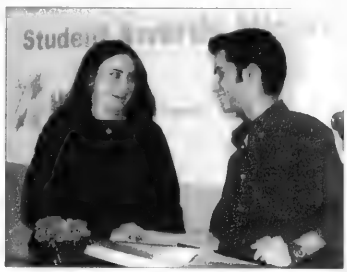
"It is our duty to support them and to encourage others to follow in their footsteps," she said. "The only way we can influence decisions and policy is by being part of the body that makes them."

She urged students not to "fall for" a double standard that holds them, "as the world holds Israel," to a higher standard, when they "respond in kind" to Israel-bashing.

Student awards specific to individual campuses went to Jonathan Krebs, David Goldberg and Alana Weinberg at Ryerson; Isaac Apter, Greg Bloch, Ya'el Santopinto, Lauren Parl and Lia Katz at the University of Toronto; Eric Levin, Adam Hummel, Lydia Mankovsky and Ariela Fuerstenberg at York University.

Other awards were citywide: Naomi Gryfe received UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's community engagement committee Award for Enhancing Jewish Identity and Continuity; Marissa Verskin, Jenny Herbert, Zvi Halpern and Shoshanna Lockshin, the Schwartz Family Award for Tzedek and Social Justice; Aliza Libman, *The Canadian Jewish News* Award for Communication; Daniel Heller, the Sidney Mendick Memorial Award for Building Pluralism and Diversity; Shira Zeliger, the Gropper Family Award for Outstanding Leadership; Sarah Nasser, Yaakov Roth and Jamie Garnet, the Paisley Manor Insurance Brokers Inc. Award for Special Involvement in Jewish Campus Life; Doron Berger and Michelle Landy, the Nechama and Ya'akov Kainer Award for Creative Programming; Jonathan Moshevich, the Lapowich Family Award for Israel Advocacy on Campus; Tova Sasson, Hillel of Greater Toronto's Award for Ongoing Commitment to Jewish Student Life; and Jordie Saperia, Alex Green, Victor Volfson, Daniel Steinberg and Gila Sasson, Hillel of Greater Toronto's Hadracha Award.

The awards exemplify the students' work, commitment and interest, said Zac Kaye, Hillel's executive director.



Jordie Saperia, president of Hillel@ York, congratulates Ariela Fuerstenberg on receiving a Hillel campus award. [Frances Kraft photo]

Torah, Torah, Torah
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From the Pulpit – Shacharit 8:45 a.m.
The Hertz Humash: The Case for Jewish Pride

Study Session in Chapel following Service
Multiple Torah Commentaries – Why?

Seudah-Shelisheet – Mincha 8:10 p.m.
The Creation Story: What Separates Orthodox and Conservative Judaism?

Rabbi Harvey Meirovich

Dean of the Rabbinical School of the Schechter Inst. of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem.

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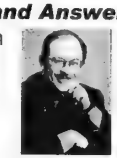

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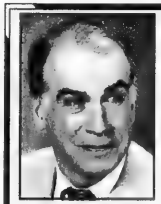

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•Saturday, May 29:
Was Communism in Russia Good for the Jews? – Shabbat morning sermon. Services begin at 8:45 a.m.
The Jewish Workers Pardise – Birobidzhan – Study luncheon following morning service. By reservation - cost.

•Sunday, May 30:
Can Jews flourish under the Current Russian Federation? – Breakfast following service at 9:00 a.m. Sponsored by the Men's Club - nominal charge.

בית צדק

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Workshop helps Israel advocates reach Canadians

By CARMI LEVY
Special to The CJN

LONDON — The Canada-Israel Committee's recent Israel advocacy workshop at the Jewish Community Centre has made its participants better equipped to deal with anti-Israel sentiment in the general public.

The London workshop, which taught participants how to craft effective pro-Israel messages for the general public, was part of a cross-Canada series initiated by the CIC after it became clear the old ways of getting the Jewish community's message across to the wider public were no longer effective.

"What we have been doing wrong is not adapting our message to our target audience," said Marra Messinger, CIC's director of community development. "As Jews, I think we assumed that 'we only have to tell the truth' and people will come onside.

"We did not really understand how to think outside of the box. We assumed because it was important to us, that all people – once they understood – would also think it was important."

Messinger said this approach was naive and routinely failed to reach the desired effect.

"The new approach makes us leave our little subjective microcosm, and deal with an objective reality."

She said the idea for a survey and subsequent workshops came when CIC chief executive officer Shimon Fogel decided the messages pro-Israel advocates were using were not working effectively. There was also an impression that everyday Canadians were sympathizing with the Palestinians rather than the Israelis, she adds.

The CIC commissioned an Ottawa public relations consulting firm to conduct a poll designed to find out what matters to everyday Canadians. Using the results, the CIC concluded the message needs to shift from the previous, almost automatic assumption that the Jewish perspective is the correct one, to one that identifies values common to all Canadians.

Messinger said among a wide range of findings, the survey suggested average Canadians do not generally perceive Israel as a modern democratic state. They still think about it in terrorist-related or biblical terms. This makes it difficult for them to recognize similarities between Israel and Canada.

The survey also indicated Canadians generally don't want to get involved in the Mideast debate or pick a side, Messinger said. They don't relate to the conflict the way we might expect. The polls results suggested emotion is an ineffective way to build a pro-Israel message, she said, explaining that the message should instead be based on a logical presentation of facts that resonate with the target audience.

With those findings in mind, a group of CIC staff drafted material for a new Israel advocacy workshop.

In addition to the London session, the CIC has held workshops in Kingston, Montreal, Hamilton, Victoria, Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Saskatoon, Fredericton, Moncton, St. John's and Toronto. The tour stops in Winnipeg on May 16 and wraps up in Ottawa at the beginning of June.

Messinger said they decided to go across the country because "the best results are achieved when the community speaks with a unified voice." Although the CIC interacts with community groups online, nothing replaces in person communication, she said.

She said we'll know the strategy is working when we begin to witness small changes in people's attitudes.

"This change can be as miniscule as a neighbour saying, 'Oh, I never thought of it that way,' all the way to a change in media coverage and government policy."

Menawhile, London Jewish Federation executive director Esther Marcus said the workshop has already spurred attendees to change the way they formulate messages to other Jews and to the broader secular community.

"There's no question it has already had a huge impact," she said.

The messages from these workshops are also being incorporated into upcoming community events such as the Yom Yerushalayim Walk for Israel, Marcus said. And an idea to twin a youth group in London with one in Israel grew directly out of the workshop. Marcus said initial community reaction has been positive and other groups have already approached her about holding similar workshops in the coming months.

Halachah should be basis for women's roles, Conservative scholar says

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — The Conservative movement is still struggling with the issue of halachah and the role of women, but the rabbi of each congregation has the final say in any halachic ruling, says Rabbi Joel Roth, scholar-in-residence at a recent weekend hosted by Congregation Agudath Israel here.

Rabbi Roth, a leading authority on halachah in the Conservative movement and one of the main forces behind the movement's decision to ordain women rabbis some 20 years ago, has been a member of the Jewish law and standards committee of the Rabbinical Assembly, the body responsible for halachic decisions in the Conservative movement, for 25 years. He has been on faculty at the Jewish Theological Seminary since 1968.

His Sunday breakfast lecture attracted 75 people from all streams of Judaism to hear what he had to say about halachah and the role of women in Conservative Judaism.

"I refuse to accept the domino theory on women's issues," Rabbi Roth said. He disputed the claim made by some that if women are allowed to do one thing, it will inevitably lead to women being allowed to do everything else.

He explained that there are two categories of mitzvot: positive and negative. Women are not exempt from any of the negative mitzvot and are, in addition, obligated for all positive, non-time-bound mitzvot (such as honouring one's parents or affixing a mezuzah.) The only difference between men's and women's obligations is that women are exempt from positive, time-bound mitzvot, such as reciting the Shema at a certain time in the morning.

"Exempt is not the same as prohibited," said Rabbi Roth. "Women are eligible and entitled to observe the mitzvot from which they are exempt." For example, there is no halachic reason why a woman may not wear a tallit, which Rabbi Roth compared to a woman using a lulav and etrog.

"A woman who observes a mitzvah from which she is exempt is doing so voluntarily. A man observing the same mitzvah is doing so because the law commands it," he said.

He explored the questions of whether women should be allowed to be called to the Torah and to read the Torah and whether women should be counted for a minyan and be allowed to serve as chazzan.

"A minyan is a quorum of the equally obligated, and a chazzan is an obligated agent of the obligated community," said Rabbi Roth. The question lies in who is "obligated," and whether women can be so considered.

For each of the questions, Rabbi Roth outlined several rabbinic opinions and the basis for each, explaining that whether one agrees or disagrees with an opinion, the main criterion is that it must be backed up by Jewish law.

"In my opinion, there has got to be halachic defence for anything that we do. I have tried to make clear what there is no argument about and what there is argument about, and what is the grounding of the various views," he said.

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by phone at 416-782-0370 or e-mail info@tcml.net

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Kolel: The Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning has been building and strengthening Jewish identity in Toronto since 1991. We are the gateway for adults who seek to embrace Judaism through a wealth of self-directed, unique learning opportunities. Kolel is an independent, pluralistic, liberal education centre, with faculty comprised of educators and Rabbis of all denominations.

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Driver's license is a must; University or college degree and graphic design experience is an asset.
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151 Eglinton Avenue W., Toronto, ON M4R 1A6
Fax: 416-485-8831

We thank you for your interest and will contact you if an interview is requested.
DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: MAY 28, 2004

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Teaching Positions Available

Zioni Dati day school in the Greater Toronto area seeks experienced teachers for Limudei Kodesh positions in elementary and middle school for September 2004. Candidates must personally reflect school philosophy and must be able to teach Tanach, Talmud, Mishna, Dinim and Ivrit. Teachers must be able to teach fluently in Ivrit. Classroom teaching experience is required. Teachers' responsibilities may include co-ordination or involvement in special school events. If you are a motivated, eager individual, please submit resume to Box #4556, The Canadian Jewish News, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, Ont. M3B 3K4.

Centre for Jewish Studies
at York University

Yiddish at York

The Centre for Jewish Studies
is proud to announce
that Yiddish language
will be taught at York University
beginning in September 2004.

AS/YDSH 1000 6.0 – Elementary Yiddish Language
Tues./Thurs. – 2:30-4:30 p.m. – S129 Ross Building
Instructor: Professor Kalman (Keith) Weiser

Yiddish at York is made possible through a generous grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Toronto.

For further information about the course call
416-736-5823.
To register as a visiting student call
461-736-5000.

Singles Events

is an advertising feature of *The Canadian Jewish News*

For rates or to place an ad. please call
416-391-1836

Deadline: Wednesday, 4 p.m., 8 days preceding issue date.

The CJN encourages readers to direct any queries they may have on an upcoming event to the event's organizers.

Co-Ed Softball 2004
4 Divisions, recr. & interm. 3-pitch, interm. & compet. slo-pitch. For info. 416-222-7111.

2ND LAST! *Games Jewish Singles Play! Sunday, May 16, 7:30 pm, Beth Torah, 47 Glenbrook. ***Board Games,** etc. $6. **131 couples have already met!** Mollie, 416-733-3634.

Adath Israel Young Business and Professionals Network, Dynamic Singles and Beit Halochem Canada invite you to a night of dance, food and fun with visiting veterans, June 5th, 2004 at Hava Nagila. For reservations by May 20 or further information: 416-787-8950 or dgrunwald@rogers.com

Wine, Women (or Men) and Song!
TORONTO WINE ADVENTURES
Is having its inaugural
WINE TASTING AND PARTY
On Thursday, May 20th from 8:30 p.m. on at the historic EGLINTON GRAND
(formerly the Eglinton Theatre)
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info@torontowinesociety.com
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Coast to Coast

The back of a headstone at the Memorial Garden Back River cemetery bears evidence of an anti-Semitic attack.

Gravestones vandalized in Montreal cemetery

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL – The desecration of graves at the Back River Memorial Gardens Cemetery less than a month after the firebombing at United Talmud Torahs left Montreal Jews already traumatized by that attack feeling more shaken and vulnerable.

Jewish community officials said there did not seem to be any connection between the two incidents.

But with the UTT firebombing still very much on people's minds and a spate of cemetery desecrations last month in Ontario, it pointed to a disquieting pattern, they said.

"It's becoming clear that this incident can't be dismissed as isolated," said Rabbi Reuben Poupko, who co-chairs the community's Jewish Security Co-ordinating Committee. "It's part of an ongoing pattern of attack, a new era of anti-Semitism."

"I see it as a pattern, and it is the fact that it is a pattern that concerns me," said Rabbi Asher Jacobson of Congregation Chevra Kadisha B'nai Jacob. "It is increasing more and more and is not isolated, and the Jewish community should see it as a continuing pattern of hate."

Canadian Jewish Congress, Quebec region (CJC-Q) president Joseph Gabay called the incident an attack against all Quebecers.

"[Parti Québécois leader] Bernard Landry called me to say the same thing, and it is a good attitude to have," Gabay said.

Eight headstones at the cemetery, Montreal's oldest Jewish burial ground, informally called "Back River" because of its location in the Ahunsic area in the city's north end, had with anti-Semitic graffiti and slogans scrawled on them.

Several of the stones were those of member-families of the chevrah kadishah.

Some bore the usual Nazi swastikas, SS signs or declarations of "Heil Hitler," while others were more personal.

One headstone, which read, "Mother, always in our hearts," was changed to "Mother, always in hell."

Rabbi Jacobson said he received several calls from members wondering whether a family headstone was damaged.

"They were devastated, very hurt," he said.

One of the damaged headstones belonged to family that had fled Nazi Germany.

"To have this happen 50 years later, a Nazi swastika on their grave, is beyond comprehension," Rabbi Jacobson said.

At writing, the Montreal police hate-crime unit was investigating the incident, which was discovered by a cemetery worker over the weekend of May 1-2. Within a day, the headstones were sandblasted clean at the instruction of Baron de Hirsch Affiliated Cemeteries, which manages Back River. Its director, Gerald Silverberg, said a night watchman might be hired to watch over the cemetery grounds.

According to Yoni Petel, community outreach co-ordinator for B'nai Brith Canada, Quebec region, the incident might have taken place on April 30, the anniversary of Adolf Hitler's death.

"This is a significant date for the White Power movement," he said. "It may have been a 'celebration' of the date."

According to Petel and CJC-Q executive director David Birnbaum, there's been no incident at Back River for years, notwithstanding an April 9 scare – only four days after the UTT attack – when an unidentified package was detonated, only to be found harmless.

Petel said while last week's incident did not reach the same scale as the UTT attack, it was still a troubling indication of a new wave of anti-Semitism.

"Even a Jew who passed away is not given a chance to rest in peace," he said. "To desecrate a final resting place is absolutely disgusting."

Rabbi Jacobson said cemeteries have historically "been a vulnerable spot for attacking Jews. But to see one incident after another like this is alarming."

For Birnbaum, the incident serves as a reminder for the public and prosecutors that hate crimes must be treated differently than ordinary crimes and of the need for a "centralized registry" of hate crimes.

Coast to Coast

Human rights museum announces design finalists

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG – Two Canadian architects and one American firm have made it to the final three in the international competition to design the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, the last major project launched by philanthropist Izzy Asper before his death last September.

The finalists were announced at a press conference here late last month in which each finalist took time to illustrate their vision for the museum to the 200 people in attendance.

Saucier + Perrotte Architectes of Montreal described a design that evokes images of ice and snow and would also take up the least amount of space on the designated museum site at Winnipeg's historic Forks, overlooking the junction of the Red and Assiniboine rivers.

Dan Hanganun Architects & the Arcop Group, also of Montreal, presented a modern triangular design. Antoine Predock (based in Albuquerque, N.M.) showed a design that is carved into the ground and symbolizes ice, clouds and stone in a field of sweet grass.

The three finalists will each receive $100,000 to produce more detailed drawings, including a model. The winner will be announced July 1.

Asper launched his campaign to build the museum on April 17, 2003, the 22nd anniversary of the Canadian Declaration of Rights and Freedom.

He envisaged the $270-million complex as having a 70-metre Tower of Hope; a Canadian Gallery, which will explore dark periods in Canadian history; a Holocaust Gallery; a Hall of Fame and Shame, highlighting such moral icons as Mother Theresa and Nelson Mandela, as well as others who have become synonymous with evil; the Canadian Commitment Gallery, highlighting Canadian contributions to human rights; the Garden of Contemplation; a "barometer of hate," which will "measure" hate levels around the world on a daily basis; an exhibit on human rights in crisis; wireless palm pilots for students to record their impressions of the exhibits; and a "virtual museum" to connect the museum to the rest of the world via the Internet.

The Asper Family, through the Asper Foundation, has pledged up to $50 million toward the project. The federal, provincial and municipal governments have promised to contribute $140 million. The remaining money is being raised in the private sector through the Friends of the Canadian Museum of Human Rights, whose goal is to raise $60 million for an endowment fund. Thus far, $34 million has been contributed to the project by industry leaders, financial institutions and individuals.

At the press conference, Gail Asper, a driving force behind the fundraising campaign, said her late father's vision is obviously resonating with people.

"We met with representatives of 40 different ethnic, religious and racial groups just the day before," she said. "They were all very supportive of the museum. They felt empowered. It is a place for all Canadians and people worldwide."

Asper noted that close to 500 architectural firms from around the world initially responded to the call for submissions to design the museum. She also said New York-based Ralph Applebaum, the world's leading interpretive museum designer, has been hired to develop content for the museum. The complex is expected to open by July 2007.

Community expresses support for Israel

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — During the period of Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut, the community here came out in force to a series of events, while a record 131-person delegation, including many of the local clergy, was in Israel on a solidarity mission.

The Embassy of Israel held a community-wide Yom Hazikaron ceremony at Congregation Agudath Israel to remember those who gave their lives for Israel. Colonel Yochanan Klorin, the army attaché to Canada of the Israeli Embassy, read the IDF Order of the Day.

Jonathan Freedman, a lieutenant-colonel in Israel's reserve forces, recalled his friends, neighbours and comrades who were lost. "These personal memories lead to a communal memory of the sacrifices these soldiers of Israel have made," he said.

A memorial torch was lit by Noga Reiss, whose brother, Yoram Shiloni, died in battle in 1972.

"This week is the most painful week in our calendar, Yom Hashoah and Yom Hazikaron," said Israel Ambassador Haim Divon. "Yom Hashoah is the essence of the State of Israel. The memory of the six million who perished strengthens our souls… and the more than 20,000 men and women [who have died in Israel's wars] help strengthen the body of the State of Israel. There are no words to comfort us, but the memory of each and every one of them is close to our hearts."

Students from Yitzhak Rabin High School, the Temple Israel Choir and musicians Floralove Katz and Natasha Guiller performed during the ceremony. Rabbi Arnold Fine of Congregation Agudath Israel and visiting Rabbi Maya Leibovich of Israel spoke, as did past-president of the Ottawa Vaad Ha'ir Gerry Levitz.

The mood was decidedly more festive the following evening when hundreds of people assembled at Congregation Agudath Israel for the community celebration of Yom Ha'Atzmaut, sponsored by the Vered Israel cultural and educational program of the Soloway Jewish Community Centre and the Embassy of Israel.

The evening of song and dance was chaired by Sara Vered, a veteran of Israel's War of Independence. The Hillel Academy Choir and the Shira Ottawa Choir presented a festive program of songs from Israel's past and present.

The following evening, the ambassador hosted a celebration for the diplomatic community and others at the Westin Hotel. A recital by concert pianist and former Youth Aliyah child Carmen Or was followed by traditional Israeli refreshments.

Family Moments

only from The Canadian Jewish news

Mazel Tov to...

Mazel Tov to
ERICA SARKIN & AMIR CUKIERMAN
on the occasion of their engagement.
Proud parents are **Gail & Jeff Sarkin, of Boca, Shelly & Ilan Cukierman, of Toronto.**
Delighted grandparents are **Chana Bak of Toronto, and the late Morris Bak, Ethel & Irvin Jainchill of Ft. Lauderdale, Shirly Sarkin of Ft. Lauderdale & the late Sydney Sarkin, Rivka Cukierman of Israel and the late Shemuel Cukierman.**
Both families wish them all the happiness.

Happy first birthday to Matthew, our golden boy! With love from your parents, Paul and Sharron Lungen, your bubbies, zaydies, aunts, uncles and cousins.

Mazel tov to Lory & Harry Beer on their 50th anniversary. Much love from their children Elan & Rivka, Jason, Aaron, Mathew and Iris, Judy & Adam.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!
Label the back of all photos and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Send all your photos to: The CJN, Family Moments, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, ON, M3B 3K4.

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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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416-785-1333

"What's New Deadlines: PLEASE NOTE DEADLINE CHANGES. Wednesday, May 12 is the deadline for the May 28 issue and Wednesday, May 19 is the deadline for the June 3 issue. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Thursday, May 13

MY JEWISH HOME

Solel Congregation is offering the course "My Jewish Home" beginning tonight through June 8. 2399 Folkway Dr. 905-820-5915.

Sunday, May 16

BREAKFAST & MUSIC

Beth David Brotherhood breakfast and Yiddish, Russian, Hebrew and klezmer music with **Eric Stein** and **Yeva Medvedyuk**. 9:15 a.m. Minimal charge. 416-633-5500.

BETH SHOLOM SALE

Beth Sholom Synagogue is holding a garage sale from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Large selection of items including books, toys, clothes, household items and much more. No early birds. 416-783-6103, ext. 225.

WALKING TOUR

Walking tour of historic Jewish buildings with **Stephen Speisman**, award-winning author of *The Jews of Toronto*. The tour leaves First Narayever Congregation, 187 Brunswick Ave., at 10:15 a.m. and returns at noon for a light lunch and discussion. $15. For reservations, call 416-925-8531.

TREE PLANTING

Beth Radom Congregation will be planting trees at the new Downsview Park, Sheppard and Keele. 10:30 a.m. To register, call 416-636-3451. Students can receive community hours.

FADE CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

Join FADE, Family and Friends Against Disordered Eating, for a candlelight vigil to raise awareness of the dangers of eating disorders and bring attention to the physical and emotional damage it causes, particularly among young people. 2 p.m. at Richmond Green, 1300 Elgin Mills Rd. E. Call **Debby** 905-737-9937 or visit www.fade-on.ca.

ROSH CHODESH GROUP

The Beach Synagogue's Rosh Chodesh Group will screen and discuss *Ancient Codes, Modern Modes,* from the film series *Judaism: A Quest For Meaning.* Beach Synagogue, 109 Kenilworth Ave. at 7 p.m. 416-763-2799.

PIANO RECITAL

Beth Radom Congregation presents a performance by **Michael Berkovsky**, an award-winning young Russian-Israeli pianist. 7 p.m. Recital $25, recital and reception $50. Call **Sylvia** at 416-636-3451 or **Raul** at 416-250-1918.

MAIMONIDES LECTURE

Eric Lawee will discuss "Maimonides: Hero or Heretic" at Shaar Shalom Synagogue. 7 p.m. 2 Simonston Blvd. 905-889-4975.

TEMPLE SINAI CONCERT

Temple Sinai Ben Steinberg Musical Legacy Award Concert will feature pianist **Andrew Burashko**, violist **Rebecca Gitter** and violinist **Jonathan Swartz**. 8 p.m. For tickets, visit www.templesinai.net.

SINGLES EVENING

Games evening for Jewish singles, ages 21-39 and 40-69, at Beth Torah Synagogue. $6. Early bird bingo, 7:30 p.m. 416-733-3634.

NATUROPHATHY LECTURE

The entertainment and cultural committee of Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue presents **Mitchell Zeifman** on "Naturopathy: Is It An Exotic Alternative? Reducing Drug Dependency for Chronic Pain and Taking Charge of Your Health." 8 p.m. Members free, others $2.

DRILDZER BANQUET

All Drildzer descendants are invited to their 70th Jubilee Banquet at Pride of Israel Synagogue. For reservations, call **Rochelle** at 905-881-7637.

Continued on page 31

YACHDAV INTERNATIONAL YOUNG LEADERSHIP MISSION IN ISRAEL
TOGETHER AS ONE YACHDAV 2004
UJA FEDERATION Together We're Stronger
REGISTER NOW ONLINE AT:
www.youngleadershipcanada.org
July 27 - August 4, 2004
Join hundreds of young people from around the Jewish world and get to the ♥ of the matter!
HIGHLIGHTS
✦ Explore Israel by camel, jeep, kayak & foot!
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✦ Spend time with Israeli peers and soldiers on an IDF base
✦ Visit Tel-Aviv — the city that never sleeps!
✦ Enjoy shabbat in Jerusalem
✦ Solidarity with Israel
INFORMATION
✦ Contact your local Federation.
✦ In Toronto, contact Herschel Perlis 416-631-5717 hperlis@ujafed.org
UJA Federations Canada

Friends of the
Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies
& Hillel of Greater Toronto
are pleased to present
ECHOES: Artistic Expressions of the Holocaust
A multimedia showcase honouring the memory of the Holocaust and other genocides
Sunday May 16, 2004
The Wolfond Center for Jewish Campus Life
36 Harbord Street
12 - 6 PM
Admission is free
design by Ron Boyd

What's New

Continued from page 30

Monday, May 17

ETHICS OF THE FOUNDERS
Beth Tzedec Congregation presents **Rabbi Ed Elkin** on "Praying for the Welfare of the Government: Jewish Political Theory in Pirkei Avot and its Commentators." 7:30 p.m.

JWI NAGILLAH CHAPTER
Nagillah chapter (50+ singles) of Jewish Women International presents **Sid Gladstone** on "Jewish Veterans 60th Anniversary" at their monthly meeting. 7:30 p.m. at Pride of Israel Synagogue. 416-657-8763.

ARE ALL RELIGIONS TRUE?
Rabbi Meir Soloveitchik of Yeshiva University and resident scholar at the Jewish Center in Manhattan will speak on "Can All Religions be True? Reflections of a Rabbi at Yale Divinity School." 8 p.m. at Beth Jacob Congregation, 147 Overbrooke Pl. 416-633-5770 or www.torahinmotion.org. $10.

CHUG TANACH
Mark Smiley will lead the study group in a discussion of Psalms chapter 12, 13 and 14. Beth David Congregation at 8 p.m.

ATLANTIC CITY TRIP
Adath Shalom Sisterhood's trip to Atlantic City June 28-July 1 information and sign-up meeting. 7:30 p.m. 416-633-9691.

Tuesday, May 18

YOM YERUSHALAYIM
Join Mizrachi Canada for Yom Yerushalayim celebrations at B'nai Torah Congregation. Dinner at 6:15 p.m with a performance by the Netivot HaTorah Children's Choir. Minchah, public lecture and festive Ma'ariv services followed by dancing and dessert at 8:15 p.m. To reserve for dinner, call **Rochelle** at 416-630-9266. Dinner $50. $25 for children under 18. 465 Patricia Ave.

PARENT-TO-PARENT MTG
Jewish Family & Child Service is offering a session for Jewish parents raising children with special needs: "Finding Ways to Build on Relationship Opportunities for Our Children with Special Needs." 7-9 p.m. BJCC, 4588 Bathurst. RSVP to **Debbie** 416-638-7800, ext. 257.

NUTRITION INFORMATION
Mount Sinai Hospital and UJA Federation present an evening of speakers on learning to eat the right foods. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the Leah Posluns Theatre. Call 416-586-8338 or visit www.mtsinai.on.ca/healthy living.

HOLY BLOSSOM LECTURES
Andrea Most of the University of Toronto discusses her book *Making Americans: Jews and the Broadway Musical* at Holy Blossom Temple library. 7:30 p.m. 416-789-3291, ext. 235. **Prof. David Brooks** discusses "The Importance of Water in the Politics of the Middle East" at a Holy Blossom Brotherhood lecture. 7:30 p.m.

ADATH ISRAEL BOOK CLUB
The book *Lovely Bones* by **Alice Sebold** will be discussed at the Adath Israel Sisterhood Book Series with facilitator **Heather Kassel**. 8 p.m. Call 416-635-5340.

Wednesday, May 19

STRICTLY BUSINESS LUNCH
Jewish Vocational Services of Toronto is hosting their Second Annual Strictly Business Luncheon with guest speaker **Richard Waugh**, president of Scotiabank. The luncheon celebrates the partnership between JVS Toronto, the business community and government. Noon. 416-787-1151, ext. 555.

WINCHEVSKY LECTURE
The Morris Winchevsky School is holding an open house with a lecture by **Prof. Ester Reiter** on "Education: The Secular Jewish Way." 7 p.m. 585 Cranbrooke Ave. 416-789-5502.

CHAZZAN CONCERT
Shaarei Shomayim Congregation's Seventh Annual Concert Gala with **Cantors Yaakov Motzen** and **Shlomo Simcha Sufrin** of Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue, **Naftali Herstik** of the Great Synagogue in Jerusalem, and **Colin Schachat** of Jerusalem. 7;30 p.m. Tickets, $55, $40 and $25. Call 416-789-3213 or visit www.shomayim.org.

Other news

BLU GREENBERG SPEAKS
Beth Tzedec Congregation presents author and lecturer **Blu Greenberg** on "Charting the Role of Jewish Women in Modern Times." On Tuesday, May 18, 7:30 p.m., she talks on "Re-Jewvenating the Family: Feminism, Family and the Jewish Future," and on Wednesday, May 19, 7:30 p.m., she talks on "The Holocaust in the Mind of the Post-Holocaust Family." 416-781-3511.

HEBREW CLASSES
Keren Hatarbut Institute is starting Hebrew classes the week of May 18 at 788 Marlee Ave. Classes Tuesday through Thursday at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels. To register, call **Joseph Klinger** at 416-787-0197.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 28

Beth Joseph Lubavitch offers Hebrew classes for women, day or evening, multi-level. Call **Rachel Berkovitz** at 416-635-6313.

SINGLES SHABBAT DINNER
Kesher Israel, Aish HaTorah's singles young professionals program, ages 27-37, is having a Shabbat dinner on Friday, May 21. $27. To register, call 905-764-1818, ext. 225.

LONDON GARAGE SALE
Temple Israel of London is holding a garage sale Sunday, May 23. Donate your unwanted items and food and drinks to sell. Volunteers also needed. Call **Mary** at 519-652-9773 or e-mail isa200@rogers.com.

BETH CHABAD DINNER
The Beth Chabad Israeli Community Centre invites the community to its 1st Annual "Spirit of Community" dinner Wednesday, June 2, with guest speaker **Rabbi Berel Lazar**, chief rabbi of Russia, and honourees Vaughan Mayor **Michael Di Biase** and **Sol Prizant**. For tickets, call 905-709-7770.

FOR SENIORS

Lunch & Learn in Retirement presents **Moses Rabinowitz,** an Israeli zoo keeper, on "A Magical Israeli-Nature Show" Wednesday, May 19 at noon at Holy Blossom Temple.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Casino Niagara, May 20; Casino Rama, June 9. Saturday dance, May 15, 29. Sunday dance, May 23, 30. 416-395-7881.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the boardroom at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. June 9, *Fiddler on the Roof* at Stage West. Call 416-630-9444.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. May 13, sing-a-long with **Mickey Lewin**. Call **Menachem Wallach**, 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla**, 416-630-5771.

The Association of Jewish Seniors' general meeting will be on Thursday, May 20, 9:30 a.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. Call **Tammy** at 416-635-2860.

WAGMAN CENTRE
55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

Yiddish Discussion Group with Miriam Beckerman, Thursdays, May 13 and June 3, 3:30-4:30 p.m. in classrooms A and B. No registration required. Call ext. 2553.

Spousal bereavement group for widows and widowers aged 55 and over meets at Baycrest Centre and is facilitated by a social worker. Begins on Tuesday, May 18 and runs for 15 weeks, 1:30-3 p.m. Call **Shawn Fremeth**, ext. 2986.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE
1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

"What Your Pharmacist Wants You to Know About Medication," with pharmacist **Jack Pinkus**. Thursday, May 13, 1-2:30 p.m.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speakers meets Tuesdays at 2:30 p.m. May 18, Jerusalem Day party. Call **Anna**, ext. 110.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or wwwmilesnadaljcc.ca.

Book launch of *Bobbie Rosenfeld: The Olympian Who Could Do Everything* by **Anne Dublin**, Thursday, May 13, 7 p.m.

Books & Bagels presents Mystery Morning with mystery writers **Sylvia Maultash Warsh** and **Caroline Roe**. Sunday, May 16, 11 a.m. Members free, non-members $5. Coffee and bagels served.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

The Koffler Music Café presents **Mark Sepic**, Sunday, May 16 at noon in the BJCC lobby. All welcome.

The Koffler Centre of the Arts presents the16th Annual Canadian Jewish Book Awards, Monday, May 17 at 7:30 p.m. Leah Posluns Theatre. Guest reader **Arlene Perly Rae**. Awards given in nine categories. Winning books available for purchase. Author signing. Free. Call ext. 271.

Prenatal class offered in conjunction with Mount Sinai Hospital, Sunday, June 6 and 13 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. $136 per couple. Call ext. 390.

DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA: Barry Sherman will recieve an honorary doctorate from the Technion, the Israel Institute of Technology, in Haifa on Monday, June 14. He is being honoured for his leadership in the generic drug industry and his philanthropy to the Canadian Jewish community, to Israel and to the Technion.

To place an unveiling notice, please call at least 15 DAYS prior to the date of the unveiling

OBITUARIES and Related Notices

To place any other family related notice, please call at least 10 DAYS prior to the issue date

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Rose Appelton	Apr 14/04	3560 Bathurst St
Sam Kramer	Apr 16/04	429 Walmer Rd
Arlene Berlin	Apr 15/04	400 Sandringham Cr
Vladimir Leykin	Apr 17/04	131 Torresdale Av
Edith Ely	Apr 15/04	115 Antibes Dr
Albert Gnat	Apr 15/04	17082 Mountainview Rd
Lili Klopot	Apr 18/04	855 Roselawn Av
Lily Newman	Apr 18/04	7825 Bayview Av
Mollye Nisker	Apr 17/04	282 St. Clair Av W
Ben Kezwer	Apr 17/04	8 Kainona Av
Rose Sandler	Apr 19/04	54 Foxbar Rd
Frances Sonenberg	Apr 20/04	7420 Bathurst St
Rubin Tencer	Apr 21/04	131 Torresdale Av
Jack Shultz	Apr 21/04	3560 Bathurst St
Bernard Newton	Apr 23/04	45 Misty Cres
Renee Mooallem	Apr 24/04	400 Walmer Rd
Theo Ball	Apr 21/04	52 Bannockburn Av
Joe Fedder	Apr 22/04	120 St. Patrick St
C. Harold Lipton	Apr 23/04	355 St. Clair Av W
Sid Sniderman	Apr 22/04	33 Harbour Square
Sophie Rogers	Apr 23/04	100 Charlotte St
Dr. Isaac Markens	Apr 24/04	32 Strathearn Rd
Stan Hyman	Apr 26/04	31 Lilac Av
Sarah Zaifman	Apr 25/04	34 Braemar Ct
Beatrice Birnbaum	Apr 25/04	3560 Bathurst St
Abe Schwartz	Apr 26/04	333 Clark Ave W
Helena Mitrovski	Apr 24/04	449 Dover Cres
Della Strom	Apr 27/04	155 Marlee Av
Dee Selick	Apr 28/04	135 Antibes Dr
Leonid Toporowski	Apr 25/04	4455 Bathurst St
Pearl Silverberg	Apr 28/04	47 Beaver Valley Rd

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Singer, Jean
April 26, 2004
14 Cross St

Karo, Jacob
April 25, 2004
2 Covington Rd

Banach, Abram
April 26, 2004
135 Antibes Dr

Frankel, Elias
April 27, 2004
1085 Steeles Av W

Goldstein, Clara
April 27, 2004

Rusinek, Harry
April 28, 2004
7460 Bathurst St

HEBREW DASIC

Eve Davidson	Apr 28/04	5430 Yonge St

The unveiling of monuments to the memories of the late
ISSIE POMERANTZ ז"ל
& **ANNE SHAPIRO** ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 16th, 11:00 a.m.
Grand Order of Israel Cemetery
Snake Rd., Hamilton, ON
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The family of the late
SANDRA LANYS ז"ל
would like to express sincere and heartfelt appreciation to all their friends and relatives for the many acts of kindness, support and for the many donations made in her memory. Your support has brought us comfort and given us strength during our recent bereavement.
Izzy, Steven, Ritchie, David and Mel Buksner

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
RITA ENGLISHMAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 16th, 11:00 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Pride of Israel Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
FRANK BOROVOY ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 16th, 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Dufferin St. 3 km north of Major Mackenzie
Community 4 Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
RICHARD PELLOW ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 16th, 12:00 noon
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
986 Wilson Ave.
Pride of Israel Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
FRANCES WISE ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 16th, 1:00 p.m.
Dawes Road Cemetery
Stashiver Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
Celia (Tzippie) Lapidus ז"ל
Loving wife of Harold, mother & grandmother
will take place
Sunday, May 16th at 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Bathurst south of Steeles • Blue Star Lodge
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
STANLEY GOLVIN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 16th, 10:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Kelcer Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ABE DICK ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 16th, 10:30 a.m.
Mt. Sinai Memorial Park
Shaarei Shomayim Section
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Coast to Coast

Coverage of Likud vote was responsible, serious

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

The Canadian public was well-served by the media coverage that followed the May 2 Likud Party referendum, in which Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's Gaza disengagement plan was defeated. For the most part, the reporting and commentary on this important and complex event aimed for fairness and accuracy.

On CBC TV's *The National*, May 2, Adrienne Arsenault began her report with scenes of the bullet-ridden car in which a pregnant mother and her four young daughters were murdered by Palestinian gunmen near Gush Katif, Gaza, that same day.

With pictures of the family on the screen, Arsenault cited the Gaza settlers' claims that this was "proof that Sharon must not evacuate the Gaza settlements and give in to attackers."

Then, over scenes of the funeral, Arsenault presented the other side: "But in this grief, Sharon's supporters also saw proof that Israel should pull out, that the human cost of being in Gaza is just too great – a fight [that] on this day Sharon lost."

Arsenault said Sharon underestimated "the fury and the organization" of the settlers. She showed clearly the intense debate between the core settlers who oppose withdrawal and the "majority of Israelis" who support the pullout. Despite Sharon's setback, Arsenault continued, "it seems inevitable that he'll keep pushing for his plan."

On CTV's May 2 national newscast, reporter Inigo Gilmore also began with the murder of the mother and children, and the impact it might have had on the vote. He looked at how the "no" vote might affect Sharon's credibility and political future.

On May 3, CBC Radio's *As It Happens* featured an interview with Ra'anan Gissin, Sharon's chief spokesperson. Gissin predicted Sharon might initiate a "modified" withdrawal plan, or even resume negotiations with the Palestinians, providing the Palestinian Authority begins to fight terror, as required by the internationally sponsored "road map" peace plan.

Illustrating how Sharon has become the voice of the moderate centre in Israeli politics, Gissin said those who voted against withdrawal were the "right-wing, extreme elements." He spoke about the "excruciating pain" of having to give up the Gaza settlements, but added: "You have to do your cost-benefit analysis, and to protect these 7,500 or 8,000 people surrounded by a sea of hatred of 1.3 million Palestinians" is no longer feasible.

Said Gissin: "Once we're not there, the Palestinians will have a real opportunity to start nation-building, to start doing something for themselves."

Most print editorials and op-eds also took a reasoned approach. The *Globe and Mail*'s May 4 editorial, "Sharon should press on with his Gaza proposal," showed an understanding of the intricacies of Israeli politics. The editorial said Sharon "badly underestimated the political skills of the ultranationalist settlers, who portrayed disengagement as 'a reward for terrorism,' and the fanatical opposition of Likud's religious factions, which flatly reject any concessions to the Palestinians." But, as the title suggests, it urged Sharon to implement this "important initiative."

Globe and Mail columnist Shira Herzog ("Sharon's political headache," May 4) explained that "the majority of Israelis – including Likud voters – have long accepted the inevitability of partition," while the Likud party itself has been split. But now, among key party leaders, there's "a pragmatic, grudging acknowledgement of the imperative to disengage from the occupation of 3.5 million Palestinians."

Other well-informed pieces, providing different perspectives, included Samuel Segev's excellent analysis, "Defeat narrows Sharon's options" (*Winnipeg Free Press*, May 5), The Montreal *Gazette*'s editorial "A surprise stumbling block" (May 5), and Cameron Brown's *National Post* opinion piece "The blow to Sharon is not a fatal one" (May 4).

Several years ago, the *Globe and Mail* decried a tendency in the media "mired in lazy habits [to] prefer the cut-and-dried to the complex, the cry of outrage to the cautious rumination." In handling the Likud referendum story, many in the media tried to understand and explain the challenging issues involved. Altogether, this was serious, responsible journalism.

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

CORRECTION

A photo caption with last week's article "Camp founder to be honoured at gala tribute" incorrectly identified Harold Nashman's late wife. The woman pictured with him was his late wife, Yetta. Anne Nashman was Harold's mother. The CJN regrets the error.

* * *

CLARIFICATION

Last week's story, "Six-year-old sells lemonade for the heart" gave incorrect hours of operation for a lemonade stand to be operated by Amanda Belzowski, 6, and her family. The stand will be open Sunday, May 16, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 10 Briancliff Dr. (off Lawrence, west of Leslie and across from Edwards Gardens.) Funds raised will help heart and stroke research in Canada.

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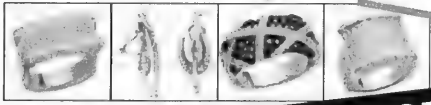

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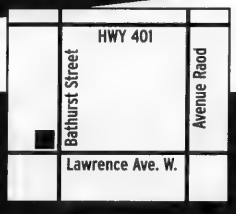

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Food, Scrumptious Food

About Nutrition

By LISA WEINBERG

Q. It seems that there is so much in the news today about a push to thinness and obesity and its dangers. Are things as bad as they seem?

A. Obesity is at epidemic proportions, for both children and adults, in Canada. I believe there are many factors that have led to this, and being overweight does pose many health risks. I worry, though, that we're sending a message that we need to get thin at all cost, and I believe there are far too many people on dangerous diets that could potentially compromise their health more than, or as much as, being overweight does, especially when those diets cause you to gain all of the weight and more back after they're over. I think there should be a push to educate people about healthy eating.

Q. Everybody seems to be carbohydrate crazy. Should we really be counting carbs?

A. I believe that many people do eat too many carbohydrates, but more importantly, I believe that almost everyone simply eats the wrong type of carbohydrates. We eat too many simple sugar and white flour foods and not enough whole grains, fibre, fruits and vegetables, legumes and lean proteins. I agree that everyone is talking about carbs these days, but instead of eliminating them, they should be reducing and replacing them with complex carbohydrates such as whole grain breads and cereals and whole wheat pasta. These carbohydrates fill us up, promote regularity and prevent heart disease (and maybe even some cancers). Our bodies, and especially our brains, require carbohydrates to function. Some diets that restrict carbohydrates can be dangerous and will likely lead to weight gain.

Q. My three-year-old loves milk and I know it's healthy, but I wonder if he's drinking too much. How much is enough?

A. Sixteen ounces, or two cups, of milk per day will provide the necessary calcium required for children. Drinking much more than that fills kids up and causes them to eat less of other foods. Try to limit his intake to this quantity.

Q. I just took away my daughter's bottle. She is 21 months and hasn't had a drop of milk since. I am very concerned. What should I do?

A. This is very common. My children also stopped drinking milk for about a year after I took away their bottles. Kids often drink the milk because of the comfort they associate with the bottle. When asked to drink it from a sippy cup, it doesn't have the same comfort factor and they refuse it. Try to get calcium into your toddler in other ways, such as yogurt, cheese, toddler ice cream, frozen yogurt, pizza, milkshakes, calcium-enriched orange juice and chocolate milk. As long as they are eating some of these foods, you're OK.

Lisa Weinberg is a registered dietitian/nutritionist in Toronto, in private practice and at the Genesis Professional Group. If you have any nutrition questions, please send them to The CJN.

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Mofaz: Gaza settlements were historical mistake

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The Gaza Strip settlements were a historical mistake and they will not be there in five years, with or without a peace agreement, Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz said Sunday at the fourth annual convention of the bar association in Eilat.

Mofaz said the Gaza Strip was not the land of our forefathers, and Israel's government must introduce and lead a diplomatic initiative that will replace the disengagement plan rejected last week in a Likud party referendum. Otherwise, other plans that are detrimental to Israel may be proposed.

"We can't significantly change the way we fight terror, but we must continue following the diplomatic track," Mofaz said, adding that any plan, initiative or peace agreement must be based on the termination of the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians.

Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in a private meeting with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon on Sunday, also urged the prime minister to come up with an alternative to his disengagement plan. But Sharon and Netanyahu failed to come to any agreement over what Israel's future diplomatic policy should be during their meeting.

Sharon promised the cabinet Sunday that he will bring an alternative to his plan to unilaterally disengage from the Palestinians before the government, in three weeks.

But Netanyahu told the prime minister that three weeks is not enough time to come up with a proper alternative, and he urged Sharon to honour the referendum.

"A diplomatic plan is not a pair of socks that one changes every day. I am convinced that real consultations without a predetermined outcome will result in an agreement among Likud ministers, and I am happy to take part in such talks," Netanyahu said during the cabinet meeting.

He said the Likud poll "is binding for all Likud members, including the prime minister."

Netanyahu also said most Likud members would be prepared to make concessions, but not in the midst of terror, when they do not know what the results of the concessions would be, Israel Radio reported.

Tensions have simmered between the two since Netanyahu – along with Education Minister Limor Livnat and Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom – chose not to campaign actively for the disengagement plan, even though Netanyahu had announced his support for the initiative following Sharon's visit to Washington.

Shaul Mofaz

The cabinet gathered for its weekly meeting Sunday to discuss, among other issues, the implications of the Likud party's defeat of Sharon's disengagement plan on May 2.

The cabinet discussion was at the initiative of Justice Minister Yosef Lapid, who said Sunday that if there was no change in the status quo with the Palestinians, his Shinui party would leave the coalition.

Tourism Minister Binyamin Elon and Transportation Minister Avigdor Lieberman, both from the right-wing National Union party, walked out of the meeting to protest the fact the plan was being discussed, despite the defeat in the referendum.

The two said they did not see any point in discussing the disengagement plan or Lapid's alternatives. A source close to the two said Sunday that Sharon told his ministers it would have been preferable to discuss the disengagement at a later point, but he had decided to comply with a request by the justice minister to raise the matter at the meeting.

Sharon refused, however, to hold a broad discussion on an alternative plan. He said he would be meeting in the next few days with all cabinet ministers to help formulate his new proposal, and that there was no point in talking about a plan that was incomplete.

Lapid said a new plan should include the renewal of peace talks with the Palestinians.

"We can't now say, 'That's it, they rejected the disengagement plan, we're done. Everything is as it was,' in opposition to the American position, in opposition to the European position, in opposition to the Arab world, in opposition to most of the Israeli public," Lapid told Israel Radio.

However, Elon believes Lapid would not carry through on his threat to leave the coalition, saying the Shinui leader knows that if his party were to do so, the Shas and United Torah Judaism parties would take its place.

Elon also made threats. "Removing legal settlements that were established in Judea and Samaria [the West Bank] constitutes a red line," Elon said about his National Union party's participation in the government.

"If a legal settlement is evacuated, we will immediately leave the government," he said, adding the evacuation of illegal settlements must be judged on a case-by-case basis.

Security sources, meanwhile, report that Israel Defence Forces officers have in recent days held discussions with settler leaders in the West Bank, in an attempt to win their consent for the removal of illegal settlement outposts in the territories. The sources predicted that two or three such outposts would be dismantled this week.

The security sources claimed this weekend that settler leaders have been co-operative in the contacts with IDF officers about the outpost removal.

Sharon also told the cabinet Sunday that he would not be visiting the United States on May 17 as planned, to give him time to work on his alternative plan.

"The prime minister has decided not to go to Washington. He will be having consultations here in Israel regarding the disengagement plan," the Prime Minister's Office said Sunday.

MIA Ron Arad reportedly alive and being held in Lebanon

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Israeli airman Ron Arad, who has been missing since his plan went down over Lebanon in 1986, is alive and being held in Lebanon, according to militant Mustafa Dirani.

Dirani, who was released from Israeli captivity in late January in a prisoner swap between Israel and Hezbollah, told the Iranian news agency on Monday that Arad is being held in Lebanon. He said there were no grounds to reports Arad is being held in Iran, Israel Radio reported.

"I believe that Arad is alive, there is a very high possibility that he is still alive. It is not realistic to say that he was transferred to Iran. He is being held in Lebanon," Dirani was quoted as saying.

Dirani, the former head of the Amal militia, is thought to be the last person to have seen Arad. Israel believes Dirani "sold" Arad to the Iranian Revolutionary Guard.

Dirani was abducted by an elite Israel Defence Forces unit from his home in south Lebanon in 1994 and was held by Israel for 10 years as a bargaining chip for Arad's release, along with another senior militant, Sheikh Abdel Karim Obeid. Obeid was also released in the January prisoner swap.

Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz on Sunday denied Israel has received any new information on Arad. In an interview with Army Radio, Mofaz said recent media reports, including one that Israel has received a bone fragment claimed by Hezbollah to be from Arad, are totally groundless. The Prime Minister's Office also denied Israel is examining a fragment.

But these statements contradict earlier claims by military sources, who said the bone was handed over by Lebanese officials in recent days, and that Israel is carrying out DNA tests on it. The outcome of the tests was said to be expected in the coming weeks.

Some six months ago, Israel received a bone fragment that Hezbollah said came from Arad's body. DNA tests, however, did not substantiate the claim, and Israel is said to be treating the new bone fragment with skepticism.

Sources say Hezbollah leaking information to the Lebanese media

Army Radio reported that Israel received the bone fragment via the German negotiators who brokered the January prisoner swap, in which Israeli captive Elchanan Tennenbaum and the bodies of three Israeli soldiers were returned in exchange for the release of more than 400 Palestinians and the bodies of some 60 Lebanese fighters.

Israeli security and political sources last week strongly denied reports of progress in contacts with Hezbollah on another prisoner deal, saying they knew nothing of any developments. They confirmed they had also heard rumours Hezbollah was planning to pass items to Israel that would help determine Arad's fate, but said they have not been passed on.

The sources said the reports and rumours originated in Lebanon, adding they believed elements close to Hezbollah were leaking information to the Lebanese media in order to apply psychological pressure and create the impression a deal was in the works and had almost been finalized.

The Lebanese daily *Al-Mustaqbal* reported that the second stage of the prisoner exchange deal between Israel and Hezbollah will include the return of the bodies of the three Israeli MIAs from the 1982 battle at Sultan Yakub, along with information on Arad.

Mofaz said last week it would be improper to release information about ongoing talks regarding Arad, "whether such exists or not."

Arad's brother, Chen, said in an interview with Army Radio last week that he was unaware of any new information about his brother. "Every time there is a political crisis in Israel, Ron is taken out of the mothballs," he said, alluding to problems facing Prime Minister Ariel Sharon after the Likud Party's rejected his Gaza disengagement plan.

Hezbollah attacks IDF

An IDF soldier, Staff Sgt. Dennis Laminov, 21, from Bat Yam, was killed, two soldiers were seriously wounded and three other soldiers were moderately wounded Friday morning, during a Hezbollah attack on IDF posts in the Mount Dov area along the Israeli Lebanese border.

Move chess tourney

Israeli chess officials demanded last week that this summer's world chess championships be moved, after host Libya said it would bar Israeli players. Libya's announcement ended expectations that the chess tournament could help improve relations between the longtime Middle East enemies.

U.S. freezes water projects

The United States is freezing its backing for two water projects in the Gaza Strip. The Palestinian Authority's failure to capture terrorists who killed three people in a U.S. diplomatic convoy in October is behind the action, the Associated Press reported last week. The projects will be placed on hold.

Israeli-Arab orchestra wins

An orchestra of Israeli and Arab music students was named best large ensemble at the Royal Philharmonic Society Awards in London. The East-West Divan Orchestra, founded by Jewish conductor Daniel Barenboim and the late Palestinian academic Edward Said, triumphed on Wednesday over better-known groups such as the Halle Ensemble. Israeli Ilan Volkov, 27, a conductor who heads the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, was named young artist of the year.

Sharon survives vote

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon survived a no-confidence vote in the Knesset. The motion, submitted by Meretz and Arab parties, was rejected in a 62-46 vote. The motion came a day after members of Sharon's Likud party rejected his plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip.

Rice defends withdrawal plan

Condoleezza Rice said the United States still supports Israel's plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip. "It is still our view that a courageous step toward peace ought to be supported by the international community and the United States," President George W. Bush's national security adviser told the Anti-Defamation League in Washington. She said the Bush administration views the withdrawal plan as an opportunity to move forward on the Israeli-Palestinian track.

Court bars friendship

An Egyptian court rejected the establishment of an Egyptian-Israeli friendship association. The judge said Arabs do not need "false friendship," Associated Press reported. He went on to say relations with Israel should be left to Egypt's government.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

Founder of bone marrow registry honored

By E. B. SOLOMONT
Jewish Telegraphci Agency

NEW YORK — Jay Feinberg doesn't like being called a hero. Founder of the Gift of Life bone-marrow registry, Feinberg reserves that term for organ donors.

Most people would disagree with him.

Last week, Feinberg, 35, received the inaugural Charles Bronfman Prize, a new award for humanitarian efforts in the Jewish world.

"Different people do wonderful things in the Jewish world and beyond," Stephen Bronfman said. Feinberg's story "really hit a note in all of us," he said. "How could it not? He's a real lifesaver."

Stephen Bronfman, along with Ellen Bronfman Hauptman and Andrew Hauptman, chose Feinberg for the prize, which was created in honour of their father's 70th birthday. The prize will be given annually.

"We wanted to do something that would respect what he has done through his life," Stephen Bronfman said. "To perpetuate Dad and his attention to humanitarian issues, to the Jewish world and to youth."

As part of the award, Feinberg will receive $100,000, most of which he plans to donate to Gift of Life, which is funded by private donations and grants, mostly from Jewish organizations.

Gift of Life is a bone-marrow registry geared specifically for Jews. The genetic make-up of all body tissue – including bone marrow – is an inherited characteristic, and Gift of Life offers Jews from similar ethnic backgrounds better odds of finding a viable donor.

Like other small ethnic groups, Jews are under-represented in the nearly 50 worldwide bone marrow registries. They face an added challenge because so many Jewish bloodlines were severed in the Holocaust.

Gift of Life grew out of Feinberg's own search to find a donor after he was diagnosed with leukemia in 1991. During the four years until he found a donor, nearly 60,000 people were tested – and some matched with other needy patients – thanks to an organization of family, friends and volunteers then known as Friends of Jay Feinberg.

Following his recovery, Feinberg created Gift of Life to expand the registry as a "way of giving back," he said.

"A hero saved my life," Feinberg said. "I can think of no greater thing to do with mine."

During the past decade, the organization has registered another 75,000 people as potential donors. Nearly 1,000 donations of bone marrow and peripheral blood cells already have taken place.

Feinberg said he hoped to announce a new cord-blood registry – blood from the umbilical cord, rich with immature stem cells, also is effective in bone marrow transplants. Cord blood often is a more viable donation than bone marrow or blood stem cells, but it can cost around $1,000 for the first year and $100 each year after that to store.

Feinberg's organization is expected to partner with Hillel this fall to mobilize college students for the cause.

To determine if two people match, doctors look at the proteins on the surface of each person's white blood cells. A "perfect match" occurs when 10 human antigens match up. The closer the match, the less chance there is of graft-versus-host disease, an ailment similar to organ rejection following an organ donation.

Feinberg's match was Becky Faibisoff of Milwaukee.

In order to accept Faibisoff's bone marrow, Feinberg's immune system was completely destroyed through total body irradiation and chemotherapy.

Then, over two hours, the new marrow was infused, followed by a grueling recovery that lasted nearly two years.

Since the 1995 procedure, science has progressed, as have Feinberg's efforts to keep his registry up to date.

Today, he said, doctors choose whether they want their patients to receive blood stem cells or marrow. Cord blood increasingly is harvested and stored for future transplants.

Already, Feinberg has attracted the attention of families whose relatives he has helped.

"There are nearly 1,000 people alive and well today because of his efforts," Warren Spector wrote in a letter endorsing Feinberg's nomination for the Bronfman Prize. "By his existence as a transplant survivor, Jay is a comforting presence. His own survival offers patients hope in their darkest hours."

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים

Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University
is pleased to announce that

Ronald Appleby, Q.C.
has assumed the role of National President as of January 1st, 2004

A senior partner in the firm of Robins, Appleby & Taub, Ronnie has devoted much of his adult life to the Jewish communal world locally, nationally and in Israel. His philanthropic and community positions are numerous. Ronnie is a past president of the *Toronto Chapter of the Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University* and of *UJA/Federation of Greater Toronto*. Other positions include board membership with such organizations as *Mount Sinai Hospital, Baycrest Geriatric Centre, Jewish National Fund* and *Israel Bonds* to name a few; Ronnie has also chaired many significant fundraising dinners in Toronto for numerous organizations, most recently the 2003 Gala Dinner honoring Dr. John Trachtenberg.

Ronnie is the 2001 recipient of the prestigious Ben Sadowski Award of UJA/Federation of Greater Toronto for outstanding lifetime contribution as a community leader. He is the well deserved 2004 Negev Dinner honoree.

The Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University looks forward to a productive and active agenda under the leadership of Ronald Appleby.

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UN: Palestinians have 'right to sovereignty'

By SHLOMO SHAMIR
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

NEW YORK — The United Nations General Assembly last week voted 140-6 to approve a resolution that says the Palestinians "have the right to self-determination and to sovereignty over their territory."

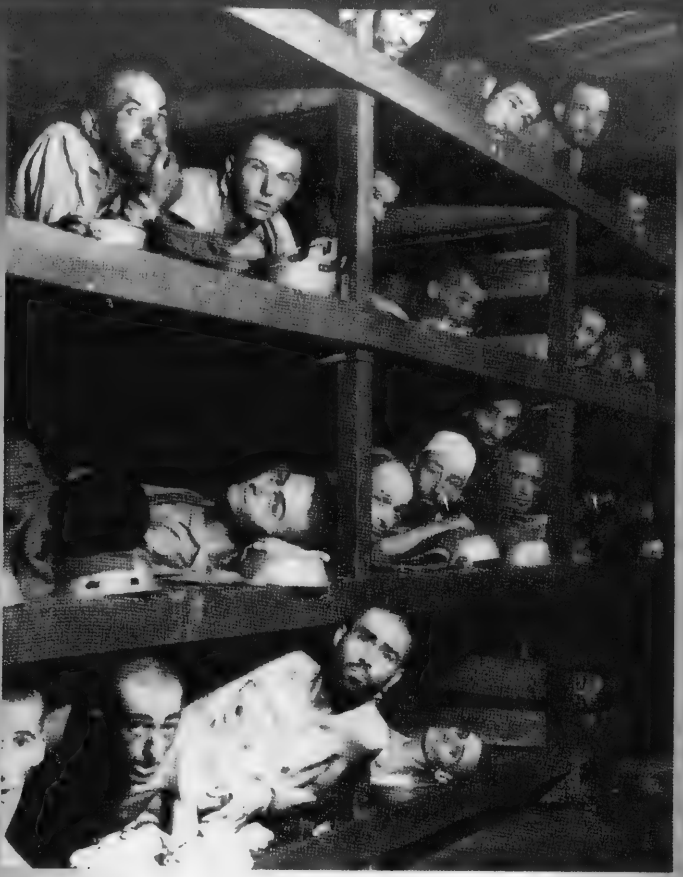
The vote was supposed to take place earlier in the day, but it was postponed to allow changes demanded by European countries to an earlier draft proposed by the PLO.

Israel, the United States and four Pacific islands were among the nations that voted against the resolution, while the 11 abstentions included Australia, Peru, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic.

According to the draft, "the status of the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, reminds one of military occupation, and affirms, in accordance with the rules and principles of international law and relevant resolutiuons of the United Nations, including Security Council resolutions, that the Palestinian people have the right to self-determination and to sovereignty over their territory, and that Israel, the occupying power, has only the duties and obligations of an occupying power under the Fourth Geneva Convention."

Earlier that day Israel told the UN that passing a draft resolution affirming Palestinian sovereignty over land outside the Green Line would undermine this week's statement by the Quartet for Mideast peace that borders must be determined bilaterally.

"FROM GENERATION UNTO GENERATION . . . WE SHALL REMEMBER"



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AVNER SHALEV, Chairman - Yad Vashem Directorate, Jerusalem

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Toronto rabbi leads ecumenical tour to Israel

By JENNY HAZAN
CJN Israel Bureau

JERUSALEM — A peaceful glow emanated from the dining hall of Jerusalem's Dan Panorama Hotel last Thursday night, when a 22-member mission of Jews and Christians from across Canada dined together after their first day of a week-long solidarity tour of Israel.

The tour was led by Rabbi Joseph Kelman, rabbi emeritus of Toronto's Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda synagogue, and former minister Dean Bye, executive director of Return Ministries in Centralia, Ont.

Rabbi Kelman initiated the joint project after meeting Bye a few months ago. The rabbi had been invited to Bye's conference centre to speak to Christians about Judaism.

Rabbi Kelman has never been on an interfaith mission before.

"It is working out very well so far," he says. "Here we have found a group of Christians who love Israel – Christian Zionists!"

For participant Rochelle Zubcov, a congregant at Beth Emeth, coming to Israel in a mixed group was a bit of a culture shock.

"The Christians on the mission talk about loving Jewish people and returning them to the land in a totally different vocabulary," says Zubcov, who brought along her 14-year-old daughter Shirley, a student at the Toronto Waldorf School.

"Jewish culture is more quiet and closed," she says. "They are very open, are dedicated to bringing blessings upon the Jewish people, the land and upon God. Their approach is neither better nor worse, just very different."

"The first time I came on a joint mission," Bye says, "there was an initial sense of discomfort between the Jews and the Christians and rightly so." He first came to Israel on a mixed mission with B'nai Brith Canada in June 2002.

"Historically, Christianity can be extremely threatening to a Jewish person. But we are doing what we can to help remove that threat so that we can begin to open up the lines of communication."

Bye has dedicated the last 12 years of his life to Israel advocacy. He has travelled several times across Canada visiting churches, with the aim of educating Christians about their relationship to Israel and the Jewish people.

"We want Christians to understand their roots, which are very Jewish, and then to find out what time it is prophetically speaking, to identify that we are living in the most exciting time in history, in the hour when the Jewish people are actually returning home," says Bye.

"As a Christian, the most important thing is to be found doing what I should be doing in the hour that I see right now, and that is to encourage the Church to get involved the way the Lord has written through His prophets, and that is to encourage the Jewish people who are ready to return to Israel to realize that they are doing the right thing, and to assist where we can assist."

Over the years, the same philosophy has driven Bye to raise enough money in Canadian churches to help more than 10,000 Jews across the former Soviet Union make aliyah.

"Isaiah 49:22, says, 'The Lord beckons to the gentiles to help bring its sons and daughters home,'" says Bye, "So, that's what we have been doing."

The question of Bye's intentions is a valid one, Rabbi Kelman says. "Do the Christians hope that one day, 1,000 years from now, we will all become Christian?" he asks. "Maybe, but I don't even want to think about that. What's important is that they are going back to their communities and speaking highly about Israel and the Jewish people."

Bye denies that his intentions include conversion. "It's not about what will happen in the future," he explains. "My motivation to do what I do is that His name is hallowed through His people when they come back to the land and restore the land and that tells the nations that He is in fact God.

"If God's name can be exalted and revealed because the Jewish people are doing what He's called them to do and the nations begin to see this, then they come to know the one true God."

For Bye, coming to Israel on a mission with Jews is the greatest pleasure in the world. "It is phenomenal to come to Israel as a Christian," he says, "However, to come to Israel with Jewish people is a whole new experience.

"The more the Jewish people would avail themselves [of the chance] to help us Christians understand how they feel about what's happening in Israel, the more it enlightens us," he says. "And for the Jewish people to beckon to the fullness of their call, they must be a light to the goyim."

Rabbi Joseph and Sara Kelman at a pre-trip meeting with Christian tourists to Israel.

Bye's passion is contagious. "It's very rewarding to travel with the Christians. They are marvelous and sincere people," says Rabbi Kelman's wife, Sara. "It feels very good to be supported by them. God knows we have enough enemies, so it's wonderful to have friends, and these are true friends."

Sara Kelman was one of only four Jews who decided to join the mission, a fact that disappointed Rabbi Kelman, considering that the Beth Emeth congregation has more than 1,450 families.

"The trip was supposed to be joint between members of Beth Emeth and Christians, but I am sorry to say that very few Jews decided to come."

Rabbi Kelman says 20 community members agreed to join, but changed their minds. "Without being critical, I am embarrassed that the Jewish community didn't respond as well as the Christian one."

But the Kelmans believe the project is still a success. "The objective of the trip was to bring Jews and Christians together to learn from each other," Rabbi Kelman says. "I wanted to give the Christians a proper perspective of being Jewish in Israel and to encourage all participants to return to their respective communities and encourage more people to come to Israel."

"The interchanges between Rabbi Kelman and Dean Bye have been very interesting," Zubcov says. "We are getting a lot of different perspectives."

"Rabbi Kelman can expound the richness of the scriptures because he has all the history, culture and tradition," says participant Cathy Prout, a pastor in Centralia. "He has opened up the scriptures in a whole new way that has really deepened my understanding."

"I didn't know that the Jewish people had a call deep within them, that God was calling them back," says Prout with a tear in her eye. "But, when I realized this, the scriptures started coming alive and so did my love for the Jewish people and the land of Israel."

Germany to fund survivors 'social needs'

NEW YORK — In what is described as an important breakthrough, the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference), following negotiations last week with the German ministry of finance in Berlin, announced the German government has made a first commitment for funds towards a program to meet the "social needs" of Nazi victims.

An initial sum of $7.2 million (US) will be allocated in 2004, and the Claims Conference plans to use these funds to provide homecare for needy Jewish victims of the Nazis.

Discussions of ongoing needs will take place at the end of the year, the Claims Conference said in a statement.

"This is a significant first step in dealing with a complex and important issue," said Israel Singer, Claims Conference president.

As well, an agreement was also reached with the German government to include survivors who lived illegally under a false identity or with false papers during World War II. This group will now be eligible for compensation under the Claims Conference's Article 2 Fund and Central and Eastern European Fund pension programs.

Formerly, under German government criteria, only survivors who were under 18 and lived under false identity apart from their families were eligible for these funds.

As a result of this new agreement, survivors who lived illegally under false identity or with false papers will now receive pensions irrespective of their age at the time of the war or whether they were separated from their families.

"People who survived the war with false identity papers are being recognized," said Gideon Taylor, Claims Conference executive vice-president.

For more information, go to www.claimscon.org.

Also last week, the Austrian National Fund announced another extension of application deadlines for compensation for war-era loss of apartments and small business leases, household property, personal valuables and effects until June 30, 2004.

Those who have received payments under the National Fund have been contacted to apply to be compensated for the above-mentioned losses. Lump-sum payments will be $7,000 per person.

For information, contact the Austrian Embassy at 613-789-1444 or at ottawa-ob@bmaa.gv.at.

And in related news, the Claims Conference said last week it has allocated nearly $400,000 to help gentiles who sheltered Jews during World War II. The recently allocated money brings to almost $5 million the amount given to Righteous Gentiles by the Claims Conference since 1963. More than 1,630 individuals receive the assistance.

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Support group for women with cancer draws over 400

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

More than 400 people, mostly women, attended the first awareness evening presented by the L'Chaim Cancer Support Group for Jewish Women at the Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue.

Four panellists spoke on the theme of "What Every Jewish Woman Should Know About Cancer:" Dr. Ellen Warner, lead researcher of a genetic study of Jewish women with breast cancer; cancer specialist Dr. Steven Gallinger; Elizabeth Erlich, co-founder of L'Chaim; and Rosie Sherman, an inspirational speaker and member of L'Chaim.

Panel moderator Marci Tenenbaum is a co-founder of L'Chaim, which was formed in 1999 by cancer survivors committed to helping others cope with cancer.

Warner, a medical oncologist at Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre and a consultant to L'Chaim, spoke on "Are Jewish Women at Greater Risk for Breast and Ovarian Cancer?"

She said there is a five times greater frequency among Jewish women of inherited genetic abnormalities that predispose them to breast and ovarian cancer. About two per cent of Ashkenazi women and men carry one of these genetic abnormalities inherited from either their mother or father.

Genetic testing, she said, is available to Jewish men and women whose family history of cancer suggests that the cancer may have been caused by such a gene. Women found to carry this abnormal gene have several good options for cancer prevention and/or early detection.

She asked the audience if they thought more women or fewer women are getting breast cancer. Most replied it had increased.

Seen at L'Chaim Cancer Support Group for Jewish Women's recent awareness evening are the panellists, from left, Dr. Steven Gallinger, L'Chaim co-founder Elizabeth Erlich, Dr. Ellen Warner and L'Chaim member Rosie Sherman.

"Surprisingly," she said, "the correct answer is that it is the same number in North America."

She explained that it seems as if there is more breast cancer because as we get older, our friends, relatives and co-workers also get older, and we hear about more cases of breast cancer. As well, the press projects a breast cancer epidemic.

She spoke of risk factors. Along with family history of breast cancer, there is a risk for women who start to menstruate before age 12 or who menstruate into their mid 50s. There are other factors over which women can have some control, such as being overweight, using hormone replacement therapy and having no children or having your first child after the age of 30.

She noted that studies suggest regular exercise is the best way to lower breast cancer risk. Although scientists are unable to agree on what an optimal diet should be, she said that "the only thing we know for sure about diet is that drinking alcohol is a risk factor for breast cancer, although [having] up to three or four drinks a week is quite safe."

She emphasized the need for early screening by mammography, "in the hope that if cancer occurs, it will be found at a stage when it is still curable – but that's not the whole answer."

She said women need to know the early symptoms of breast cancer – a new breast lump or thickening, bloody nipple discharge, dimpling of the skin or a change of size, shape or colour of the breast.

She stressed that all women should have screening mammograms beginning at age 50.

On the other hand, "screening for ovarian cancer, has not been found to be useful so far," she said.

She explained that symptoms of ovarian cancer often don't appear until the cancer is quite advanced. "There are some symptoms that occur many months before diagnosis, which women tend to ignore. The commonest of these are pain, bloating and bladder symptoms."

Gallinger, senior investigator in the program in molecular biology and cancer at the Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute at Mount Sinai Hospital and professor in the department of surgery at the University of Toronto is doing research on both inherited and acquired molecular aspects of gastrointestinal cancer.

Findings suggest that at least one-third of pancreatic cancer patients have a fairly strong family history of cancer, and efforts to discover pancreatic cancer predisposition genes are underway, he said.

Colorectal cancer is equally common in men and women. "The disease is 100 per cent preventable. We don't talk about this issue enough," Gallinger said.

There are 20,000 new cases of colorectal cancer a year in Canada, and the same number of new cases of breast cancer.

There is a 75 to 80 per cent survival rate for breast cancer patients, he said, whereas colorectal cancer has a lower cure rate of 50 to 60 per cent. He emphasized the need to recognize some symptoms which include change of bowel habits (diarrhea or constipation), blood in the stool, loss of weight and fatigue.

Anti-inflammatories and low doses of aspirin can reduce the chance of developing polyps, some of which may lead to cancer.

He stressed the importance of knowing the risk factors, such as family history. "Most people do not have a high risk," he said. He said screening should begin at age 50 for everyone.

Speaking on "How to Reach Out and Help a Friend Undergoing Cancer Treatment," Sherman spoke about her diagnosis, "which shocked me" and thanked L'Chaim members for their support. Some suggestions for helping others were: offer to drive young children, cook and bring dinner, offer to do the shopping or to drive the patient to the hospital for treatment.

"Take time to make a mitzvah. Spend quality time together," she said.

Erlich told of her personal journey with cancer and the founding of L'Chaim. She said there are many resources available, particularly within the Jewish community. Along with emotional support, L'Chaim provides cancer patients with this information.

"No Jewish woman here in Toronto who hears the words that I heard, a diagnosis of cancer, has to face the diagnosis alone," Erlich said. "L'Chaim is here for you."

Brain tumour fundraiser has South Beach theme

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

South Beach comes to Toronto this month for the annual Gerry and Nancy Pencer Brain Trust fundraiser.

The event will be held May 27 at the Liberty Grand entertainment complex at Exhibition Place at 7:30 p.m. Proceeds will go to research and patient care at the Pencer Brain Tumor Centre at Toronto's Princess Margaret Hospital.

Fashion maven Jeanne Beker will host the evening.

Entertainment will include latin music and dancing to Samba Squad and Cache, Cuban-style tapas, South Beach-inspired cocktails, a silent auction, and a raffle $25,000 cash (compliments of the Gerry and Nancy Pencer Brain Trust), a luxury South Beach vacation, or a Toronto Argonauts skybox for 12.

Plans are for celebrity designer Nicholas Pinney to create an art deco-style bar and lounge, featuring dancers, models and what a media release describes as "beautiful people in sexy club wear."

Last year's event raised more than $500,000 from its 850-plus guest list, and organizers hope to better that amount this year.

The Pencer Centre described itself in a press release as "Canada's most comprehensive brain tumour facility, revolutionizing the way patients are diagnosed, treated, educated and supported throughout their illness. This unique approach to patient care has made Princess Margaret Hospital a leading facility for clinical brain tumour research in North America."

Gerry Pencer was diagnosed with a grade 4 glioblastoma multiform brain tumor in 1997. Realizing there was a lack of readily available resources for brain tumour patients, he founded the Gerry and Nancy Pencer Brain Trust, a not-for-profit organization with a mandate to make a difference in the quality of life for people living with brain tumours. Pencer died in 1998.

For more information, or to order tickets, call the South Beach hotline, 416-923-2999, or visit the website, www.pencerbraintrust.com.

German filmmaker highlights wartime exploits of the Ritchie Boys

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

They interrogated German prisoners of war, defectors and civilians. They amassed tactical and strategic data of great value. They drafted propaganda leaflets and produced radio broadcasts.

They were graduates of Camp Ritchie, a remote U.S. army facility in Maryland's Blue Ridge Mountains where they had been trained in intelligence work and psychological warfare.

Christian Bauer

Their little-known story is told in *The Ritchie Boys*, an intriguing new movie, screened at last month's Hot Docs documentary film festival in Toronto.

Christian Bauer, the German director, heaped praise on its graduates, many of whom were Jews of German and Austrian origin.

"They gathered information that influenced tactical and strategic decisions," said Bauer, a 56-year-old filmmaker who lives in Munich.

Their efforts, which have largely gone unsung, may well have shortened World War II and saved innumerable lives on both sides.

At first, ironically, they were considered security risks by the U.S. government. Eventually, their linguistic skills and intuitive understanding of the enemy's psychology were put to good use in the titanic struggle against Nazi Germany.

To a man, they were highly motivated, though their sloppy military bearing left something to be desired.

"We were committed to this war for personal and ideological reasons," one of the Ritchie Boys observes. "We were driven."

"I knew I had to fight fascism," another one comments. "It had to be defeated."

Germany was riding high in 1942 when Camp Ritchie began training the first batch of recruits who would be known as the Ritchie Boys.

They learned Morse code, the principles of aerial photography and the German army's order of battle. In addition, they were taught how to use a compass and the art of close combat.

The first group of German troops they grilled were POWs who had been rounded up in North Africa. Later, they interrogated German prisoners who fought in the pivotal 1944 Battle of the Bulge.

The Ritchie Boys

The Geneva Conventions did not require a soldier to reveal more than his name and serial number. But through a combination of gentle persuasion, charm, jokes and the threat of being handed over to the Russians, the Ritchie Boys coaxed important information out of their German captors.

Toward the close of the war, the Ritchie Boys collected key documents and arrested Nazi officials in Aachen – the first German city to fall to the Allies – and visited the liberated Buchenwald concentration camp in Germany.

Not all of them emerged unscathed, some having been captured and others having been shot.

After the war, many of the Ritchie Boys enjoyed successful careers in the professions as university professors, psychiatrists, lawyers and the like. One individual, Richard Schifter, was a United States ambassador to the United Nations.

Bauer, who interviewed 18 of them, chalks it up to coincidence that all of the Ritchie Boys in his film are Jewish. "I also interviewed non-Jews, but they didn't make it into the film."

Two of the Ritchie Boys, the seasoned documentarian disclosed, refused to talk to him because of his German background. "I understand that, though I would have liked to explain myself."

He confesses he had mixed feelings about undertaking *The Ritchie Boys*.

As a German, he found it odd to be working on a movie in which Germany is the villain of the piece.

But as a liberal who abhors Germany's Nazi past with every fibre of his being, he felt perfectly at ease. "Many of us – my generation – thought of the Western allies as liberators," he explained.

Bauer, who once produced a film about the American Holocaust rescuer Varian Fry, basically stumbled upon the exploits of the Ritchie Boys while reading the memoirs of a Czech Jew named Hans Burger and a 1940s novel by Stefan Heym titled *The Crusaders*.

"I had read a lot about Jews who had left Germany," said Bauer, whose late grandfather, Hans, was a professor of Semitic languages at the University of Halle and who, inexplicably, joined the Nazi party in the penultimate year of the war.

"I was very much interested in this history, and thought Germany had suffered a tremendous loss when Jews were forced to emigrate," said Bauer, whose mother attended a Jewish school.

> *Their efforts, which have largely gone unsung, may well have shortened World War II and saved innumerable lives*

He added: "Jewish and German cultures were so close and almost inseparable. To see that cut off was an act of self-mutilation. That Germany disconnected itself from this part of our culture was painful."

In his view, Jewish artists and intellectuals enriched German culture tremendously. "Whoever looks at this question with a clear vision has to agree with this," said Bauer, whose father was drafted into the Wehrmacht at the age of 17 and then captured as a POW. "Just look at the contributions of German Jewish emigrés in North America."

Initially, Bauer was unable to raise funds for *The Ritchie Boys*. As he was about to throw up his hands in despair and abandon the project, a colleague persuaded him to persevere.

"I'm very happy I could make this film," said Bauer, who is at a loss for words when he tries to explain why a cultured, civilized nation such as Germany could have embraced a genocidal agenda. "But it was worth the wait."

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

NEW BOOK CELEBRATES CAREER OF BOBBIE ROSENFELD, 'CANADA'S GREATEST ALL-ROUND ATHLETE'

Bobbie Rosenfeld, born in Russia in 1904, came to Canada as an infant and grew up to be regarded by many as Canada's greatest all-round athlete of the 20th century.

Rosenfeld excelled in an astonishing array of sports and won both gold and silver for Canada at the 1928 summer Olympics in Amsterdam. Later in life, she enhanced her legend as a sports writer for the *Globe and Mail*. She died in 1969.

Anne Dublin, a Toronto teacher-librarian and writer, has just completed a biography of Rosenfeld. Released in an attractive and inexpensive edition by Second Story Press, the book is called *Bobbie Rosenfeld: The Olympian Who Could Do Everything*. It is especially suited to young readers.

Dublin is speaking at a book launch at the Miles Nadal JCC, 750 Spadina Ave. at Bloor. Thursday, May 13, 7 p.m. 416-924-6211.

Also at the Miles Nadal JCC, two of Canada's acclaimed mystery writers, **Sylvia Maultash Warsh** and **Caroline Roe**, present a Mystery Morning as they read from their recent works. For Warsh, it's the novel *Find Me Again*; for Roe, another intricately plotted tale of *Isaac of Girona*. Books & Bagels. Members free, non-members $5. Includes coffee and bagels. Sunday, May 16, 11 a.m.

* * *

Names in the News: "Honest" Ed Mirvish and his wife **Anne** were given a stellar reception at last week's gala opening of *Hairspray* at the Princess of Wales Theatre. Having recovered from a long illness, Ed Mirvish re-entered public life after a year's absence with his geniality and sense of humour seemingly intact as he bantered with a row of TV reporters outside the theatre. Inside, the legendary couple received a standing ovation as they took their seats... *Hairspray* itself is an energetic, joyous, swirling confection of music, dance, nostalgia and high-spiritedness. With a lively score by **Marc Shaiman** and effervescent performances from a huge cast headlined by **Vanessa Olivarez** (as Tracy Turnblad), this feel-good musical, which originated in Seattle and is set in Baltimore, is likely to be playing in Toronto for a long time to come. 1962 never looked so good. 416-872-1212.

* * *

Yiddish Stage Legend on Film: The Toronto Jewish Film Society presents *The Komediant*, an Israeli-made feature documentary that brings back the glory days of the Yiddish stage by focusing on dancing-singing comedian **Pesach'ke Burstein** and his legendary theatrical family. **Shirley Kumove**, Yiddish author and cultural interpreter, is guest speaker.

Al Green Theatre, Miles Nadal JCC. $12 general admission, seating limited, 18+. Sunday, June 6, 4 and 7 p.m. 416 924-6211, ext. 111.

* * *

Names in the News II: Award-winning California journalist **Sue Fishkoff** spent a year visiting Chabad emissaries throughout North America, then wrote *The Rebbe's Army: Inside the World of Chabad-Lubavitch*, recently published by Schocken. She's giving a talk at the Vancouver JCC on June 10. At the same venue, Toronto poet **Karen Shenfield** reads from her collection *The Law of Return* on May 20, and Ottawa children's author **Sharon Abron Drache** reads from her book *The Magic Pot* (which is set in Toronto's Annex) on May 25... Oscar-winning director **Steven Spielberg** has been scouting European locations for a movie treatment of the 1972 Munich Olympics where 11 Israeli athletes were killed after an attack by Palestinian terrorists. **Eric** (*Forrest Gump*) **Roth** completed the screenplay for the as-yet-unnamed film, which is slated to go into production in June, possibly with **Ben Kingsley** in a leading role.

* * *

Arts in Brief

• **The Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band** offer a performance and party in celebration of their new video *Shekhina*. Lula Lounge, 1585 Dundas St. W. (west of Dufferin). $10. Thursday, May 13, 9 p.m. Tickets 416-588-5050, dinner reservations 416-588-0307. www.lula.ca.

• The 2nd annual "Echoes: Artistic Expressions of the Holocaust," sponsored by Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center and Hillel, is a showcase of Holocaust-inspired works in the visual arts, film, spoken word, performance art and music. Admission free, everyone welcome. Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life, 36 Harbord St. Sunday, May 16, 12 noon to 6 p.m.

• Russian-Israeli pianist **Michael Berkovsky**, who moved to Toronto in 2001, has been acclaimed as a "promising young virtuoso" in Israel's *Ma'ariv* newspaper. He performs a recital of **Chopin** and **Rachmaninov** at Beth Radom Congregation, 18 Reiner St. (Bathurst-Sheppard area) on May 16, 7 p.m. Tickets $25, or $50 with reception. Sylvia 416-636-3451 or Raul 416-250-1918.

* * *

At the Galleries

• "Life Forms," an exhibition of sculpture by **Ruth Love Paisley** and **Evgueni Kogan**, continues to May 22 at the Al Green Sculpture Gallery, 64 Merton St. Also on view are new pieces by **Al Green**, the sculptor-real estate developer whose works also grace the plaza outside the Yonge-Eglinton Centre. 416-480-9827.

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Thornhill teens aim high in theatre/ filmmaking scene

By DAVID SILVERBERG
Special to The CJN

Canada has spawned several talented theatre partners, from Jordan and Adam Pettle to Soulpepper founders Albert Schultz and Susan Coyne.

Thornhill teens Daniel Karasik and Glen Drutz are the latest duo in a theatre scene full of 20-something hopefuls and grizzled veterans.

Karasik is a 17-year-old playwright who has staged work at Toronto's Tarragon Theatre and the Buddies in Bad Times Theatre. Drutz, 18, has acted in eight of Karasik's plays.

"Theatre is not just for an older group of people," Drutz said in an interview at Starbucks at Bathurst Street and Steeles Avenue.

Karasik nodded in agreement.

"I'm more mature having worked with these great people," he said. "I've seen how I can relate to a community outside a school setting."

Drutz, a York University student, is planning several filmmaking projects with two fellow York students, and in September, the group will begin shooting their first film.

While Karasik primarily wrote plays for his school, Westmount Collegiate, three years ago, the teen has since written pieces for the under-21 segment of the annual Rhubarb! Festival and for this year's Paprika Festival at the Tarragon Theatre.

Daniel Karasik

The latter play, *In Europe the Ceilings Are Very High*, uncovered raw emotions in complex personalities.

Considering its two main characters were Europe-trekking lesbians, was Karasik following the writing maxim "Write what you know?"

Karasik smiled and said, "I've never been to Europe and I've never been a lesbian. But the play is based on observation, on the universal truths that I've seen and heard."

In the play, Drutz acted in a minor role as a waiter-cum-boyfriend to one of the girls before she "turns" lesbian, and his performance showed a range from tender lover to sly womanizer. He said Karasik's vision of the role complemented his own take.

The two friends who met at Westmount share a sense of humour Karasik calls "particular," and they share a love of theatre and a perfectionist attitude.

"For an actor, nights go by without sleep and days go by without lunch," Drutz said. "But that's one of the sacrifices you have to make."

Karasik, who founded a company called Dressed Cod Theatre, said, "It really bothers me when I hear talk about the business side of theatre as if that's all there is to it. Sure, you need to know the business side to survive, but you also need to know the life of an artist."

He said theatre graduates often leave school as skilled actors, but without an opportunity to ply their trade.

"Yeah, it's difficult, and you learn by doing."

Karasik has also acted in several productions, including a role as Gregor Samsa in an adaptation of Franz Kafka's *The Metamorphosis*. Last year, he played a boy in the critically acclaimed *Stories From The Rains Of Love And Death*. He is well-read enough to have named one of his plays after a line from Puck's speech in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*: Even before it premiered at Buddies in Bad Time Theatre in February, *Night's Swift Dragons* attracted media attention from the alternative weekly NOW magazine. (A year earlier, another paper, *eye Weekly*, interviewed him for a feature on the Under 21 Rhubarb! Festival.)

Karasik is currently working on a play about the recent spate of anti-Semitic acts in Toronto. He said he hopes to attend the University of Toronto, but added, "If something came along that would give me an education in the world beyond the classroom, I might opt for it [instead]."

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By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

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Macias returns to Toronto after four years on May 20 at 8 p.m. at the Elgin Theatre, 189 Yonge St.

Macias, whose real name is Gaston Ghrenassia, was born in Constantine, Algeria in 1938 At 15, Gaston was already a member of the orchestra and the heir-apparent to the Arab-Andalusian music unique to Constantine called Maalouf.

He moved to France during the 1961 guerrilla war of independence.

After singing in café terraces, he made his first record, *Adieu mon Pays*, under his new name, Enrico Macias, about leaving his country, family and friends and his fame began to spread.

Enrico Macias

Macias was invited to perform in Egypt in 1978 by then-president Anwar Sadat. Macias, the son of a Jewish family from Algeria, who had been banned from Arab countries for many years, sang a message of peace to 20,000 people, at the foot of the pyramids.

He notes that he is determined to bring Jewish-Arab culture back to life through its music, because it was music that forged a bridge between Jews and Muslims in the past.

In 2003, Macias released *Oranges Amères*, an album produced by his son Jean-Claude Ghrenassia that features the singer's comeback to the eastern sounds of his early career.

Shimon Zer-Aviv, producer and host of the *Israel Today* show on CHRY community radio, is the producer of the Enrico Macias performance in Toronto. He says he is delighted that the international performer has included a Toronto performance along with performances in New York, Los Angeles, Washington and Miami.

"When Enrico performs in Arab-Muslim countries, he proudly announces his Jewish background," Zer-Aviv says.

In 1981 Macias was awarded the Singer of Peace award by the United Nations after he donated royalties to UNICEF.

For tickets, info call 905-731-7400.

Arts & Travel

Snoa synagogue in Curaçao is a major attraction

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

WILLEMSTAD, Curaçao — Although it's located barely 50 kilometres off the coast of Venezuela, Curaçao feels more European than other islands in the Caribbean.

The whimsical Dutch colonial buildings resemble Technicolor jewel boxes, and the local dialect, Papiamentu, is a lilting melange of Dutch, Spanish, Portuguese and English. Dutch alone is spoken widely among the tiny island's 135,000 multi-hued residents, who represent an exotic hodge-podge of European cultures and tongues.

Curaçao, one of five Caribbean islands that comprise the Netherlands Antilles (Aruba split off in 1986), still holds its Dutch roots in high regard. The country is proudly part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, which conquered the islands from the Spanish in 1634.

About the only place that summons a Caribbean feel here is the synagogue in Curaçao's tidy little capital, Willemstad. A burly security guard stands at an outer canary-yellow wall just around the corner from the town's tony shopping area. Inside, the visitor finds a cool, quiet courtyard adorned with potted plants and a door that leads into the oldest synagogue in continuous use in the Western hemisphere.

Going through that door is like stepping through a portal to a lost time. Every visitor, it seems, draws a sharp little breath upon first sight of the sublime Congregation Mikvé Israel-Emanuel (referred to locally as "The Snoa"). The heavy copper chandeliers that hold candles, the dark, carved mahogany pews, bimah and aron kodesh, the azure-stained glass windows and, of course, the thick carpet of fine beige sand on the floor all convey a sense of serenity, but also resonate with a history that unites many Caribbean Jews.

The sole difference here is that everything has a Dutch flavour, spiced generously with Spanish, Portuguese and African influences. The 500 Jews in Curaçao refer to Amsterdam, the city of their forebears, as "the new Jerusalem."

Our guide today is René Maduro, the gruff but amiable self-described "18-time past president" of the synagogue, whose family came to the island in 1674.

Maduro relays the background: The first Jew to arrive in Curaçao was Samuel Cohen of Portugal, a translator with the conquering Dutch fleet.

Seventeen years later, in 1651, 12 Jewish families arrived from Amsterdam's Portuguese community to work plantations under the charter of the Dutch West Indies Co. That same year, they established the island's first synagogue, the Mikvé Israel, on Plantation De Hoop ("The Hope").

A second group of Jewish settlers came in 1659 and brought with them a gift: a Torah scroll, which is used by the congregation to this day.

The settlers, like those who came later, descended from Jews who had fled the Inquisition in Spain and Portugal and found refuge in Holland and northern Brazil. But their efforts to till the arid soil failed, and they moved into the walled town of Willemstad to become successful traders, merchants and bankers.

There, in 1674, the first of four small synagogues was established, probably in a private residence. The last was constructed in 1703, demolished in 1730 and rebuilt as the more spacious, current congregation, which was consecrated on erev Pesach in 1732 and is still going strong.

Mikvé Israel-Emanuel's soaring architecture, Maduro explains, was modeled on the Esnoge, the grand Portuguese Sephardi synagogue in Amsterdam. One of the Snoa's four massive chandeliers dates from the synagogue that was torn down in 1703. Together, the chandeliers hold 144 candles, which are kindled only on special occasions. One of them is Kol Nidre, when the men wear top hats and tails, and the rabbi is garbed completely in white.

The interior of Congregation Mikvé Israel-Emanuel. [Ron Csillag photo]

"Imagine, if you're a romantic like me, what that's like," says Maduro. "It's a service that is incredible."

Another time all the candles were lit was in 2001, when the entire island, including visiting members of the Dutch royal family, celebrated the synagogue's 350th anniversary.

There was a brief bout of sectarianism when Reform-minded members broke off in 1864 to form Temple Emanuel. The split lasted for exactly a century, and in 1964, the two re-merged.

Though constructed with a balcony just for women, the synagogue went completely egalitarian in 2000, but not without a fight. And while still unmistakably Sephardi, its affiliation, oddly enough, is Reconstructionist. "We didn't want any of the traditional labels," Maduro explains.

About 100 dues-paying members live abroad. The congregation welcomes a steady stream of outside weddings and b'nai mitzvot, "but they are done according to our rules," Maduro states emphatically.

Indeed, the Sephardi nature of the congregation is obvious. The bimah, for example, is called the *haychal*, while the rabbi's pulpit, in the middle of the synagogue, is the *taybah*. There are still some prayers said in Spanish or Portuguese, including one for the welfare of the much-loved Dutch queen, Beatrix.

All but one of the 18 sifrei Torah are more than 300 years old, and all are written in Spanish-Portuguese Hebrew script. A master sofer is spending much of the spring on the island repairing the scrolls.

Meantime, the island's roughly 100 Ashkenazim – who are modern Orthodox – formed their own congregation, the Sharei Tsedek, in 1959, and are building their first freestanding synagogue on the edge of the capital.

Maduro concedes that, like most other Caribbean synagogues, the sand on the floor of Mikvé Israel-Emanuel is meant to remind worshippers that their post-Inquisition ancestors used the material to muffle the sounds of their secret prayers. But, he stresses, it also recalls the ancient Hebrews' desert wanderings as well as God's promise to Abraham to "multiply thy seed as the sand which is upon the seashore."

Maduro and other leaders are worried the Jewish numbers won't hold steady for very long. The age of the average member is the late 50s, and emigration to the United States and Holland is a concern. There are minyanim only on Shabbat and holidays, and kosher food is available only from South America.

On the other hand, there are 30 children in the community's Hebrew school, and there are active chapters of B'nai Brith and Hadassah. Israel's ambassador to Venezuela visits from time to time.

Common Jewish surnames include Henriquez, Caprile, Jesurun – and Maduro, who shakes his head emphatically when asked about anti-Semitism. "None at all," he pronounces, noting the community gets along well with the island's Muslims, estimated at between 1,000 and 2,000. Curaçao is 85 per cent Roman Catholic, with a smattering of Hindus and a small number of adherents of *Syncretismo*, a blend of voodoo and animist beliefs.

No visit to the synagogue is complete without a tour of the adjacent two-storey museum, which houses a stunning array of Jewish artifacts and ritual objects, including spice boxes, Torah covers, candlesticks and a Torah that dates to the 1300s.

In contrast with the synagogue's inviting warmth, the historic Beth Haim Jewish cemetery is a tad spooky. The oldest Jewish burial grounds in the Americas, opened in 1659, sits on a rocky, windswept plain outside Willemstad, the epitaphs on many of the 2,500 gravestones barely legible owing to the devastating combination of acid rain and sulfuric fumes from a massive oil refinery right next door.

The acrid smell, though, does little to detract from the fascination a visitor may feel upon discovering some of the symbols on the tombstones, including sailing ships and skull-and-crossbones.

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Pearl may not have been sufficiently vigilant, author says

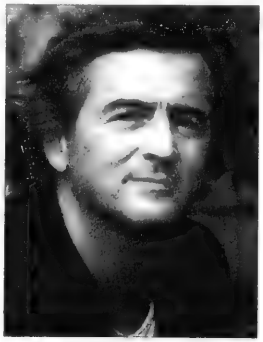
By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Four years before his brutal murder in 2002, Daniel Pearl, ironically, compiled a handbook on security issues for the newspaper that employed him, *The Wall Street Journal*.

Pearl, a meticulous reporter, dealt with every conceivable issue except kidnapping, the crime that eventually led to his grisly death in Karachi, Pakistan.

The question that arises is whether Pearl, the victim of Islamic radicalism, might have been careless. Bernard-Henri Levy, the author of *Who Killed Daniel Pearl?* (Melville House), leaves the impression that Pearl was not sufficiently vigilant.

He may have underestimated the dangerous environment in which he found himself. "Pearl was a journalist… working in one of the countries of the world where it is least propitious to be a journalist, where all journalists are… in permanent mortal danger," Levy writes in this thoughtful, sometimes riveting book.



Bernard-Henri Levy

Did he realize that Western foreign correspondents and spies are invariably lumped together in Pakistan?

And was he aware of the "virulent anti-Semitism of the Pakistanis?"

Certainly, Pearl put himself in harm's way by virtue of the fact that he was a Jewish reporter in a Muslim nation seething with anti-Western resentment.

Before Pearl was killed, his head severed from his torso and his body cut into 10 pieces, his captors released a tape in which he was forced to say, "I am American. I am Jewish. My family on my mother's side is Zionist."

On the eve of his abduction by Omar Sheikh, who is now behind bars in Pakistan, Pearl was hot on the trail of Richard Reid's mentor, Mubarak Ali Shah Gilani. Reid, a British convert to Islam, was the infamous "shoe bomber," the terrorist who tried to blow up a U.S. commercial airliner en route from Paris to Miami.

Levy believes Pearl was murdered because he came perilously close to exposing collusion between Islamic figures in Pakistan, such as Gilani, and officials of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence agency, better known as ISI.

In Levy's view, a fringe element in ISI was helping Osama bin Laden, the founder of Al Qaeda, and funnelling nuclear secrets to Iran and North Korea.

Pearl was not the first journalist to have been kidnapped by ISI agents in Pakistan that were suspected of having links with Al Qaeda. But he was the first to have been executed, Levy says.

Being cognizant of the risks he was undertaking by travelling to Pakistan to research this book, Levy took precautions.

First, he passed himself off as an atheist, not acknowledging his Jewish background. Second, he pretended to be a French diplomat, the "special representative" of France's president.

And furthermore, Levy, a renowned philosopher, claimed he was writing a novel rather than an investigative account– a work of imagination based on reality – of Pearl's demise.

Under cover as a French diplomat, Levy tried to meet with Omar Sheikh, Pearl's kidnapper. In his quest for the meeting, Levy met with the Pakistani minister of the interior. He, in turn, referred Levy to his spokesperson, Brig. Gen. Javid Iqbal Cheema.

Levy's description of their chat speaks volumes.

"With a steely look that expressed an absence of affability, he began by asking me, 'But what are you coming to this country to look for? In every society, there are areas it's not a good idea to walk through.

"'What would you say if I, Brigadier Javid Iqbal Cheema, started messing around in the underworld of Paris or Chicago? That's what this American Jewish journalist did, he went outside the boundaries. Be careful not to make the same mistake.'"

Levy never got to see Sheikh, an unlikely terrorist. Born in Britain, Sheikh was the scion of Pakistani immigrants. A bright boy, he enrolled at the London School of Economics when he was 18. He studied mathematics and statistics.

Having interviewed his friends in Britain, Levy learned that Sheikh was nice, hard-working and not particularly religious.

And he had Jewish friends. "Jewish or Muslim, it didn't count with him," Levy quotes a Jewish friend as saying. "He didn't see the difference… And even on Israel, we could disagree on this or that aspect of the politics, but he never denied Israel's right to exist. Was he religious? Not to my knowledge. He always said, 'I have a lot of respect for your people because, like us, you are merchants.'"

Levy does not solve the mystery of Sheikh's startling transformation from regular guy to Islamic zealot. But he gets a jolting taste of the anti-Semitic animus that pervades Islamic fundamentalist circles in Pakistan.

In a madrasa (an Islamic school), an incubator of radical Islamic ideas, a teacher informs Levy that the duty of Muslims everywhere is to support jihad against "America and the Jews."

"Why the Jews?" Levy asks, feigning ignorance.

"Because they are the true terrorists. And because they lead their crusade on the soil of Palestine and Afghanistan. Zionist agents have even infiltrated here, in Pakistan. Why do you think the government accepts their orders? It should place its confidence in God. But it accepts orders from the Jews."

Another time, Levy converses with a journalist on the staff of a Pakistani Islamist newspaper whose editorial declares that the murder of Jews, all the world's Jews, is a "sacred duty" that "pleases Allah."

As the conversation proceeds, the journalist asks Levy to try to empathize with Sheikh.

"Put yourself in Sheikh's place. He sees these images of massacred Palestinians. He knows Israel is a splinter in Muslim land. And he sees an Israeli – What do you mean, 'Not an Israeli?' Ah! But yes, I beg your pardon – Pearl's father was Israeli… For me, it all adds up. Someone who has an Israeli father and grandfather is objectively Israeli.

"It's logical. So, put yourself in the place of Sheikh. He sees an Israeli who comes to provoke the Pakistanis by intervening in its affairs. We don't concern ourselves with the Israelis' affairs."

As the conversation winds down, the Pakistani journalist observes: "But, really, Mr. Levy, I hope I'm not upsetting you. I hope, at least, that you're not a Jew. It's been amusing talking philosophy with you."

In closing, Levy concludes that Pearl – whom he describes as a "martyr for freedom" – was killed "less for what he thought or did than for what he was."

He adds: "Pearl was a Jew in a country where Judaism is not a religion, and even less an identity, but another crime, another sin… He was surely a victim of modern anti-Semitism."

Need more be said?

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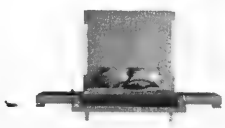
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$1,249,000. 4,200 sq. ft., 5+1 bdrms, 6 baths elegant home. Incredible 2 level cedar deck overlooking ravine. 3 w-outs, 2 kit, fam rm & study on mn flr. Jack & Marla Samuel* ext. 345

"COURTLAND" - JUST REDUCED!
Imagine 1,400 sq. ft. condo @ less than $140 per sq. ft. This 1 bedroom, 2 bath suite has a solarium, family room & balcony, facing northwest. Must sell! Perry Steinberg** ext. 334

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$349,000

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$3.29 mln

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Designed by Richard Wengle
at 1-2 acre land **$1.2 mln-$1.9 mln**

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Exceptional mansion on the best part of the street, more than 10,000 sq ft, 6 bdrm, 3 car garage, kosher kitchen

SOLD
24 Thornridge Dr.,
Designed by Richard Wengle.
186' frontage, 3 car garage,
Truly magnificent property
Asking $1,389 mln - **SOLD**

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• 144 Rockford Cres.,
3500 sq ft, 4 bdrms, 4 bath.
Priced to sell at $549,000. Exclusive.

• New house in "Hoggs Hollow"
Beautiful lot, 4000 sq ft.,
11' ceilings, natural stone **$2.5 mln**

• Lot 100' x 150' for 4 houses at Yonge & Finch

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Spacious custom family home, 4,400 sq. ft. + 1,900 sq. ft. in basement. 6 + 2 bedrooms, 6 baths, granite hallways, dream maple kitchen. Loaded with extras! Asking $1,195,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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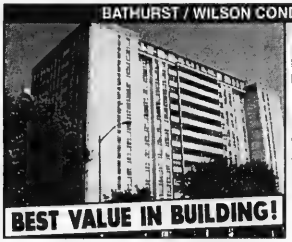
Best value in area! Spacious custom built luxury home, fin. bsmt., open concept, upgrades throughout! Approx. 2,900 sq. ft. + finished basement. Dream French Country kit., gleaming hardwood floors, main floor fam. rm. & 9 ft. ceilings, extensive use of marble & slate, **INCREDIBLY PRICED AT $869,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* or Mark Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

* * *

BATHURST / LAWRENCE

Magnificent Chateau-style luxurious custom home by upscale builder in prestigious location! Architectural gem with impressive front elevation, stone exterior, granite & limestone, 5 + 1 bdrms., 7 baths, dream maple kit., main floor library + fam. room +++. $1,149,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / WILSON CONDO



ESTATE SALE! Lowest priced 3 bedroom condo in building, approx. 1,500 sq. ft., 2 full baths, ensuite laundry, balcony. **ONLY $174,900 — ACT FAST, WON'T LAST!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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BATHURST / LAWRENCE

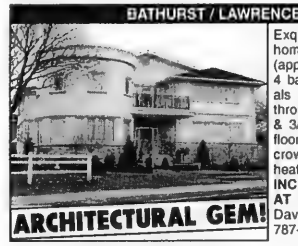
ESTATE SALE! Lowest 5 bedroom in area, on 53 x 103 ft. lot. Prime central location close to subway, TTC, shops ++. Attached garage. **ACT FAST — WON'T LAST!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

SOLD

AVENUE ROAD / LAWRENCE

PRESTIGIOUS AREA! Magnificent new custom luxury home by upscale builder. Quality craftsmanship and materials throughout. 10 ft. ceilings, gleaming hrdwd. floors, dream kit., granite & limestone +++. For the most discriminating buyer! Asking $1.59 million. Call Mark or David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / LAWRENCE



Exquisite custom-built home, 5,000 sq. ft. (approx.), 5 + 1 bdrms., 4 baths, quality materials & superior finishes throughout. Limestone & 3/4" plank hardwood floors, granite counters, crown mouldings, 2 heating zones, jacuzzis. **INCREDIBLY PRICED AT $998,000.** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / LAWRENCE — FOR RENT

HOUSE: Spacious side-split, 3 bdrms. + fam. room, fin. bsmt., double garage in prestigious location. Asking $2,500 / mo.

APARTMENTS: Two 1 LEFT newly renovated & decorated apartments! 2 bedroo…mo., 1 bedroom $800 / mo.

CONDO: Modern 2 bdrm. in gorgeous building near Lawrence Plaza, $1,500 / mo. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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HOMES

Bathurst/Wilson – New Custom Home! 5 bedrooms, 6 baths, approx. 3600 sq. ft., main fl… SOLD …Cameo kitchen, fin basement with self contained apt, total luxury thru-out, asking $869,900

Bathurst/Lawrence - Bungalow with centre hall plan, 3 bedrooms, eat-in kitchen, basement with rental potential, 53 x 117 lot, asking $464,900

Bathurst/Sheppard – Great Starter Bungalow! 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, updated kitchen, hardwood floors, move-in condition, asking $409,000

CONDOS

Bathurst/Wilson – Just Listed! Corner unit, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 balconies, parquet flrs, across from Baycrest, asking $157,000

Bathurst/Lawrence – Corner unit in "The Encore", 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, approx. 1,150 sq ft, outdoor pool, 24hr concierge, asking $349,900

RENTALS

Bathurst/Lawrence – Luxury condo unit, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, approx. 1,150 sq.ft., eat-in kitchen, balcony, asking $1700/month

Bathurst/Eglinton – Renovated 2 bdrm suite, approx. 1100 sq.ft., central location, garage, available immed., asking $1,395/month

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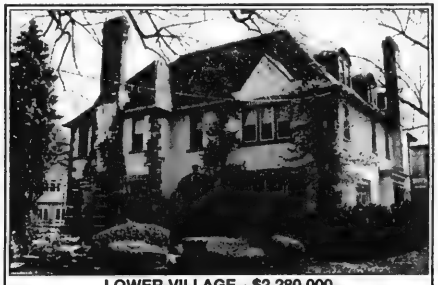

LOWER VILLAGE - $2,280,000

Magnificent Forest Hill residence boasts 7 bedrooms, main floor library. Gourmet kitchen. Grand principal rooms. Multi fireplaces. Family room on landing. Indoor pool with sauna, showers and change rooms. Must be seen.

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Comb lr/dr, cream marble flrs, 2 bdrms, bleached hrdwd flrs, 2 full baths, jacuzzi & sauna in master, lndry rm, eat-in kit, granite counters/flrs, prem applncs, windows. Million $ health club style rec centre, guest suites. $459,900.

EAST OF BATHURST AT CLARK DET. 2 STOREY

3+1 bedrooms, 4 baths, family room, hardwood floors, comb living/dining, pie-shaped park-like lot, walk to shuls, schools, rec centre, movies, prom mall, TTC. $368,888.

BATHURST/CLARK/HILDA

Reno'd, 4+2 bedrooms, living/dining comb, eat-in kitchen, fam rm, finished basement + 2 bdrms + kitchen + laundry + 4-pce bath, income pot, dble gar, quiet court. $519,000.

AVENUE RD/YORKVILLE

2 magnificent suites with terraces: 3,000 & 4,000 sq. ft., walk to fine dining, theatres, couture shopping, museums. $1,895,000 & $2,995,000. Epitome of luxury.

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$205,000. 2 Bdr. 1 w/r Lovely condo. Open plan, eat in kitchen. Great view.

CLARK/HILDA
$289,000. 2 Bdr. 2 w/r solarium. Demand building. Shabbos elevator. Excellent amenities. Value!!

DON MILLS/JOHN
$319,900. Fabulous 3 Bdr. Master ensuite totally upgraded - Large lot. Ask for Jaykee or Essie.

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96 LAWTON BLVD! RENO 3 STRY 5+1 BDRM!
$898K! Yonge N/St Clair! 5 bath! Nanny ste! Rare garage+priv prkng! Subway/shops! 10+! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

109 DELL PARK AVE! JUST COMPLETED!
$898K! Bathurst/Glencairn beauty! Lux 4+1 bdrm, 5 bath! Mn fam+lib+2pce! W/o bsmnt! Move in! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

FAB CUSTOM - LUXURIOUS FINISHINGS
4 bedroom featuring Kosher kitchen. Hardwood floors, finished in-law suite. 45 x 150' lot. Anna Pollock* 416-488-2875

CEDARVALE SOLD $799,000
Totally renovated 5 bedroom, 4 baths. Main floor family room. 38.75 x 125'! Pool. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

16 STORMONT AVE! UPDATE 4+1 BDRM!
$699K! At Caribou Park! Main family o/l's gorg'us 55 x 117'! Walk to shul! Impeccable! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

BATHURST/LAWRENCE $619,000
Gorgeous 3+1 bdrm. Large living/dining, family room. Sep entrance to basement. 55 x 117'. 4 car parking. M. Merrick* 416-488-2875

130 SULTANA AVENUE SOLD 3 BDRM, 2 BATH!
$387K! Bathurst N/Lawrence area bungalow w/sep entry to nanny ste! 55 x 132'! Immed! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

39 BRIGHTWOOD STREET! NOW $285K!
Bathurst/Wilson! Unbelievable! 2 stry, 3+1 bdrm, 3 bath on fab 50x120'! Walk to subway! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

BATHURST/EGLINTON $1,375/MO
Bright and spacious 2 bedroom LEASED unit. Parking for 1 car at rear. Call Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

BAYVIEW PROPERTIES

165 STEELES AVE E! LIVE/WORK @ HOME!
$995K! W/Bayview! Exec 7 bdrm, 6 bath w/2 sep stes! Rare 81x 123 w/loads of prkng! Call Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

74 MONTRESSOR DR! RENO 4+1 BDRMS, 3 BATHS!
$899K! Bayview/York Mills! Stunning exec res! Mn fam+lib+lau+2 pce! Gorgeous 52 x 133'! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

2 LAREDO COURT! NOW $878,000!
Bayview N/Finch! Sensational 5+1 bdrm, 7 bath! Mn fam+lib+lau+2pce! 3 car garage! Wow! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

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Recent outstanding custom reno. 2 bedroom, marble baths, open living/dining. Great views. Parking. M. Merrick* 416-488-2875

AVENUE/ST CLAIR! 2 BDRMS, 2 BATHS, 1,500 SQ. FT.
Prestigious building. All amenities + 24 hour concierge. Ready to move in. Call Pearl Grossman* 416-226-1987

YONGE/ST CLAIR 1,135 SQ. FT. LUXURY BLDG
Stunning 2 bedroom + den. Gorgeous finishes. Parking, locker. Concierge. Subway. Saul Merrick* 416-488-2875

FOREST HILL LUXURY CONDO $419,000
Stunning 2 bedroom corner unit. HJuge living/dining rooms. 2 baths, 2 parking. Marilyn Merrick* 416-488-2875

LUXURY CONDO IN TRENDY YORKVILLE
Hazelton area 2 bdrm, 2 bath. Gorgeous finishes. 9' ceilings. Hardwood flrs. Balc. 24 hr. conc. Prkg. Marilyn Merrick* 416-488-2875

ONE GLEN PARK - CHOOSE ONE
From small suites to grand penthouses. Stay in your neighbourhood. Carolyn Feldman** 416-488-2875

****SKYMARK** 2 BDRM, DEN + BALCONY!**
$359,000. Excellence - upgraded! $399,900. Stunning kitchen! Marty Wagman** 416-226-1987

LIVE IN FOREST HILL - GORGEOUS
2 bdrm, 2 bath co-ownership. N/W corner. Large liv rm, sep dining room. Good closet space. Prkng & locker. M. Merrick* 416-488-2875

BATHURST & STEELES 2 BDRM, 2 BATH
Beautiful condo with walk-in closet and ensuite. Close to synagogues! Andre Levy-Bencheton* 416-226-1987

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MAGNIFICENT CONDO THORNHILL
Bathurst/Clark Ave. Luxury 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, balcony, huge eat-in kitchen, large living/dining room, 2 parking, 1 locker. Fabulous view. Fresh paint. Promenade area. **Only $239,000.**

PRIME RICHMOND HILL
Fantastic 2 year new home, 4 large bdrms, 3 baths, main floor family room w/fireplace. Main floor library/den, high ceiling, strip maple hardwood floors, stainless steel top of the line appliances. CAC, full basement, large premium ravine lot. Priced for quick sale. **$499,000.**

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- The Chedington * 2 Bedroom+Den * 2.5 Baths * NEW PRICE * $2,250,000
- Yonge & St. Clair * 2 Bedroom+Den * NEW PRICE * $1,595,000
- 1 Post Road * 2 Bedroom * 2.5 Baths * $1,380,000
- 1 Post Road PH#9 * 3 Bedroom * 4 Baths * $3,500,000
- 10 Bellair * Rental * 4,400 sq. ft. * $16,500/month+

NEW PRICE ON FOREST HILL ROAD
$2,295,000. This 5+1 BR home offers superb craftsmanship & generous room sizes. Fabulous kitchen overlooks the family room with fireplace. Master has fireplace & skylights. Lower level with nanny's room & guest suite. New Price.

BAYVIEW / YORK MILLS CLASSIC
$1,859,000. Classic & timeless 4BR+D, remodelled to its original integrity. Beautiful curved staircase, olde world charm with wainscoting, French doors & built-in cabinets, sunny country kit. w/lots of storage, main fl fam rm, wonderful gdn, pool.

ROSEDALE COACH HOUSE
$2,495,000. A treasure to behold! Built 1880,restored 2001, this fabulous private res walled in with formal grdns & a pool, features Doric columns, foyer & staircase skylights, 3 frplcs. In addition, there is a fountain, iron gates & priv drive for four.

FOREST HILL ROAD
$3,550,000. Meticulously restored art deco masterpiece on a rare 285' extraordinary ravine property. Highlights include Brazilian cherrywd flrs, wonderful flow for entertaining, lavish Master Suite with dressing rm, main flr fam rm. Plus state-of-the-art media room.

2.16 ACRES – PARK LANE CIRCLE
$3,095,000. One of the last building property lots in The Bridle Path. Magnificent! Rare opportunity! Walk the land with your architect and start from scratch.

BAYVIEW / YORK MILLS
$3,880,000. Spectacular home built in 2000 by Joe Brennan, shows like new! Two storey foyer, 3 fplcs, main flr fam rm & sep guest wing + 4 bdrm & fam rm on 2nd lvl. Fin lower lvl with games rm, rec rm & laundry, landscaped grdns, 3 car gar.

REMARKABLE ROSEDALE RAVINE
$2,998,000. Rarely available 3+1 BR, lots size 107.46 x 305'; wall to wall spaciousness ideal for step savers. Rich in traditional custom finishes of wood paneling, marble firs, 11-1/2' clngs, solid oak doors, skylights. Circular drive, 4 car gar.

CHESTNUT PARK PERFECTION
$4,280,000. Rosedale 6+1 bdrm, 2 bath home is ready for you to move right in! Perfect for entertaining w/spacious LR., formal DR, kit. w/fam rm, 2 frplcs, 3 ensuites, media & exercise rms, security sys, central vac.

POST ROAD PARADISE
$7,950,000. Palatial proportions on nearly 2 acres! An extraordinary neoclassic palace beyond your imagination. 2 Stry skylite in foyer, Italian marble, French limestone & hardwood floorings, paneled walls, huge kitchen + main frl fam rm, plus spa & indoor lap pool..

CASA LOMA TREASURE
$2,598,000. Wonderful historical center hall residence on a 95 x 161 ft property. 6,500+ sf includes impressive butterfly staircase, wood flooring, 6+2 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, separate 2 bedroom suite. Finished lower level.

BAYVIEW / YORK MILLS
$2,195,000. Spectacular residence. Approx 7,300 sq ft of luxurious living space on 1 acre, situated on cul-de-sac. Wonderful lower level with media / exercise / billiard room & wine cellar.

THE BRIDLE PATH
$9,900,000. Impressive architectural presence and grandly proportioned spaces define this 6+1 bedroom modernist structure of glass, marble and concrete on 2.05 acres of mature gardens. 4 car garage, pool, tennis.

BAYVIEW & YORK MILLS MASTERPIECE
$4,985,000. 14,000 sq. ft. of unparalleled design. Marble fireplaces, 12' ceilings, indoor pool/spa, 5,000 bottle wine cellar. Heated drive with 4-5 car underground garage. Lit tennis court.

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WILMINGTON/OVERBROOK
3 bdrm, 2 baths, good size living & dining rm combined, updated kitchen, fin basement, garage.

SHEPPARD/ALLEN ROAD
Building for sale, 56 x 205 ' lot, ideal for educational or commercial office uses, steps to Downsview subway.

BAYVIEW/GREENLANE
2 bedroom condo, large living & dining, 2 baths, 5 appliances, move in condition, don't miss.

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Bathurst/Atkinson $649,000. Demand location in Thornhill, totally upgraded, spacious, completely finished basement, mn floor library, large kitchen.

Thornhill-Spring Gate Blvd. $479,000. Beautiful 4 bdrm, gorgeous landscaping, fin bsmnt, interlock drive, dbl gar, close to transp, shops, schls.

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Bath./401/Fairlawn twnhse, cozy 2 bdrm, eat-in kit., 4 appl., fence garden. 2 park. $1175+. Call to view 416-633-9667.

Bathurst/Lawrence, lrg. bung. 1750 sf, 2 bdrm. + panelled den, 3 baths, alarm, sprinkler $2600+ ***or*** $1800+ for main floor. 416-785-6660.

35 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

PRICED TO SELL, spacious 1250 sq. ft. Thornhill condo. 2 bdrm., 2 baths, 5 appliances, balcony, parking, eat-in kitchen, plenty of closet space, 2nd floor. $209,900, early closing avail. 905-762-0119, 647-294-7247.

SKYMARK II - $275,000. South-east corner, 1,700 s.f., 2 bdrms, 3 baths, open balcony.
PENTHOUSE - SKYMARK I $434,900. Over 2,000 s.f., parquet floors, garden atrium with 3 baths, 4 parking.
L. BARNETT 416-229-4454
Royal LePage Partners Realty

35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

Bath./Shepp., a/c, 2 bdrms., 2 baths/den, new kit., lrg. balc., pool, ex. room, sauna, close to shuls, shops. Suits quiet single/couple, no pets/smkng. Avail. immed., $1400/mo. Incl. cable, util. & pkg. 416-635-5167.

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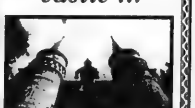

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Free agent pitcher gets new start in Detroit

By ELI SHUPAK
Special to The CJN

When Al Levine signed as a free agent with the Detroit Tigers in the off-season, he knew the club was well on its way to making itself competitive in the American League's Central Division.

With the additions of second baseman Fernando Vina, outfielder Rondell White and Levine, a middle reliever, improving on last year's disastrous 43-119 campaign was a given for a team that fell one game shy of tying the Major League record for most losses in a season.

But even with the signing of catcher Ivan Rodriguez, it would have been very hard to foresee a 4-0 start, the Tigers' best since 1985, which included a three-game sweep of the Blue Jays in Toronto to open the season.

"What's nice is that there are no expectations," said Levine, after pitching 1⅓ shutout innings in Detroit's 7-0 opening day victory over 2003 Cy Young Award winner Roy Halladay. "We just want to win and have fun. It's a whole new team, a whole new year and a whole new attitude."

The six-foot-three, 190-pound righthander who turns 36 in May is on a one-year deal at $825,000 (all figures US), about a third of major league baseball's average salary. The Tigers hold a $1.1-million option on Levine for 2005 with a $100,000 buyout.

An eight-year veteran, Levine was 3-6 with a 2.79 ERA in 54 appearances last season split between Tampa Bay and Kansas City. He was dealt to the Royals for cash at the July 31 trading deadline.

Levine had been released by St. Louis late last spring after getting hit hard during the Grapefruit League, but survived the cut this time around despite posting similar results.

"I really struggle in spring," he admitted after going 1-1 with an 8.25 ERA in 11 appearances, allowing 11 earned runs and 20 hits (four homers) over 12 innings. "I work on different things. I don't look at results and I really don't care about the numbers. I'm just looking to be healthy, strong and go from there."

Al Levine while he played for Tampa Bay

Though Levine is known primarily as a middle-reliever and set-up guy whose best pitches are sinkers and sliders, Tigers manager Alan Trammell told the *Detroit Free Press* he planned on using the pitcher in a lot of ways. Levine yielded a .137 batting average last season with two out and runners in scoring position.

An 11th-round pick of the Chicago White Sox in 1991, the Park Ridge, Ill., native said he had no idea where he would be staying once the team returned home from its series in Toronto.

"That's my wife's job," he said. "I let her get everything situated. I feel safe when she picks the place. There's no arguing that she doesn't like it. I'm easy like that. Otherwise you get a headache from it."

One door closes, another opens for Himelfarb

By ADAM GRACHNIK
Special to The CJN

The path to success is usually taken one step at a time, but one hockey player's journey just grew wings.

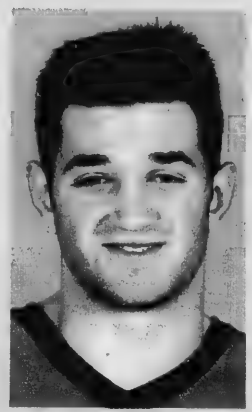
Eric Himelfarb, the 21-year-old hockey star from Thornhill, is playing with the Grand Rapids Griffins of the American Hockey League after signing a three-year deal with the Detroit Red Wings, mere days after ending his stellar junior career.

Himelfarb signed a two-way deal (one salary for suiting up with Detroit in the NHL and a lesser amount if he plays for the Wings' farm team in Grand Rapids) and earned a signing bonus. Terms of the deal weren't available.

"I'm really excited," Himelfarb said from his hotel room in Grand Rapids shortly after signing. "It's been an unbelievable and interesting couple of days."

Interesting, he explained, because on a Sunday he was packing his gear in Kingston, saying good-bye to teammates after his Ontario Hockey League Kingston Frontenacs lost in the first round of the playoffs to the Barrie Colts. The loss ended his junior career, and he didn't have a pro contract waiting.

On the Monday, in an unexpected turn of events, he was in Thornhill finalizing a contract with the Red Wings. On Tuesday, he flew to Chicago to connect to Grand Rapids and on Wednesday he played in his first professional game.


Eric Himelfarb

All in all, he was home less than 24 hours after finishing fourth in OHL scoring with a career-high 107 points.

"I never expected to play [in Grand Rapids] that first day. I thought I'd show up and meet the guys, but sure enough, I was in the lineup," he said, describing the feeling as exciting and nerve-wracking.

"I was just playing on emotion that day."

Back in Thornhill, the phone didn't stop ringing and the family was thrilled. After his little brother signed, older brother Adam went out and bought a Red Wings baseball cap.

"He put his mind and heart into a dream and he accomplished it," his mother Anne Himelfarb said. "Whether it's medical school or whatever, how many parents can watch their children do this?"

In her son's pro debut, he scored on his first shot to launch the Griffins to a 6-3 come-from-behind victory.

"I was relieved to get it over with. I got a loose puck in front and backhanded it in," he said, describing his first professional goal.

The locals were impressed. The morning after his first game, the headline in the *Grand Rapids Press* read, "Rookie's goal ignites Griffins."

In his fourth game, Himelfarb played in Toronto against the Roadrunners, where fellow Jewish player Michael Henrich skates. The Griffins outclassed the Roadrunners, thumping them 6-0. Himelfarb chipped in with a goal and an assist.

"There were like 50 [friends and family] watching me. It was awesome," he said.

In seven regular season games with the Griffins, the sniper had two goals, three assists and was nominated for the AHL Player of the Week award. In the Griffins' first two playoff games, both losses to the Chicago Wolves, Himelfarb had two assists, good for third place on the team.

For their part, the historic Red Wings, a franchise known for winning and succeeding, hope they've stumbled upon a gem.

"He's a character kid and comes from a good background. Those are assets for sure," said Jim Nill, the Red Wings' assistant general manager, explaining that the Wings scouted Himelfarb in at least 10 OHL games this season.

Nill said Himelfarb has fit in well, even though he hasn't been getting a lot of ice time. He said he'd get a chance to feel out the pro game in preparation for the Red Wings training camp in the fall. There he'll skate alongside a fellow Jewish player, veteran defenceman Mathieu Schneider.

Himelfarb's speed and scoring touch have followed him through his career, but adjusting to the pro game, he said, has been challenging. He's skating beside older, smarter players and the skill is better too.

As quick as he is, he can't escape his size. At 5-9, 165 pounds, he's always been labelled a small player with a big heart. That might explain why he never caught on with the Montreal Canadiens, the team that drafted him 171st overall in 2001, or the Ottawa Senators, a team that gave him an amateur tryout in the summer of 2003.

While Himelfarb can still add some mass, his size has never hampered his progress.

"I wasn't drafted very high in the OHL [or] in the NHL, so it's always nice to prove people wrong," he said.

Making tzedakah a top priority

The following interview is the first of a series looking at people doing tzedakah in Toronto.

Morgan Rosenberg makes time for tzedakah despite her very busy schedule. The CHAT graduate, who is now a full-time student at York University, takes karate classes twice a week, plays intramural sports, tutors students in math and science, is the co-vice-president of the York University pre-med society and works part-time as a genetics research assistant for the Centre of Addiction and Mental Health. Morgan, who just turned 21, knows the importance of helping others in her community. She volunteers at two different hospitals.

Every Monday morning at 8 a.m., she begins her four-hour shift at Mount Sinai Hospital. During this time, she assists doctors and nurses in the endoscopy unit.

"I get the charts ready for the doctors and help the patients get dressed," Morgan says. "I have been able to help some patients from the time they are admitted until they reach the procedure room."

Her smiling face and easy-going disposition have helped calm many patients' nerves before their procedures.

Morgan Rosenberg

Volunteers are important to Mount Sinai and help things run smoothly. Lesli Herman, Mount Sinai's volunteer resource co-ordinator, says, "Morgan is a very dedicated and reliable volunteer."

On Tuesday evenings at 5:30 p.m., Morgan goes to Bloorview MacMillan Children's Centre in North York, which runs programs for children and youth with disabilities or special needs. There she assists teens and pre-teens with recreational programming. They play games and do sensory-based activities together.

"As a Bloorview volunteer, I am sometimes the only one these children interact with who are not family, doctors or nurses," Morgan says. "When I arrive, some of the kids are bored and upset, and within 10 minutes, we are all laughing together. I do not know what condition bought them to Bloorview. I act only as a friend they can play and laugh with, and for a few hours possibly forget they are living in a rehab centre."

something

By MIRIAM PORTER

Morgan's passion for helping kids with special needs began at camp. For the past four summers, she worked at camps with special integration programs, where she helped the children perform a variety of activities. It was both challenging and fulfilling for her.

Morgan says growing up in a Jewish home with strong values helped make her the caring person she is today. Her family taught her to assist those in need.

Morgan smiles and says, "My mother is my role model. She is very caring and always encourages us to help others."

Morgan's older sister, Lara, is a volunteer at the Hospital for Sick Children.

The sisters attended a day school where tzedakah and tikkun olam (healing the world) were considered important values. Morgan's memories of Grade 1 include her Hebrew class performing in a play for the seniors living at the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care.

"It's important to think of other people and do things that will be a benefit to them," she says.

This philosophy has proved to be constant throughout Morgan's life. These days, she is working toward becoming a doctor and will be taking the MCAT exam in the summer. But as her busy schedule continues, so does her dedication to making tzedakah a top priority.

Miriam Porter can be reached at miriam@jtvproductions.net.

TASTE LIKE KNISHES

1 pkg. (8 oz.) refrigerated crescent roll dough
3/4 pkg. dry onion soup mix
4 servings instant mashed potato flakes, prepared according to pkg. directions. (equiv. to 2 cups)
1 egg, lightly beaten

Preheat oven to 350°F. Spray 2 baking sheets. Stir soup mix into the potatoes. On floured work surface unroll dough, divide into 2 (5"x7") rectangles. Press perforations together to seal.

Roll out each piece into 7"x8" rectangle. Spread each with half of potato mixture, leaving 1/4" wide border. Brush edges with some of egg. Starting with short side roll up. With serrated knife, cut crosswise into 1/4" wide slices. Place cut-side down on baking sheets brush with remaining beaten egg; bake 18-20 minutes.

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HOLLYWOOD GOVERNOR VISITS ISRAEL: California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger visited Israel last week where he announced a number of joint California-Israel business projects. In this photo, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon receives him in Jerusalem. [Israel photo]

A Toronto family's courage

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

In 2002, 862,000 visitors entered Israel – a 29 per cent drop compared to 2001. Fortunately, this trend is beginning to reverse.

Curiously, however, there are always a handful of Jews who make the trek to Israel despite the possibility of seeing terrorism up close.

URBAN WRITER

Paul and Susan Lindzon, a Toronto Jewish couple, are one example. Last fall, during perilous times in Israel, they decided to travel there for Pesach with three of their four children. I wondered why they weren't scared.

"We got a little nervous when the Israelis killed the Hamas leader," Susan said. "You see the picture of the guys with the bayonets, and if another attack would have happened, we would have cancelled."

Susan's expressions reflected a powerful maternal trepidation for the safety of her children. She added, "If something had, God forbid, happened, I would never have been able to live with myself."

Fathers might relate differently to their children's safety – perhaps more stoically.

"I was very driven for some reason for my family to be with my Israeli cousins for Pesach. I never wavered once," said Paul, who is an importer of shearling coats. "Besides, I travel to places more dangerous than Israel for my work."

Jared, 16, expressed a beautiful faith in his parents when asked about his fear.

"My mother was an Israeli mother for a few days, and I wasn't really scared that much, because she wouldn't let me get into a dangerous situation. She was scared for me," he said. "Besides, what are the odds of being in a terrorist attack?"

Russell, 13, is a determined teenager, with sparkling eyes and a dishevelled mop of hair.

"The only fear I felt was when we landed in Israel. But as soon as we got into the trip, I wasn't afraid anymore. The Israelis were so happy we were there and so was I," he said.

I was curious about what images of Israel appear in the inventive mind of a little girl. The Lindzons' daughter, Brooky is 6½ and terribly yummy. Susan and Paul wisely prepped her before their departure, telling her she would see soldiers with guns, but they were there to protect them.

"One night we were on our balcony in Eilat, however, and I pointed to Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Egypt," Susan said. "Brooky got scared, I guess feeling less protected. I comforted her and assured her we were OK. Her fears went away."

I don't know why some Jews are stymied by real or perceived fears about Israel, while others are not.

It was obvious, however, the Lindzons refused to be deterred. Maybe it's that Paul and Susan were taught courage by their parents. Perhaps it stemmed from their very deep and profound love for Israel as a Jewish homeland, and an understanding that risks accompany love.

"As I get older and see what's going on in the world, I see Israel is our home," Paul said. "You take it away and what do you have?"

Maybe their children's Jewish education on Zionism and stories of Jewish bravery, a sound investment, propelled their parents forward. Jared said he felt "honoured" to visit Israel and Brooky called the Kotel "the golden place in the city" and proudly said it was where the Temple stood.

Nevertheless, the Lindzons made the trip, returned safely, thank God, and have no regrets. Despite this, Paul concluded our interview by saying, "If I told you I didn't breath a sigh of relief when we landed in Toronto, I would be lying. But I was never really afraid for myself or my kids."

Mothers are different. Susan looked at Paul and said, "I never told you this, but every time an Egged bus went by, I said a quiet prayer for us."

Jewish courage comes in many forms.

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Barbara Bregman, Co-Chair

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We all have busy lives, and it is easy to become complacent. But complacency will not fund the fights that need to be fought. I am proud to be involved and hopefully excite others to do the same. Together we do make a difference."
Dr. Marla Shapiro, Co-Chair
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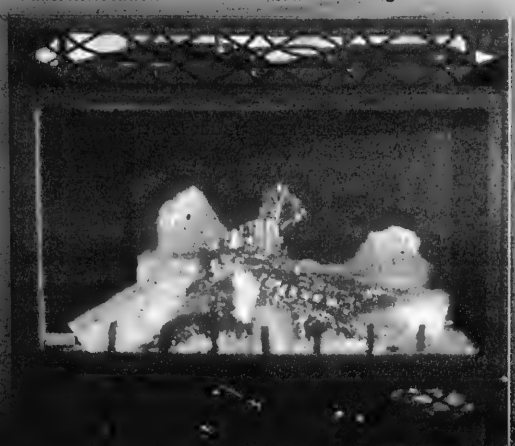

Everything you ever wanted to know about **kitchens and bathrooms**

By SYLVIA BROOKE
Special to The CJN

It is often said that the kitchen is the heart of the home. Just as it's smart to keep the heart in shape, so too a beautiful kitchen can bring a lift to the whole house.

Laurentide Kitchens (416-736-7300) has been building better kitchens for over 30 years. With computerized equipment and dedication to detail, they produce quality cabinetry at their Hamilton facility.

A family-run company, vice-president Lewis Czobit explains what they do best. "We provide a full-service product, everything from design to manufacturing to delivery to installation, complete project management."

Using environmentally friendly materials, they build their kitchens and cabinets in addition to applying their own finishes. Thermofoil, a highly durable yet economical material, is used in their paint and finishes.

Laurentide Kitchens also applies its skill to other parts of the house. The company installs bathroom tops in laminate, granite or corian. Especially for resale value, it is often noted that better kitchens and bathrooms can help to sell a house.

Currently Czobit has noticed that wood preferences are leaning towards pine, oak, maple and cherry. Kitchens are especially popular when finished in a maple wood species with custom finishes such as eye-catching crown moldings. "People are looking for unique kitchens, something that will reflect their style," adds Czobit.

The tone of a room can be set by the subtle nuances of the colour of its walls. Coulters Mill Paint (905-760-8118) is a Benjamin Moore signature store, housing a world of colours.

Manager Paul Tane explains that a trip to this store means getting "in-depth knowledge and expert advice, plus the personal attention you deserve. We're really focused on customer service."

It is staffed with experienced colour consultants who are there to help customers with specific projects.

For young families with the potential for many fingerprinted walls, this year saw the launch of Ulti-Matte paint, which has proven to be successful. Traditionally, in order to get the benefit of a washable surface, people were limited to glossy paint. But, adds Tane, Ulti-Matte is a washable flat paint enabling customers "the beauty of flat paint for today's busy lifestyle."

Decorative finishes to be added have also evolved into a wide range of different applications such as shadow striping and strié. There is a complimentary look for any type of home.

Coulter's Mill Paint carries the full Benjamin Moore product line-up, wallpaper and window coverings, and is also bringing in a variety of new product lines all relating to home décor for spring. A very unique line of window hardware includes tie-backs and rods in a hand-made high-end product.

This summer the colours and flavours of Tuscany will be featured along with in-store promotions and ongoing seminars.

Once the paint and permanent fixtures are in place, it's time to begin concentrating on furnishings. Regency Interiors (416-661-9100) has a longstanding record in designing and creating custom-made pieces to be cherished. President Sal Di Meglio notes "we've been serving many generations." Yet even with such a history of productivity, no two pieces are ever the same.

Many customers are coming back after enjoying a piece by Regency Interiors for many years, now looking for help in their need to scale down for condominium living. Older units can be refashioned to accommodate storage where needed, a beautiful marriage of form and function. "We get a lot of requests for one-of-a-kind special woods such as zebra, walnut or anegri," adds Di Meglio.

They are known for their stylish wall units and bedroom armoires. These armoires are designed to accommodate a stereo, with a combination of drawers and retractable doors. With a remote control and the push of a button, the T.V. comes out of the motorized cabinet. Complicated sound systems such as those with surround sound and different speakers are concealed behind exquisite wood craftsmanship.

Regency Interiors also does cabinet work for the bathroom. Working with a designer or architect's drawings, they can take a project from paper to reality with skill and versatility. Designing custom vanities for the bathroom, they can use different veneers or a faux finish, to create an antique look.

Amy Henderson, marketing manager for TAPS Bath Centre, (416-785-7224) has just returned from the Kitchen and Bath Show in Chicago. Commenting on some of the current trends, she says that "many people go to antique shops looking for washstands that can be converted into a bathroom vanity. They are often too short, however, and not deep enough to accept most basins. The solution is offered by American Standard/Porcher, who has developed furniture pieces with fireclay tops that are both beautiful and functional."

For 20 years, TAPS showroom has offered all brand name products of the highest quality to designers, contractors and the public. Their stock is offered at significant savings, due to the huge volume in which TAPS purchases. They sell over 10,000 different products, representing more than 200 manufacturers the world over. As Henderson adds, "our staff are very knowledgeable in the product and can walk you through the design process. That's the advantage of a boutique store."

A regular bathroom can be converted to create a spa-like ambiance. Custom showers are created with popular fittings such as thermostatic control to customize your water temperature, and hand shower or body sprays can be positioned to massage sore areas such as the lower back and thighs.

Also available are soothing whirlpools, shower enclosures plus pedestal, toilets, bidets, bathroom and kitchen faucets. At TAPS, they sell almost everything, including the kitchen sink!

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Pools - a country club in your backyard

By RUTH SCHWEITZER
Special to The CJN

If you're going to have a swimming pool installed, planning is paramount, as people who don't spend enough time planning may be disappointed with the result.

And once a pool is installed, it's pretty hard to move it, jokes Marvin Betz of Betz Pools (416-798-7955, www.betzpools.com).

Betz Pools specializes in vinyl-liner and concrete in-ground pools. Vinyl-liner in-ground pools have a shorter life than concrete in-ground pools and are cheaper. A vinyl-liner pool from Betz is in the $25,000 to $50,000 range, while concrete pools start at $50,000.

Heating a pool can extend the season and solar blankets keep the heating costs down

Vinyl-liner pools come in kits, which Betz Pools installs. The kits are available in standard styles, including kidney and L-shapes and rectangular, with several variations on each of the shapes.

Betz says he has upgraded the structure of the vinyl-liner pool his company offers. "We had it upgraded to make a stronger structure," he says. "Our customer is going to have a long-lasting pool."

While a vinyl-liner pool can be customized to a certain extent, a concrete in-ground pool can be completely customized for a backyard, and design-wise, almost anything goes.

Betz is the second generation to work in his family's business and he says the concrete in-ground pools the company installed 65 years ago have stood the test of time. "My first choice is concrete," he notes.

Lot size and where the sun falls in the backyard determine where a pool should be located. A family's activities may also be factors in determining pool design.

Betz says he installs rectangular pools for those who swim lengths. Water sports such as volleyball require a deep end. Most of his customers want a deep end in their pool, but he says that's not important to everyone.

Before pool construction can begin, it's necessary to get city permits, including building and electrical permits, which Betz Pools obtains for their customers.

Heating a pool can extend the season and solar blankets keep the heating costs down. Most pools in the city are heated by natural gas, which Betz says is quickest – "the fastest way to heat the pool from 60 degrees to 80 degrees" – and the most cost effective. "If you didn't use an insulated blanket, it would cost $2,000 a season. With a blanket, it's $500 to $1,000."

Betz Pools offers a landscaping service that includes patio design, shrubs, trees and lighting. "We create an entire backyard environment," Betz says.

They provide pool maintenance, including pool opening, weekly service and winterizing at the end of the season. But Betz says it's not difficult to maintain your own pool. Automatic pool cleaners are available, and to ensure that the chemicals in the pool are balanced, his company can test the water.

Continued on page B5

Installing a pool requires research and planning.

Spend the summer at your own pool

Continued from page B4

Betz says that if you're building a pool, it doesn't cost much more to add a spa. Spas used to be called hot tubs, after the wooden-style tubs, and the name stuck. "Spa" is the term preferred by the industry today.

A concrete spa connected to a pool starts at $9,000, as opposed to a free-standing concrete spa, which starts at $15,000. Acrylic spas start at $6,000. Most people prefer circular spas that accommodate four to six people.

Betz pools offers a five-year "bumper-to-bumper" guarantee on a pool and spa package. "That means everything is guaranteed for five years," Betz says.

Like Betz Pools, Bonvista Pools (905-475-6980) is a family business. Now headed by 33-year-old Melissa Brown, one of five children of the late Robert Brown, the 35-year-old company specializes in in-ground concrete pool and spas.

Of the Brown children, Melissa always showed the most interest in the family business. She started working for the company at 16. "I was the keenest one," she says. "My brother Peter is working with me now and he's only been in for six years."

Brown says Bonavista's concrete pools, which start at $35,000, last for decades. Pools the company installed 35 years ago still look as good as they did then and have required only cosmetic touch-ups. "The structure is as good as 35 years ago."

Pool design is rarely fashioned around family activities, Brown says, unless the owners want a lap pool for swimming lengths. "A pool is designed to fit a backyard more than an activity. If the family has a lot of kids, they tend to go with a larger rather than a smaller pool."

Installing a pool can take several weeks and Brown says the rule of thumb is to anticipate one week's construction time for every $10,000 spent.

Bonavista offers a variety of landscape and design options, including waterfalls, for the pool area. "It comes down to the homeowner's desire and what they want in the background," Brown says.

Bonavista's services include pool openings, closing and maintenance. She agrees with Betz about do-it-yourself pool maintenance, that cleaning the filter, testing the water, which should be done weekly, and adding chemicals can be done by the owner.

The company gives a 10-year warranty on the pool's shell only, with the remainder depending on manufacturers' warranties.

Bona Vista offers in-ground and portable spas. A portable spa is for someone who wants to take it to the cottage in the summer and bring it home for the winter, she says. "Or have it close to the pool in the summer and close to the house in the winter."

She says most in-ground spas Bona Vista builds are connected to swimming pools. One advantage to that is that you don't have to test two bodies of water since the water in the pool is the same as the water in the spa.

Bonavista's portable spas start at $3,000, in-ground spas connected to a pool start at $9,000 and stand-alone concrete spas start at $15,000.

The company offers a year's warranty on in-ground spas, and portable spas are covered by manufacturers' guarantees.

Brown recalls that as a child her family met in the spa at the end of a day, to chat and relax.

"A spa is wonderful for your body and makes you sleep really well," she says.

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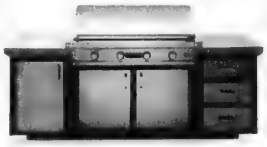
By ELYSSE ZAREK
Special to The CJN

When most people think of furniture, sofas, chaise lounges and kitchen tables come to mind. But the interior of the house isn't the only spot that needs some attention. Backyard patio furniture can be an important addition to your garden.



Sydney Brown from GP Products (905-709-1162) says that it is important to keep several things in mind when looking for backyard furniture.

• Think about size

How many people do you want the table to seat? Should it be round or rectangular? How much space do you have to fill? GP Products has tables ranging from an intimate 24-in. round table that seats two, to a 102-in. rectangular table for 12, so it's important to know what will fit best on your patio. Alternatively, you may just need a few chairs or only a table to fill in some empty space in the yard. Don't feel like you need to buy the whole set.

• Think about maintenance

An ideal backyard furniture ensemble should be maintenance-free, because nobody really wants to lug the furniture into the garage in the fall or scrape icicles off the table all winter. Aluminum is best in this department, says Brown. "It can be left outside all year round. Winter doesn't bother it."

• Think about your budget

Prices can vary depending on the size and style.

When it comes to design and durability, Brown recommends selecting either cast or tubular aluminum. Brown has seen cast aluminum grow in popularity over the past few years. Tubular aluminum is the type with sling seats for chairs, so you don't need separate cushions to sit on. "They are impervious to water, dry instantly and never fade," says Brown.

Aluminum also has the added benefit of being lightweight, so there's no need to worry about strained backs and pulled muscles from lugging the chairs around the yard. Plus aluminum never rusts. "You can probably leave it to your great-grandchildren," jokes Brown.

Is there anything that Brown won't recommend? "Avoid steel because of rust," he says. Also avoid resin, the material used in the ubiquitous white plastic chairs. Acid rain and air pollution turn the white to a dull grey that won't come out, even with vigorous scrubbing.

A tasty addition to the backyard furniture is a barbecue, and most people use their barbecues year-round, says Neil Patel of Barbeque Boys (416-588-6293).

Whether you're upgrading the rusty old clunker or thinking about buying a barbeque for the first time, Patel suggests keeping a few things in mind.

• Check out the warranty

A good barbecue should have at least a five-year warranty on the burner, a 10-year warranty on the cooking grill and a two-year warranty on the whole barbecue.

•Look for stainless steel burners and grills

Unlike cast iron, stainless steel is easier to maintain, doesn't rust, and distributes heat better over the whole grill. Stainless steel grills are also easier to clean.

• Think about fuel

The big question about fuel is whether to use propane, natural gas or charcoal. Most barbecues use natural gas because houses are natural-gas equipped. It burns cleaner, never runs out, and is safer because there are no trips to the gas station to fill up the tank with propane.

Propane, on the other hand, is pressurized and therefore more volatile. Plus, because it comes from the gas station, there's the chance that a tank can run out during a big party, says Patel.

Few people use charcoal for barbecuing now, but it has one distinct advantage. "When it comes to taste, there is nothing that beats charcoal," says Patel.

Like any other machine, barbecues need yearly maintenance inspections. Check the hose to make sure there are no leaks. Raccoons and other critters have been known to gnaw through the gas hose, says Patel. The ceramic rocks should be changed every year, and the grill needs to be washed regularly because the food is cooked directly on it.

Another important factor to consider when buying a barbecue, says Joel Waisglass of Sobie's Barbecues (416-224-2526), is to think about what you want to cook on it. If you plan on grilling more than hot dogs and hamburgers, then a barbecue with a side grill might be best suited for you. Waisglass suggests barbecuing fish and vegetables as well as the traditional meats.

But the most important thing about barbecuing, regardless of the grill you buy, is having fun with it, says Waisglass. Mix and match foods. Combine random sauces. (Waisglass suggests pouring beer on your meat: "I made beer chicken on the barbecue last night, and it was so tasty, my wife and kids thought I was a hero.") Anything goes on the barbecue.

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Variable or fixed? Our advice to the real players

By DAVID SILVERBERG
Special to The CJN

It's the classic mortgage decision: variable or fixed. Plummeting interest rates may help steer the homeowner in the right direction but the debate rages on.

"Interest rates are probably at a two-decade low," says Art Appleberg of Northwood Mortgage (416-969-8130). "In the 1980s, the interest was high, hovering at 11 per cent for a five-year plan. Today, people can get a 25-year mortgage at six per cent interest, and that's amazing."

While Appleberg suggests a fixed mortgage – in which the interest rate remains locked from the date of purchase – around 90 per cent of his clients opt for variable rate mortgages (the interest paid is priced off the major banks' changing prime rate). He has noticed younger homeowners find variable appealing, and older buyers enjoy the security of a fixed mortgage rate.

Appleberg says prospective homeowners should evaluate their acceptance of risk. "Do you want a quick low rate right now or do you want security long-term?" He tells his clients that they should remember buying a mortgage isn't playing the stock market – "This is your home you're dealing with," he stresses.

Irwin Igra, investment adviser for IPC Securities (416-565-2732), suggests a variable mortgage with a twist: "Make payments as though you're in a five-year mortgage plan," he says. "Don't pay the minimum, because then you're not knocking off any principal."

But as with many financial decisions, individual personalities can determine the outcome. "If you're the type to worry about rates jumping up and down, go for a fixed five-year plan," Igra says. "If there's anytime for a fixed plan, it's now."

Igra predicts rates won't increase higher than eight per cent, and most financial experts believe that rates will go up sometime in early 2005. Appleberg asks rhetorically, "How much lower can it go?"

He suggests speaking to an investment adviser before diving into any mortgage plan. Criteria to discuss include job security, payment options, and comfort level. Appleberg advises new homeowners "not to rush into anything." Find a mortgage broker through word-of-mouth referrals, he adds.

Monica Weissman

Apart from various mortgage plans, insurance should also be a consideration, according to Monica Weissmann, a financial adviser with Edward Jones (905-889-8535). Since houses are important investments, she says, it's integral for homeowners to own and control the mortgage insurance policy, as opposed to a bank being the beneficiary.

"There are no benefits going with the bank," Weissmann says flatly.

She outlines the benefit of portability. "If you own your insurance, you can move around and seek better rates without losing your coverage." Weissmann is prepared for criticism. "Some people say they don't see the value in insurance covering their mortgages. But I see it as the best return-of-investment if the need arises, worse comes to worse."

Igra offers another unique option: setting up a mortgage through an RRSP. Instead of making interest payments to the bank, the money is funneled to personal RRSPs, he says. "The downside is that your money is tied up with the mortgage, but I'm betting mortgages do better than Nortel shares."

Appleberg doesn't see the value in that feature. "We offered it in the early 1990s and only a small percentage grabbed it," he says. "It's best for sophisticated investors with self-directed RRSPs, which are quite rare."

So looking at the mortgage picture, which option is highly recommended?With tongue planted firmly in cheek, Appleberg says, "The best mortgage is no mortgage at all."

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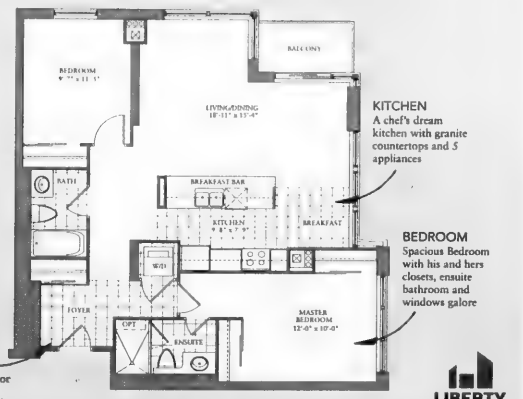

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What is the most important advice you give clients who are preparing to sell their home?

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Select an ethical successful broker. Sign only with his office. Seek advice on how to decorate the interior and groom the grounds. Co-operate on all showings.

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First impressions don't always get a second chance.

Crystal clear water in every faucet

By RUTH SCHWEITZER
Special to The CJN

Many of us buy bottled water or use a jug filter or single tap filter to purify municipal water.

Now, crystal clear, great-tasting water can run through every faucet in one's home, with the recently introduced Maytag Central Water Filtration System (1-800-688-2002, www.maytagwater.ca) manufactured by Zenon Environmental Inc.

"The system uses Zenon's patented membrane ultrafiltration technology that has been trusted and proven for decades," says Kevin Zicherman of the consumer products division.

Used in large-scale drinking water plants and cruise ships worldwide, it is the same waer filtration technology that helped resolve the Walkerton and Collingwood outbreaks, he says.

One year ago, says Zicherman, Zenon partnered with Maytag Canada to offer the system to homeowners.

The Maytag Central Water Filtration System effectively blocks and removes up to 99.99999 per cent of bacteria, up to 99.9 per cent of viruses and parasites, and eliminates cloudiness from water while allowing healthy, natural minerals to pass through the system.

An activated carbon pre-filter absorbs chlorine, which improves the taste and odour of municipal drinking water. The filtration system also helps to reduce sulphur smell if the water contains small quantities of the substance, but it won't remove the fluoride in the water.

The filtration system runs off existing water pressure without requiring any electrical power to filter water. Even during a power failure, filtered water continues to run through every faucet.

Once the Maytag Central Water Filtration System is installed at the point at which water enters the house, the system begins to work without a start or stop switch. If the main water valve is open, the inlet and outlet valves are open and the bypass valve is closed, the system is on, and filtering water soundlessly.

Backflushing itself daily, the system controller automatically flushes impurities down the drain at a pre-set time selected by the homeowner. The cleaning cycle takes about five minutes and uses less than four gallons to clean the system.

The municipal filtration system starts at about $3,999. Service life is expected to be 10 years or more, depending on the quality of water sources, Zicherman says. Maytag offers a pro-rated five-year warranty on the ultrafiltration membrane and a two-year warranty on parts and labour.

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New flooring puts new spring into your steps

By SYLVIA BROOKE
Special to The CJN

The right flooring can make a room come to life.

Joe Rivietz, president of Riviera Flooring (905-738-4588) knows this well. Commenting on his full-service flooring business, he states, "we use good materials and we have excellent installers. We really look after people."

Selling and laying hardwood floors is a big part of this business, and they are experienced at installing floors for condominiums. From start to finish, they do all the work, lifting the carpet, moving furniture, laying the hardwood floor and moving the furniture back. They even dispose of the old carpet.

Riviera Flooring will also install your laminate or carpet. Adds Rivietz, "we don't just sell the carpet, we service it, we install it and we have an excellent reputation. We bring it in direct. After 25 years, I don't buy from distributors." Lower prices are passed on to the customer in the absence of a middleman. They also custom design area rugs, beveling and carving them out to order.

A completely waterproof laminate is a high-pressure product also available through Riviera Flooring. Its beauty is in its simplicity as it is completely modular. The individual pieces click together, much like Lego, so if there is a problem piece it can be lifted out and replaced seamlessly.

You can even take it with you if you move.

Trust Flooring (416-745-8518) is Toronto's largest flooring store, and as sales manager Loren Kruger notes, with a name like that, "we have to really prove ourselves. We're known for our service and our breadth of product line."

They carry specialty items such as exotic woods that are not found in most stores, and their tile selection includes imports from Italy, Greece, India and Jerusalem. Their Jerusalem limestone is the product you see if you go to Jerusalem.

Their showroom, around 8,000 square feet, contains displays illustrating the different ways to use the flooring products. There is even a free on-staff interior designer to help with decisions, or to solve any design dilemmas.

Carpets come in diverse, colours, patterns, textures and piles. Kruger adds that Berbers in beige tones with accents are now popular.

There has even been a renewed interest in shag carpeting, which is now a shorter, high-end product.

Trust Flooring is a Stain Master® flooring centre and can offer warranties that other retailers can't. It is made up of a like-minded larger group of companies, dedicated to improving the experience of purchasing flooring products.

It is experience that Arthur Selyan, owner of Selyan Rugs (416-781-2030), brings to his interest in flooring. Established by Selyan in 1946, he has seen the business change over more than 50 years.

"We specialize in the new cork flooring that is coming out now, which we use in condominiums," notes Selyan.

Cork is a completely natural product, and is a sound environmental choice because it comes from renewable resources.

It acts as a good sound and heat insulator, and as a pressure and shock absorber. Especially in condominiums, it can drastically reduce noise, which could reverberate through the concrete. It comes in a full range of colours and is completely fire-proof, he says.

Selyan Rugs is fully stocked to meet all flooring needs. A member of the buying group known as Floors-First, they can offer exceptional prices, a written guarantee with their product and a written manufacturer's warranty.

Carpets warm and comfort any room

Selyan Rugs only sells pre-finished hardwood floors, which can be seen in their showroom. As Selyan explains, "we have the actual material in the flooring, not just a small sample." So one can really get a feel for the look of the flooring.

With the dominance of hardwood floors, Oriental rugs are more popular than ever. Currently, Selyan says, the trend in Oriental rugs is leaning towards Chobe rugs. Decorators have, in particular, moved towards this antique finish.

For a different look in area rugs, look to Dominion Rugs (416-485-9488). This is where designers such as Brian Gluckstein and Jeffrey Douglas come for one-of-a-kind pieces, sure to become precious family heirlooms. Rugs by designers Barbara Barry and famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright are represented. The Wright rugs are "a licensed product, put out by his foundation; an exclusive," explains president Ben Baum. "We really specialize in fine area rugs and broadloom.

"Today, texture is the biggest thing; patterned carpet is big now." With tone-on-tone design, a lot of sisal carpet is sold. The look is available in wool or synthetics, for easier care.

With over 15,000 samples of rugs to choose from, Dominion Rugs has the biggest selection in Toronto. Their Wilton Collection – English rugs in a floral pattern – is also the largest. After 57 years and with an alignment to an international design guild, (a buying agent for several independent stores), they get access to an exclusive product at attainable prices.

Baum notes, as well, that the latest rugs are made with vegetable dyes or in a needlepoint style. Tea-stained looking Aubussons are marked by their subtlety and air of tradition. "We import from Nepal, Pakistan, India and China. We're known for our service and quality. That's why we've lasted so long."

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Home security provides peace of mind

By SYLVIA BROOKE
Special to The CJN

Everyone wants to feel secure, especially at home. With state-of-the-art technology and good old-fashioned customer service, Into-Electronics Inc. (416-445-8274) can ensure your home remains your safe haven.

Their custom-designed service can help to ensure peace of mind regarding many potential hazards of home life.

Into-Electronics Inc. can monitor a home for flooding or sump pump problems, gas leaks, carbon monoxide and smoke, and can also secure doors and windows.

Rod Wechsler, one of the company's chief officers, explains the mandate behind the company: "We don't give away things for free and lock people into contracts; we don't believe the client will get what they want [that way]." They sit down with the client and find out what's important to them.

There are different methods of bypassing the alarm to keep the house monitored without breaking Shabbat, he says. For example, wired window screens enable a window to be opened and allow fresh air in, without disturbing the current flow of the alarm.

Into-Electronics installs commercial security systems in multi-million dollar homes, average homes and everything in between. Currently, they have installed and are monitoring systems for the Jerome Diamond Adolescent Centre, Bialik Hebrew Day School and Holy Blossom Temple.

Wechsler is able to use his background and knowledge in installing touchscreen systems for lighting, security and heating to enhance the company services. They can even arrange to have your phone system run on a radio frequency, should an intruder cut the phone line.

"We believe in service, it's a big part of our business," adds Wechsler. As demonstrated by the company rule, all calls are returned within 24 hours.

For over 25 years, Pre-Lock Security Services (416-773-5625) has diligently protected its clientele across the GTA and on up to cottage country.

Owner Paul Seidman explains that the company provides home alarms, but also physical security. Fortified locks such as Medeco dead bolts or Mul-T-lock, which is made in Israel, are unique in that their keys cannot be duplicated. The blank keys for these dead bolts are only available through a registered locksmith. It literally gives the homeowner "key control" of their home.

Seidman explains, "I like to look at the circle of protection. Security literally starts right at the front door. We work on the principle that it's better to keep the intruder outside and provide a physical presence right from the start, and avoid the challenge of dealing with the intruder later."

Physical security can also be implemented with bars on basement windows. But these are not the institutional-looking thick black bars of yesteryear. These bars can be quite attractive; many have a design or curve to them. They can even be fashioned in a 9-in. by 12 in. design, mimicking the look of a French window.

The company is very good at what they do. For 6 years in a row, they have received the Consumer's Choice Award for being no.1 in alarm and locksmith services. They are also an accredited member of the Association of Ontario Locksmiths. Their policy of protection can best be summed up by their motto: "Real security under lock and key." All Pre-Lock employees are bonded and insured.

Rod Wechsler

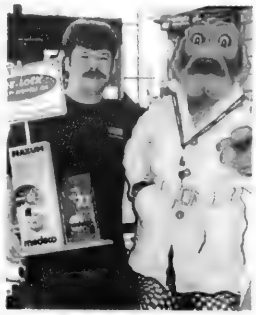
AlarmForce (416-445-2001) is a security system provider with a distinct difference. Their systems are monitored by live operators who forcefully address the intruder should one enter your home.

A siren doesn't tell a thief if a house is being monitored. As Alan Goodley, national sales manager explains, "we monitor with live two-way voice communication. People ignore [sirens] and the thieves ignore them as well. When a thief breaks into an AlarmForce protected home, we threaten the thief. The thief knows this is a live person telling him 'we know you're there and the authorities are on the way.'"

The two-way method of communication enables the AlarmForce operator to hear what's going on at the location as well. If there is screaming or cries of distress, they can quickly alert the appropriate authorities to have help immediately dispatched.

The security system uses phones as keypads, which allows clients to have multiple keypads throughout their home. The phone is wired to send a panic signal as well. A trap area with a motion sensor at the point of entry is created. It triggers the alarm within seconds, yet can be set up to be pet friendly as well. The sensors can be set at a specific height to enable a pet to roam the home freely while the alarm is on, without setting it off.

AlarmForce has 30 offices coast to coast and their systems come with a full warranty on the equipment, so if it malfunctions, it's fixed at no cost. With top service, a quality product and a record of customer satisfaction, it could be said that AlarmForce is truly a force to be reckoned with.



Pre-lock offers security

Secure your belongings with proper insurance

By RUTH SCHWEITZER
Special to The CJN

Building a new home is a major undertaking, and it's good to know that insurance companies will insure a home that is under construction if the policy is purchased before construction begins.

"The risk for the insurance company is the greatest at the end of a project," says Jeff Goldstein, vice-president of Paisley Manor Insurance (416-380-2211, www.paisleymanor.com). "That is why you can't get insurance after you start the project."

On the first day of construction, an insurance company doesn't have much liability if there was a fire, for instance, but by the end of construction of one million dollar home, the company's risk would be greatest. "Every day that goes by, the price of the project increases," Goldstein says.

He says that prior to construction one ought to consult with their insurance broker to discuss safety issues. If the insurance company says you need a fence or guards on the site, he notes, it's best to know before you start so you can build the expense into the budget.

Goldstein adds that one ought to discuss the coverage of building material with his or her broker. It's possible to have liability only – which means the building's owner absorbs the cost of any damages – and not to insure any construction material. "If you're doing a full construction project, a prudent person would go the full nine yards," he says, "and get maximum coverage."

Along with the many new homes going up these days, quite a few people are renovating older homes. It's important to inform the insurance company about renovations because to the company a renovation is a change in material risk. "If you do something to your house and you don't tell your insurance company," Goldstein says, "you stand the risk of not being covered."

> Premium discounts are also available if one pays a higher deductible

Any changes in circumstances, including building a rental apartment in the home, opening a home business or even installing an alarm system, should be reported to your broker.

Goldstein says that a home with an alarm system is safer than it was previously and safety reduces the insurance company's exposure, so having the alarm would probably get the homeowner a discount on his or her premium.

Premium discounts are also available if one pays a higher deductible, and in condos and apartments, discounts are given for various levels of security, such as whether a concierge is on duty in the reception area.

Condo insurance is similar to tenant insurance. However, a person who owns a condo also owns a percentage of the building and the cost of condo repairs as a result of a claim is borne by the unit owner. The owner's insurance policy would cover those costs.

> 'Cheapest is never the best'

Paisley Manor Insurance Brokers, which celebrates its 50th anniversary next year, is one of the city's premiere brokers, serving high net-worth clients. Founded by Irv Paisley, the brokerage represents such insurance companies as Royal and SunAlliance Insurance Company, Guarantee Company of North America, American International Groups (AIG) and The Chubb Group of Insurance Companies.

Paisley's clients can get coverage that is broader than is available anywhere else, including such additions as home-invasion and earthquake insurance. Paisley's policies reimburse the policyholder the cash value of a stolen or damaged item without the need to replace. With most home, condo and tenant packages, the policyholder has to pay for the cost of replacing an item and then the insurance company reimburses him or her.

Jewellery, silverware, furs and artwork are insured separately, and Paisley Manor offers breakage insurance for collectibles. If a cleaning person breaks a precious vase, the policyholder will be compensated.

The Chubb Group of Insurance Companies does complimentary in-home appraisals of houses and condos to make sure the homeowner has adequate insurance coverage.

Goldstein says his clients, who on average have homes that are worth two million dollars, are concerned with how well they are covered by their insurance policies rather than the cost of the policies. "Cheapest is never the best," he says. "You can't buy insurance by price."

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Seniors can retire with all the amenities

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Think of all the amenities available on a luxury liner coursing its way through the Caribbean or Mediterranean Seas. Need your hair done? No problem, there are hairdressers on board.

Like a quick nip during Happy Hour? C'mon down, the bar is open.

Ready for dinner? The elegantly appointed dining room is serving three meals a day.

Need help from a medical practitioner? Just call down, there's 24-hour medical care available.

Want to work out? The exercise room has recumbent bikes, a treadmill and other equipment at your disposal.

Add in social activities, entertainment, outings, a quiet reading area and comfortable rooms with a view, and the facilities available at Hazelton Place and Kensington Place bring a luxury cruise ship to mind.

Elegance and amenities are two of the latest trends in retirement living, with both facilities offering guests the kind of lifestyle one would more commonly associate with a cruise or a stop in a luxury hotel.

For those in moderately good health, retirement has never been so good.

At Hazelton Place, a 156-suite building on Avenue Road near Yorkville, the selling points are the quality of the facility, the amenities, medical care if needed, and a location for residents comfortable in the downtown area. Hazelton Place embodies a recent approach to retirement living, said Nadia Rahman, general manager of the facility. "As people age, they have high expectations. They don't want a retirement residence that's old, dark or run down."

"I think people, seniors in particular, are a more educated consumer," said Marlene White, community relations manager for Kensington Place, located on Sheppard Avenue between Dufferin and Bathurst.

"I find from the questions clients are asking now, [people] have come to terms with retirement living. They stayed in their houses as long as possible, but if retirement residences offer more activities, that can be attractive. Today, senior residences are fun."

This page's photos courtesy Kensington Place

In addition, Kensington stresses wellness for its patrons and offers assisted living services in the privacy of the resident's own suite. Retirement living in a seniors' residence combines independence and privacy, full meal service, medical assistance, friendships, activities and excursions, she added.

Kensington is slated to open for business in June. In the meantime, it offers nine different suites for viewing. When completed, the 103-suite building will offer rooms ranging in size from 380 to 790 square feet. Seventy-four will be one-bedroom apartments, 19 will be studios and 10 will be the larger two-bedroom layout.

Rent ranges from $2,750 per month to $4,950, and that includes three meals a day, a parking spot, weekly housekeeping and laundry services.

Kensington will observe Jewish dietary laws, though it will not have a mashgiach on site, White said.

So far, the facility is 30 per cent rented.

At Hazelton, which has been in operation for 3½ years, all meals are offered in a dining room that is open to the public, facing Avenue Road.

Continued on page B14

ROYAL LIGHTING's Home & Cottage Sale

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Focus on style, comfort and security

Continued from page B13

Apartments range in size from 410 square feet to more than 1,000 square feet in studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom configurations. The majority are one-bedroom apartments. Thirty per cent of the residents are couples, 70 per cent are single. The average age is 82, but clients range in age from 61 to 96.

Prices range from $3,000 per month to $7,000 per month, depending on the size of the apartment and the extra services required, such as daily housekeeping versus the standard weekly service.

Nursing staff is available 24-hours-a-day and there is a clinic on site. A physician visits three times a week, while a chiropodist is in the building twice a month.

Hazelton offers two different levels of care. "Independent" residents are able to take care of themselves, but assistance with medication administration is available.

"Service plus" clients require "a little additional care," Rahman said. For instance, those with cognitive impairment or lack of mobility have suites on the second floor where care by a doctor and nurse is readily available.

Residents must provide a complete physician's statement outlining their health history and each resident must undergo an assessment to determine if they come within Hazelton's purview.

Once they're in, there's plenty to do. Outings to the nearby Royal Ontario Museum are available, as are day trips to Niagara Falls. On site activities include dances, shows, arts and crafts classes, computer lessons and cooking classes.

With today's aging population of active people, "people expect their quality of life shouldn't change if they move," Rahman said.

At Kensington, tai chi, yoga and other classes are offered. Each floor features a thematic lounge with unique motifs. One will be the Pebble Beach lounge, with a golf motif. Another will be the Bal Harbor, with a nautical theme.

An in-house doctor is available and residents can take advantage of the building's spa and hair dressing facilities. A "Tuscany open kitchen" is open on the penthouse floor for special occasions and the rooftop barbecue is popular during the summer.

Kensington Place is being constructed by Forum Development and Amandus Developments and will be managed by Chartwell Senior Care Services. Deena Pantalone, a partner at Forum, said a hallmark of the development is that it avoided an "institutional approach."

This pages photos courtesy of Hazelton Place

Stressing that Kensington is not a nursing home, she said extra care will be provided residents in their own suites, if needed.

The developers believe the demand for such a facility in the neighbourhood is high. It is particularly attractive to North York residents who enjoy the area and wish to remain close to shopping at Yorkdale and Bayview Village.

Hazelton Place is owned by the B.C. Teachers Pension Fund and is managed by Diversicare, Rahman said.

FRENCH COUNTRY

What's old is new again! 6-light wrought-iron styled fixture, accented with beaded, tapestry shades (included). $249

LANDSCAPE

New for this season: classic-style exterior post lantern. Made of weather-resistant cast aluminum. Choice of 2 finishes.

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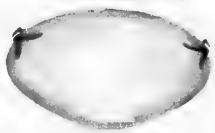

Flush mount with alabaster glass has satin brass finish clips. Choice of halogen or incandescent. New clearance prices.

12" diameter $10
16" diameter $20
20" diameter $30

VINTAGE

Just arrived, this semi-flush fixture is part of a family of vintage-style fixtures. Choice of finishes: antique brass, satin nickel or oil-rubbed bronze. $95

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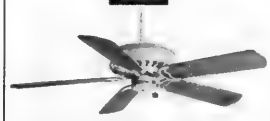

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By RUTH SCHWEITZER
Special to The CJN

WaterFurnace's Geothermal system for home heating, air-conditioning and heating water is ranked first for energy efficiency and long-term savings.

Overall operating costs of most conventional home heating, air-conditioning and water-heating systems are based on the efficiency of three systems – a fossil fuel furnace, central air conditioner and a water heater. With the Geothermal system, all operations are handled by a single system, ensuring that efficiency and savings are achieved in all areas.

Geothermal home heating and cooling systems have a higher installation cost than conventional systems because they require an earth loop, a pipe to be buried in the earth or to be submerged in a lake or pond.

Although the installation price for the Geothermal system varies, the minimum is $15,000, says Grant Blackmore, president of Eden Energy Equipment (1-800-665-3336, www.waterfurnace.ca), the Ontario distributor for WaterFurnace.

Blackmore says cost depends on the type of equipment selected – WaterFurnace manufactures several models of furnaces, air conditioners and hot-water heaters – and how easy it is to install the pipe. One can choose to purchase a hot-water heater only, which would reduce the cost considerably.

The Geothermal system delivers three or four units of energy to the home for every unit of electrical energy used. And the system works with nature, not against it, helping to minimize acid rain, air pollution and the greenhouse effect.

A new home buyer can tie the initial cost of the system into his or her monthly mortgage payment with monthly savings from the system, easily covering the additional amount added to the mortgage.

WaterFurnace guarantees its products for a minimum of five years, with a 10-year warranty on high-end products. Warranties cover all unit parts and any accessories included as part of the system.

Along with the WaterFurnace line, Eden Equipment offers products that rid a house of stale air and ensure a continuous flow of clean fresh air. They include the residential vanEE Air Exchanger and the vanEE HEPA filter & HEPA Air Exchanger (www.vanee.ca).

Merry Maids
make your home sparkle

By RUTH SCHWEITZER
Special to The CJN

Merry Maids is the world's largest maid service, with more than 900 locations in the United States, and 46 in Canada.

In Toronto, it (416-489-7447) celebrates its fifth anniversary this August.

Merry Maids cleans everything from bachelor apartments to mansions.

"Each home is priced individually based on the client's needs and requirements," says David Henderson, owner of the Toronto franchise of Merry Maids.

Henderson has a 25-year background in retail credit and collections. A few years ago, he attended a franchise show in Toronto with the idea of changing careers. After the show, he says, he decided that Merry Maids was for him.

Henderson trains his staff himself. A new staff member spends his or her first day in the office with Henderson for an orientation session, which includes watching a cleaning-procedural video and two safety videos.

The safety videos cover such subjects as how to properly handle cleaning products, and how to move furniture safely.

Staff members are discouraged from engaging in small talk with their clients – they are told not to ask intrusive personal questions unrelated to cleaning – but they are encouraged to be polite and friendly.

They are instructed to respect their clients' privacy and never to open drawers or doors without permission.

Television sets or computers should not be unplugged, and if they find any money, even if it's only a penny, they are asked to bring it to the client's attention.

In the event that they break anything, they are asked to report it immediately as "the broken item will be gladly replaced by Merry Maids," Henderson says.

As it is a Monday to Friday service, Merry Maids has keys to the majority of homes they clean. "The keys are number-coded for security so there is no association with the address," he says. "Keys are kept in a locked safe box until the day of cleaning."

The service's staff is bonded, insured and covered by workers' compensation and all the cleaning products used by Merry Maids are environmentally friendly and unscented.

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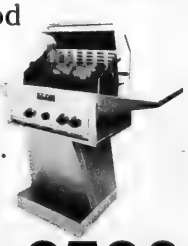
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Illuminate your life
with the right choice of lights

By ELYSSE ZAREK
Special to The CJN

When God said "Let there be light," he clearly knew that good lighting is essential to making your room, house or world look fantastic.

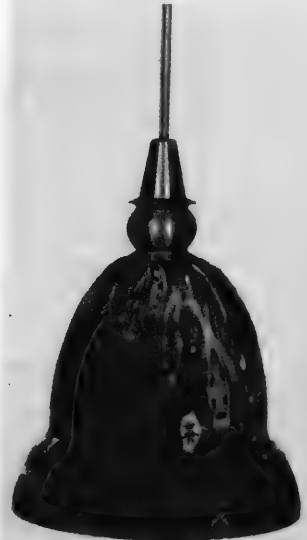
So when it comes to lighting your home from the outside, Michael Gladstone of Royal Lighting (416-782-1129) recommends installing a mixture of fixed and decorative lights and lights that are activated by motion sensors.

"If you only have motion sensors, your house will be dark all the time, so you really need a combination of both."

On the inside, there are three places where good, strong lighting is important. The bathroom needs a strong light over the mirror for shaving and applying makeup. The laundry room should be bright so you can make sure your clothes are clean. The kitchen also needs to be well-lit for preparing food, but loves of romantic dinners can install a dimmer on the light fixture over the kitchen table to set the mood.

Halogen light bulbs have become more popular in recent years because they emit a cleaner light that puts less strain on the eyes than a regular light bulb. They also have energy saving benefits. A 40-watt halogen bulb uses the same amount of energy and shines the same amount of light as a regular 60-watt light bulb.

Regular energy-efficient light bulbs such as compact fluorescents, while popular, should only be used in areas where the quality of light isn't that important, says Gladstone. He has two energy efficient light bulbs at home. He keeps one in a table lamp that stays on all day.



"When the family came over for Passover, I switched it to a tri-light – it's a nicer light – then I switched it back," he chuckles.

Tri-lights are bulbs that have different strengths. Twisting the on/off knob will increase the light from 50 watts to 100 or 150 watts.

If you've inherited Bubbe's antique lamp but the lampshade has torn and you can't bear the thought of tossing the whole thing out, Andre Sermer of Custom Lampshade (416-236-3244) has a solution. His company specializes in making hand-sewn lampshades and can recover an antique lampshade to make it look like new.

Sermer can cover lamps with parchment, craft paper or fabric. The only materials he doesn't work with are glass and mica.

"Our stuff is made like stuff was made 25 years ago," he says.

Alternatively, if you want your lampshade to match a room's colour scheme, Sermer can help you choose a fabric and colour to complement the room. He recommends that customers look for lamps at regular lighting stores and consider having a custom lampshade made.

The only thing that Sermer insists on is seeing the lamp before he agrees to make a cover for it.

"Buying a lampshade without a lamp is like buying a hat without your head," he says.

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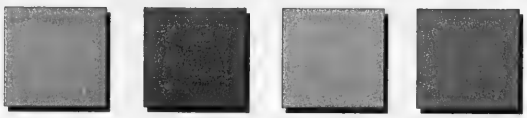

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Selling your belongings can be **hassle-free**

By RUTH SCHWEITZER
Special to The CJN

When you're downsizing from a four-bedroom home, you probably cannot take everything with you.

Some people have contents sales to rid themselves of the belongings they longer need, and to make a little money from items that they may have acquired for high prices years ago.

Those who would rather avoid the hassle of selling their furniture, paintings, silver and knickknacks can hire professionals such as Contents Connection (905-881-6666, www.contentsconnection.com) to do the job.

> The owner receives 60% and the store takes a 40% share

Stuart Teperman of Contents Connection says he finds many people, especially the elderly, have security concerns about running their own contents sales because they are worried about their homes being overrun by strangers.

Contents Connection will hold one- or two-day contents sales if the quantity of merchandise justifies it. If there isn't enough merchandise for a contents sale, Teperman can display middle to upper-quality pieces in his 5,000-square-foot showroom in Thornhill.

The showroom features antique and good quality dining-room sets, living-room sets, bedroom sets, china, silver, lamps and light fixtures, as well as art and gift items such as picture frames – everything except appliances and clothing.

When Contents Connection sells an item that is on consignment – the price of everything in the showroom is negotiable – the owner receives 60 per cent and the store takes a 40 per cent share. As far as setting prices go, Teperman says "we know in today's market what quality used merchandise is worth." Contents Connection also operates an appraisal service.

Teperman and his wife Wendy founded Contents Connection 15 years ago. He has a background in demolition, and building owners sometimes asked him to dispose of a building's contents before the building was torn down. As a former real estate agent, Wendy Teperman watched many people move from large homes into condominiums.

The Tepermans saw a niche in the market – they realized that people have to sell their furniture when they downsize – and they went into business to help people do that. "We're a very much needed service," Teperman says.

At first the Tepermans ran contents sales only. They found, however, that they still had valuable merchandise left at the end of a one- or two-day sale so they opened a showroom to display the better quality merchandise. Their customers include interior designers who are shopping for their clients and movie people looking for props for sets.

Along with customers who are downsizing, Teperman says he also has young customers who inherit estates that they must sell. "Most of them already have dining-room sets and bedroom sets. We're a resource for them."

With the popularity of television shows about antiques and home décor, Teperman says he finds his customers are looking "beyond a piece" and using items creatively for a function that they were never intended. An antique sideboard, for instance, can become a unique bathroom counter; or an antique wine rack might be used as a towel rack.

Wendy and Stuart Teperman

Better to **buy quality**, appliance store owners advise

By DAVID SILVERBERG
Special to The CJN

An energy-efficient kitchen saves money

Some new homeowners make kitchen appliances a back-burner priority, but with these products, you get what you pay for.

"Some people realize they hate a noisy dishwasher, so they buy the best one that is silent," says Robert Caplan, general manager of Caplan's (416-767-1655). His store focuses on high-end products that "will last decades. So people are spending more."

As appliances have become more technologically advanced, they have also become more user-friendly, Caplan says. But deciphering new features can be difficult, so he recommends researching the intended market.

Jerry Cayne, founder and owner of Cayne's (905-764-1188), says brand names are of higher quality than no-names. "If you spent $30,000 on designing your kitchen, you don't want a $20 coffee maker," he says, adding that a low-cost coffee maker might not maintain a high temperature or last as long.

Popular brands in most appliance stores include Cuisinart, Kitchen Aid, Delonghi and Braun.

In the realm of small appliances, Ariel Benaich of Living² Inc. (416-256-9234) says items such as a $400 Dualit four-slot toaster soar to another level: it uses a timer to toast, while other toasters reach the maximum heating level of their internal coils and fail to toast evenly each time.

Benaich advises customers to examine the issue of counter space. Caplan goes a step further and asks customers to realize some appliances are bigger than they used to be. Most people don't think about tiny stairwells until after they have bought a large unit, Caplan says.

So what is trendy these days? Caplan and Cayne extol stainless steel as both stylish and popular, while Benaich attacks stainless for being "too stark in a kitchen."

At Living² Inc., retro-style toasters, blenders and cordless kettles are hot sellers, with colours such as mint green and red bringing pizzazz into the cooking area.

"Cordless kettles are in, especially because of their auto shut-off feature," Benaich adds.

Caplan points out another emerging trend, this one with an environmental twist: popular items at his store include Energy Star-certified appliances because there is no PST on these products (until July 31). Energy Star is a U.S.-backed initiative whose designated products are deemed energy-efficient and environmentally friendly. A front-load washer, for example, uses less water and electricity than a top-load one, Caplan says. He estimates half his appliances are energy-efficient.

Modern appliances are user friendly

From the cooking perspective, "people still want to be their own chefs," Caplan says. Gas ranges are selling fast at his store, due to the power gas offers over electric units, he says. As well, Caplan's has live cooking demonstrations to test-drive appliances and to offer customers a fresh snack.

Whenever the appliance-shopping itch strikes, these owners advise thoroughly knowing your needs.

"If you want a blender that crushes ice, ask for that," Cayne says. "Some toaster ovens don't have a toast feature, so you either have to ask a salesman about the details or check the product box for specs."

The Net is also a useful research tool. "Go online and become an educated customer when you approach salesmen," Caplan suggests.

So we know what's fashionable in this market, but what's not so hot these days?

"At my store, food processors are out," Benaich says. "People aren't preparing large spreads anymore, especially with places... available for the basics."

As far as colours go, Caplan notices that black and almond are slow sellers.

Cayne criticizes appliances that are barely durable. "Some big box retail outlets sell you products built to sell, not built to last," he says. "Remember that."

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A landscaped yard
– the perfect extension to any home

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

Blake Asner, a co-owner of New Life Landscaping (416-736-7728) has seen many changes since he began working at the company some 20 years ago.

His involvement in New Life Landscaping, which is based in Downsview, started as a summer job when he was a university student. At the time, the company did commercial landscaping for plazas and large estate homes, as well as grass cutting and snow removal services. Residential landscaping was a small component of the business, he recalls.

While the company still does its commercial work as well as grass cutting and snow removal, Asner says he has seen a boom in the residential landscaping business in the last 10 years, especially in the last five to seven.

Prior to this time, he says, most residential landscaping contracts typically concerned laying sod and planting grass, as well as setting interlocking brick and paving driveways.

Residential landscaping has also expanded to encompass more features, Asner adds. "Landscaping is more sophisticated – the backyard is like an extension of the house."

He notes that New Life does a lot of custom work like irrigation, masonry, concrete, natural stone, interlocking brick, tennis and basketball courts, pool installation, children's play areas, lighting and water features such as fountains, rivers, waterfalls and ponds.

When New Life does a proposal, the design is tailored to the landscaping budget and space, he explains.

"People are more conscious of their home's outdoor image. We have a university-trained landscape architect. He's a very creative guy and his designs are brilliant. We discuss the homeowner's needs. We look at the property and design a couple of proposals for the homeowner to look at.

"Typically we specialize in pool landscaping. We do the design, the installation and landscaping. We do everything from irrigation to lighting, walkways, porches and decks.

"We try to make everything work in unison – It's better if one person does everything because everything is interrelated."

Asner notes that New Life had been incorporating ponds into some of the designs, but with concerns about the West Nile virus in recent years, ponds are less popular. "People are holding off because the water is non-circulating. When water is running, you don't have to worry about West Nile."

One of the big changes Asner has seen has been homeowners' shift to choosing more perennials and low maintenance ground cover, he says. "Perennials have a naturalized look if it's done properly."

Continued on page B21

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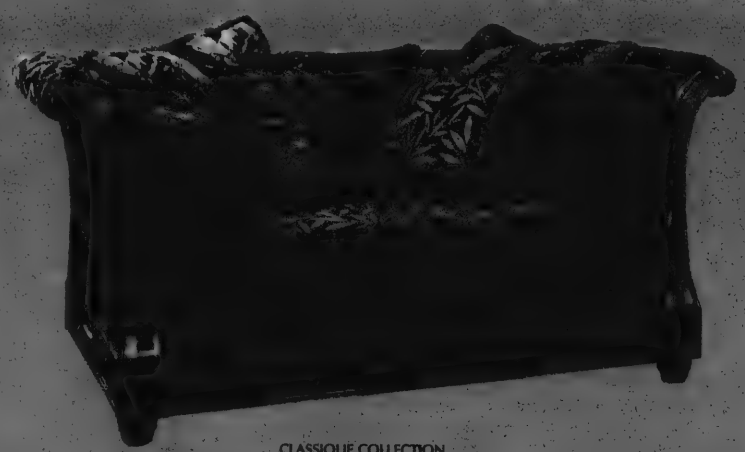

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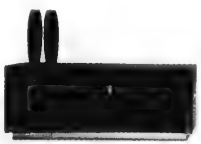

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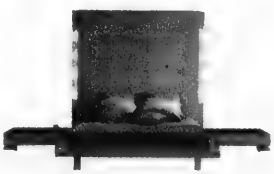

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Continued from page B20

He notes that perennials were not as plentiful 20 years ago as they are today; nurseries sold annuals, tree and shrubs. "Garden centres didn't have a wide of variety of perennials. Now there's a huge variety."

Higher-end landscaping may include such features as a gazebo, an outdoor structure typically made out of cedar, or a tennis court.

Irrigation systems and underground automated sprinkler systems, are both popular and practical says, Asner. "If you have expensive shrubbery or annuals, you don't have to worry about watering them and it saves on time."

As for patios, walkways and driveways, Asner says there are many options in material made from natural stone such as limestone and locally quarried material. "Flagstone is a general term. It can be chosen to match the facing of the house."

He adds that flagstone can be laid in a poured concrete foundation. Most people choose interlocking brick over flagstone because flagstone is more expensive.

He says interlocking brick is available in many styles. "The stumbled material is very popular. They started using larger pavers and more variation in patterns and design, but it's still a concrete brick."

Although there is still a demand for wooden decks, they are usually made from cedar or pressure-treated lumber.

There are other landscaping details that can add interest to a garden or backyard, he says. For example, a trellis is an overhead structure that can give shade. It usually covers a deck or a seating area and can be added. In fact, he says, people with patios adjacent to their houses are adding trellises which can then be converted to succahs.

Interlocking brick available in many styles

Arbours, usually made out of wood, are often used as entrance-ways, he adds.

New Life can also incorporate a play area into the landscape design, he says. Sometimes they are enclosed and fall surfaces like pea gravel, a soft material for children to play on are used.

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Retirement options?

Choose comfort, quality, service

A retirement living decision can be difficult. There are many options and it is important to find something that fits you and your lifestyle. Remember, not all retirement properties are created equal. Some people think that they may lose their independence or that they are just not ready yet.

However, Hazelton Place Retirement Residence, a unique home located on Avenue Road just north of Bloor, embodies a new approach to retirement living. "Our focus is on the individual and making sure that each person's needs are met every day," explains general manager Nadia Rahman. "Hazelton Place is truly a place to call home."

Physically, Hazelton Place certainly has all the comforts and warmth of a well-appointed, stylish home complete with a beautiful private garden and patio. Its real value, however, goes well beyond these elements.

"It's run like a first-class, small hotel" remarks Mrs. Suzanne Kergin, who moved to Hazelton Place close to two years ago. "You can live exactly as you've always lived. If you are going to live in a retirement home, you can't do better. We all agree on that."

"It's the individual attention we get and all the services which makes the difference," explains Mr. Sam Lipson, a three-year resident, who describes Hazelton Place as "a good place in every sense of the word."

Hazelton Place is managed by Diversicare Inc., one of Canada most respected management companies with a reputation for delivering the highest service standards possible.

Cuisine

What do you feel like today?

One of the toughest adjustments to retirement living can be the food. Meals often lack flavour, choices are limited, and it's simply not what you would serve at home.

At Hazelton Place it is recognized that meals are one of life's pleasures and healthy enjoyment of food is key to continued vitality. The Hazelton Place approach is simple — fresh foods, expertly prepared and beautifully presented in a comfortable setting. The focus is on stylish, quality, comfort foods, with plenty of options.

The results are delicious. Hazelton Place has earned a unequalled reputation for the high quality of its meals, offering a variety of menu choices. "The meals are absolutely superb. The soups are out of this world and rolls are served right of the oven," explains Mrs. Suzanne Kergin.

The focus is on stylish, quality, comfort foods, with plenty of options.

"I would describe the food as wholesome, healthy and interesting. It's certainly a full spectrum away from institutional," comments Dr. Julian Melzack, son of resident Rose Melzack.

Taking the culinary experience to the next level involves an ongoing attention to individual needs. The chef is more than pleased to prepare specialty favourites, sometimes using a resident's own recipe. Traditional favourites such beef brisket, potato kugel, chicken soup with matzo balls are featured, during the holidays.

Recreation

Enjoy Life. Live it now

Retirement Living is not about giving up the things you enjoy, it's about finding more. "My goal is to find ways for our residents to do the things they have always done – be it playing bridge, knitting, cooking, exercising or going to the theatre," explains Olga Stilos, manager of recreation services at Hazelton Place.

"There is no regimentation here. Everything is up to you. There is plenty to do, when you want to do it. You can live your life as you choose," says Mrs. Suzanne Kergin, a Hazelton Place resident for close to two years.

Mr. Sam Lipson is another resident who praises his experience at Hazelton Place. "I've had a great life, and am still living that life" explains Mr. Lipson, a long-time Torontonian who moved into Hazelton Place three years ago.

What's the Hazelton Place difference? "It's a matter of getting to know our residents and what they want. We talk, share ideas and come together," explains Ms. Stilos. "All our activities area focussed on the individual resident and what they want, often celebrating their traditions."

One example which Ms. Stilos likes to share is a comment a resident made after a group had gathered before Hanukkah to make latkes in our special resident gourmet kitchen area. "She said that being able to make the latkes with her friends took her back twenty years, making her feel twenty years younger," says Ms. Stilos. "It's very rewarding to be able to work with these wonderful people and help them stay active and continue the traditions which give them comfort," she adds.

Family

Relax, it's being taken care of

When Sam Lipson's daughter first came for a tour of Hazelton Place three years ago she had one word to describe it – "Wow!" Mr. Lipson moved in shortly after, settled in and now remarks that "this is home for me."

Hazelton Place is welcoming to family and friends.

Most importantly, the personalized approach at Hazelton Place, gives family members peace of mind. "The experience has been incredible for my parents and incredible for me as well," explains Dr. Julian Melzack, who lives in the U.K. and comes to visit his mother, Rose, several times a year. Rose Melzack and her late husband, Louis, moved in four years ago and were one of the first residents.

"This is a long way away from where I live, but it doesn't matter – I'm involved in my mother's care. The staff here does an excellent job of keeping in touch with me, and with my mother's physician. They readily establish a rapport," says Dr. Melzack. "There is nothing like this anywhere. It is fantastic value."

Hazelton Place is welcoming to family. Residents enjoy entertaining family and friends, both in the dining room or by arranging special functions in private rooms or lounges. Out-of-town visitors take advantage of furnished guest suites for overnight stays.

Medical

Care just for you, when you need it

Providing ongoing medical support and personal care to seniors can be challenging, and yet it is so important. Here again, Hazelton Place, provides a level of service which is a notch above.

"We make sure that every new resident has a personal care plan. We look at needs and then develop a program just for that person," explains Mr. Ron Khan, resident care manager at Hazelton Place. While many residents require no special care, others take advantage of specialized assistance services which are available as needed.

For example, an affiliated pharmacy does a quarterly medication review on every resident. This report is then given to the resident's doctor for review and discussion. Hazelton Place has its own physician who makes regular visits, or residents can continue with their own doctor.

Convenience of medical and other services is key.

Convenience of medical and other services is key. On site physiotherapy and chiropody clinics allow residents the freedom to seek treatment independently.

"Essentially, the Hazelton Place difference is a more personalized approach along with quick response and convenience," explains Mr. Khan.

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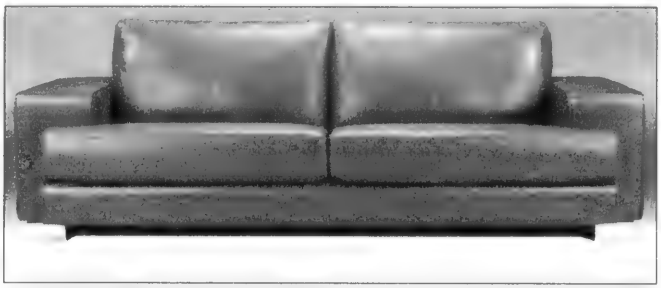

By RUTH SCHWEITZER
Special to The CJN

Buying furniture can be overwhelming; there is so much to choose from in the stores.

"When anyone is tackling a furnishing project, [I suggest] concentrating on one area at a time," says Valerie Simone of Martin Daniel Interiors (416-667-0080, www.martindanielinteriors.com). Simone is the store's co-ordinator, and is responsible for sales.

"By focusing on one room at a time, you can focus on what's best for that space," she says, "and once that's done, move on the next room and focus on that space."

Furniture is a very personal thing and should reflect the personalities and lifestyle of a home's residents, she says.

Martin Daniel specializes in Italian furniture and accessories. Italy, Simone says, has always been a leader in the furniture industry, both in terms of design and in the quality of materials used.

Currently, Italian furniture design is moving in the direction of exotic wood and shiny lacquer surfaces, while still maintaining clean and smooth lines.

Many of the furniture lines and accessories the store carries are exclusive to Martin Daniel, and include elegant furnishings in contemporary and classic styles for living rooms, bedrooms and dining rooms.

Martin Daniel's Arte Murano Boutique showcases a collection of beautiful glass from the oldest European glass-making tradition. The most renowned glass art in the world, Murano glass is highly collectible. Included in Martin Daniel's collection are one-of-a-kind sculptures, vases, Venetian mirrors and chandeliers.

The store's sales staff provide advice on space planning, and shoppers can consult with the resident interior designer if they wish. "Our interior designer will visit a home in order to create the look of the room the customer needs, once the customer is [fairly certain] that he or she wishes to furnish an entire room from Martin Daniel" Simone says.

A family business, Martin Daniel Interiors celebrates its 18th anniversary this month.

Valerie Simone's father Angelo, and her mother Ginette, are the primary buyers for Martin Daniel. Ginette is responsible for the eye-catching furniture displays in the store.

Valerie Simone, 27, and her younger brother, Martin, 25, who takes care of sales and customer service, were both raised in the family business and in the furniture industry.

Continued on page B25

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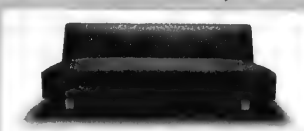
Continued from page B24

She studied marketing and finance at university and worked outside of the retail industry to get some business experience before joining Martin Daniel.

"It's definitely a decision my brother and I made on our own and it's something we're very happy with," she says.

Moving into a bigger home sends many of us out on the quest for new furniture as does downsizing, since furniture from the old home may no longer fit well into new, tighter quarters.



To avoid making costly mistakes when furnishing a larger home, Dahlia Shalit, director of merchandising for DeBoer's Furniture (416-226-3730, North York location; www.deboers.com), suggests hiring a designer. Like Martin Daniel Interiors, DeBoer's offers design services.

"Before meeting a designer, go through home-fashion magazines to determine your likes and dislikes," Shalit says. "Have a game plan, short-term or long-term. Always start with rooms you use the most, such as the family room or the bedroom. Think function first and then aesthetics."

For those who are downsizing to a condo, Shalit suggests buying pieces that have a double or triple function. An ottoman, she says, can be used as a foot rest, a coffee table or extra seating. A sofa table that divides the living and dining areas can also be used as a serving surface.

She says continuous colour throughout the condo will create a feeling of spaciousness. "Choose pieces that you are in love with and never be afraid to ask a designer for help. It will pay off."

The trend toward neutral colors in furnishings – even though neutrals are still strong – has been giving way to bold, bright colours. Sofas, accessories, throws and pillows are vibrant with clear bright colours such as red, reds on purple, orange, greens, yellows and hot pinks. "We are rediscovering colour," Shalit says.

DeBoer's offers its customers five different looks, ranging from bold modern to traditional, as the young generation wants to create its own look, Shalit says. "They don't want to be the same as their friends."

DeBoer's was founded 54 years ago by the late Anne DeBoer, a Dutch immigrant who opened his first furniture store in the early 1950s. DeBoer's motto was "good design and craftsmanship at affordable prices."

Currently, there are six DeBoer's locations – five in Toronto including DeBoer's Studio (416-630-5369) a high-end furniture gallery, and one store in Ottawa. John, Anne DeBoer's son, works for DeBoer's, as does John's daughter, Suanne DeBoer, the company's general manager.

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Company helps with home maintenance tasks

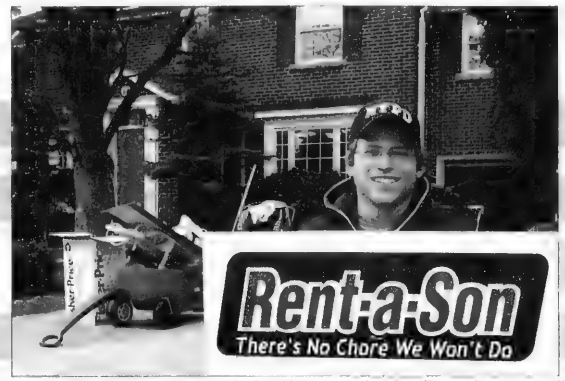
By ZACK MEDICOFF
Special to The CJN

For some Torontonians, this season simply means moving – packing, disassembling furniture, loading and unloading boxes. It can quickly cause a headache.

Enter Dustin Kroft, 24, an entrepreneur who decided to help clean up messy nightmares. His Toronto-based company, Rent-a-Son, provides solutions for home maintenance tasks that always seem to get put off.

The idea grew from his days as a student at University of Western Ontario. Some of his friends completed a gardening job and they decided to start their own company when they returned to Toronto. That's also when Kroft watched an episode of *The Oprah Winfrey Show* where she profiled a service called Rent a Husband.

The company was a group of men who did odd jobs for single and working mothers, many of whom didn't have the time or expertise to complete the tasks involved.



The company was a success, and "after watching the show, I knew the idea would work in Toronto," Kroft says. "But I wanted to provide more services than what the guys on the program did.

"We deal a lot with single parents, dual income families and seniors. We started by advertising in community newspapers, word of mouth and placing door to door flyers. But we pride ourselves on being young, energetic, friendly workers who make sure people are comfortable in their own homes."

His "sons" are college or university students who handle tough work in the garden, trash removal or jobs inside the apartment or home. The best, he says, is that they'll complete all the jobs in one visit so that you don't have to hire multiple companies on different schedules.

"Why do you have to deal with so many people? It just ends up as timely and costly. We're willing to do anything from car washing to interior area cleaning and we'll do it all in one shot. It's a much better deal."

Kroft says much of the work they do at this time of year is power washing decks, driveways and patios. They also remove pesky mould and mildew that grow on rocks and other hard to reach places.

For now, Kroft is focusing on his hometown market but hopes to take the idea to other cities soon. He also says that no other company in Toronto offers customized garage cleaning. They'll throw out the items you don't want and organize the items you do.

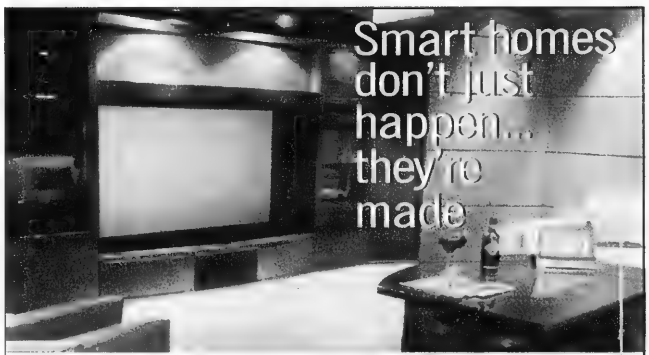
"We can even undercut the trash removal companies because it's not our primary source of income. We're one-stop, home service shopping."

Spring is one of the busiest times for Rent-a-Son, Kroft says, as many homeowners look outside at the after-effects of winter. To prolong the longevity of the home, he recommends that you keep up decks, lawns and yards after Canada's harsh winter season.

"We charge really affordable rates that are by the hour, no matter what service you choose. We'll do anything, well, almost anything. We did get a call to make a full outdoor hockey ring and I had to decline. But we did ref a hockey game at a birthday party," he says and then laughs.

"We've moved patio furniture from Toronto to cottage country. We get very random requests and we fulfil most of them. That's what makes us different."

For more information, call 416-913-9021 or www.rentason.ca to request an online estimate.



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Downsizing tips

help make the most of your condo

By ELYSSE ZAREK
Special to The CJN

Downsizing your home or moving into your first condominium does not mean you have to downsize your style or live in a tiny box of a dwelling. There are ways to make a small living space seem much larger than it really is.

You can't take your entire house with you to a condominium, so before you move, consider how much space you have for furniture. Most condos don't have room for a large dining room table or several sofas.

"You can't put a dining room table into a 1,000-square-foot place," says Brian Murphy of Brian Murphy Designs (416-293-4917). But if there is a piece of furniture that you can't bear to part with, consider giving it to your children, Murphy suggests.

Consider space before moving your furniture

If you're moving into your first small condo, avoid buying a queen-size bed, because it will dominate a room. Instead, consider a bed that pulls out of the wall, because it leaves the floor open during the day.

"At night, push the chair out of the way and pull down the bed," says Murphy. Check out Ikea or Home Depot for melamine wall units, or if you're really short of cash, you can make your own shelves.

Toss the clutter, he says. "If you try and put everything in [a small space], it'll look small," Murphy warns.

A cleaner home is a bigger home

Instead, live by the old adage that less is more. If you haven't used it in six months, it's probably time to toss it. Be merciless with tchatchkes. Remember, a cleaner place is a bigger place, he says.

Sometimes old furniture just doesn't work with your new space. But don't feel you have to throw everything out and start from scratch, says Diane Bosworth of DB Interior Innovations (905-303-5773). Instead, you may want to accent one of your current pieces with a new one. "Sometimes moving involves buying some new pieces," she says.

Some furniture stores carry items in small sizes that are perfect for condo living. Check out consignment shops and estate sales. Bosworth recommends the consignment stop Of Things Past (185 Bridgeland Ave.).

Because every inch of space matters in a condo, consider investing in a wall unit, she says. The few inches of floor space you lose to the wall unit will be made up in storage space. Some wall units can hold a TV, a desk and a bookshelf in one place. Shelves and wall units eliminate clutter and keep a room looking tidy, and a tidy room always looks bigger.

New designs with glass and mirrors can make small spaces look bigger than they are, says Bosworth. Consider installing a mirror across from a window to create an illusion of space. Using indirect lighting will also make a room look larger.

Gone are the days of separate rooms for the office, bedroom and dining room. If you're living in a tight space, everything should be in one large room. She also recommends a wall unit. During the day, it's an office and living room, she says.

Although condos are small, designers use a variety of techniques to make the space seem larger than it is, such as nine-foot ceilings and floor-to-ceiling windows and mirrors, Bosworth says. Using glass as an accent instead of wood will also make a small space feel bigger, because it lets the light pass through.

Certain types of furniture can achieve a similar optical effect. Slipper chairs and couches without arms are popular with condo-dwellers, because they are modern and make the space look less cluttered. Bosworth has also seen ottomans that double as tables or chairs.

Using whites or off-white paint colours can also make a space feel larger and cleaner, but if you love colours, don't shy away from them.

Some light colours can make a room feel larger. Bosworth says subtle earth tones look good for most rooms. But before you paint your walls, it's important to consider the lighting in a room, as some colours work best with certain lights.

Also, consider investing in a closet organizer for bedroom closets. Marty Katz from Shelf Help (416-291-7008) says that if a closet is organized properly, you should be able to find exactly what you want in seconds. The same holds true for kitchen cabinets, pantries and shelves.

How to make your own shelves

Buy several 2 x 12-inch pieces of plain wood, angle brackets and paint from Home Depot. Sand and paint the wood. Fasten the wood to the wall using the angle brackets.

"You don't even need a saw. Twenty bucks," says Murphy. "It won't be gorgeous, but it'll work to hold stuff."

If they're really ugly, you can cover the shelves with a curtain. Attach a rod to the ceiling in front of the shelves. Fasten a large piece of fabric to the rod and drape it in front of the shelves.

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New condos offer luxury and great location

By RUTH SCHWEITZER
Special to The CJN

Two dream communities, Thornhill City Centre and Viva Condominiums, are currently taking shape in the Greater Toronto Area.

The ground has been broken for the first two of the three gleaming, high-rise condo towers of Thornhill City Centre, located just northwest of Bathurst and Centre streets.

Farther south on Bathurst Street north of Wilson Avenue, Viva Condominiums, a trio of elegant mid-rise buildings will soon be completed.

When the first building of Liberty Development's Thornhill City Centre was released, "people were sleeping in their cars for two nights waiting for the sales office to open," says Lori Nusbaum, Liberty's sales and marketing manager.

Thornhill City Centre is one of the fastest-selling condo communities in the GTA. The first building sold out so quickly that many people had to wait until the second building was released before they could buy a suite.

Selected units are still available in the second building, but some design options are gone. The third building has a small selection of each design option in one, two, or three-bedroom units.

Prices are in the $150,000 to $400,000 range, with a large selection under $200,000 still available. Occupancy of the first phase of the centre is set for the spring or summer of 2005.

Nusbaum says Thornhill City Centre has created excitement because nothing like it exists in the neighbourhood.

A beautiful, fully furnished three-bedroom model suite can be viewed at Thornhill City Centre's sales office (www.thornhillcitycentre.ca, 905-731-8302) on Bathurst Street, one block north of Centre.

The open-style living and dining rooms of the centre's suites create a spacious environment, and the big windows in the living and dining rooms allow for an abundance of natural light.

The European-inspired kitchens of Thornhill City Centre, each equipped with a refrigerator, an oven and a dishwasher, include a breakfast bar and granite countertops.

The master bedrooms in the centre feature walk-in closets and ensuites. Inviting soaker tubs are an attraction of some of the bathrooms, while others come with large walk-in shower stalls. Most of the centre's suites feature a balcony or terrace from which to enjoy the lovely landscaped surroundings. As well, each unit includes an in-suite laundry and an in-suite alarm system. Access throughout the building is controlled by security cards.

A concierge posted on the grounds of Thornhill City Centre 24-hours-a-day will not only control access and monitor security but will also provide services such as receiving deliveries and ordering taxis.

Continued on page B29

Picture courtesy of Thornhill City Centre

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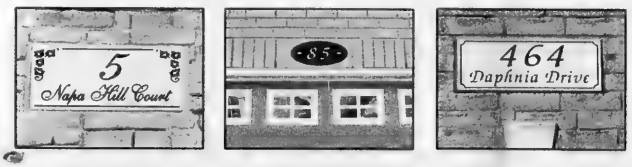

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Condos a welcome lifestyle change

Picture courtesy of Viva Condominiums

Continued from page B28

The centre's Club Liberty offers a well-equipped exercise room, a luxurious in-door pool, a whirlpool and a sauna, with no membership fees.

The centre's facilities include a games room and a party room with a fully equipped kitchen and a wet bar. And an elegant guest suite is available for out-of-town visitors.

Thornhill City Centre is located across from the Promenade Mall, near shops, restaurants, grocery stores, parks, recreational facilities and schools.

Highways 7 and 407 are close to the centre, and the area is well serviced by public transit. The proposed York Region Rapid Transit will offer another transportation option in the future.

Liberty Development has been in the business of construction and development for more than 30 years. It is the creator of several condominium communities, including Richmond Hill's Bristol Court, Toronto's The West Village, Thornhill's Liberty Suites and Liberty Towers I and II, and North York's Villa Hermosa Townhomes. Liberty's commercial properties include Richmond Hill's Times Square and Thornhill's Commerce Gate.

Those interested in living a little farther south should consider Viva Condominiums (www.vivacondos.ca, 416-398-1337) which offers urban elegance at Bathurst and Wilson.

When it is completed, Viva Condominiums will be a trio of mid-rise buildings that will bring new life to the west side of Bathurst Street, between Charleswood Drive and Allingham Gardens, just north of Wilson Avenue.

The site of Viva Condominiums was once home to a string of post-war eight-plexes. The Brown Group of Companies and The Remington Group, the developers of Viva, have roots in the Bathurst-Wilson community dating back to the late 1940s and 50s, and long pondered the future of the area.

The result is Viva Condominiums, a trio of glass and pre-cast concrete mid-rises, which will be strung like urban jewels along an 800-foot stretch of Bathurst Street. The Viva community includes a six-storey building with 82 rental units and a pair of eight-storey structures with 219 condominium homes.

"What we wanted to do was create continuity within the community," says Richard Tripodi, vice-president of The Remington Group's high-rise division. "We wanted to preserve the rental option while adding affordable condos. That would allow first-time buyers to stay in an area they love, and empty nesters to downsize in the heart of a community which has been their home for decades."

Recently, the aging eight-plexes at Bathurst and Wilson were demolished to make way for the first of the Viva buildings, which is scheduled to open for occupancy in the summer of 2005. More than 75 per cent of the units in the first building have been sold, reports Jay Brown, general manager of The Brown Group, and he says that some of the suite designs in the building are sold out.

One-bedroom units at Viva Condominiums start at $159,900, two-bedrooms at $207,900 and three-bedroom penthouses at $338,900. The second condo building has been redesigned with some smaller units added to the mix, as well as some extra-large penthouse suites of up to 1,630 square feet. Each Viva suite features a balcony or a terrace, along with a parking spot in the underground garage and a storage locker.

> A concierge, backed by a security-card entrance, will be posted around the clock at the reception desk

Extras such as five free appliances, imported ceramic tiles, custom-designed kitchen cabinets and 40-ounce broadloom carpeting are included. And for a limited time, early buyers get three opening bonuses – laminated hardwood flooring in the living and dining rooms, three stainless-steel appliances, and a granite kitchen countertop. A model kitchen can be viewed at the Viva sales office at 4 DeQuincey Blvd.

A concierge, backed by a security-card entrance, will be posted around the clock at the reception desk of Viva Condominiums' main entrance.

Viva's health club includes an exercise gym, a change room, a steam room, a sauna, a media room and a billiards room. The party room will open onto an adjacent sun terrace and Viva's open-air gardens and landscaped promenade.

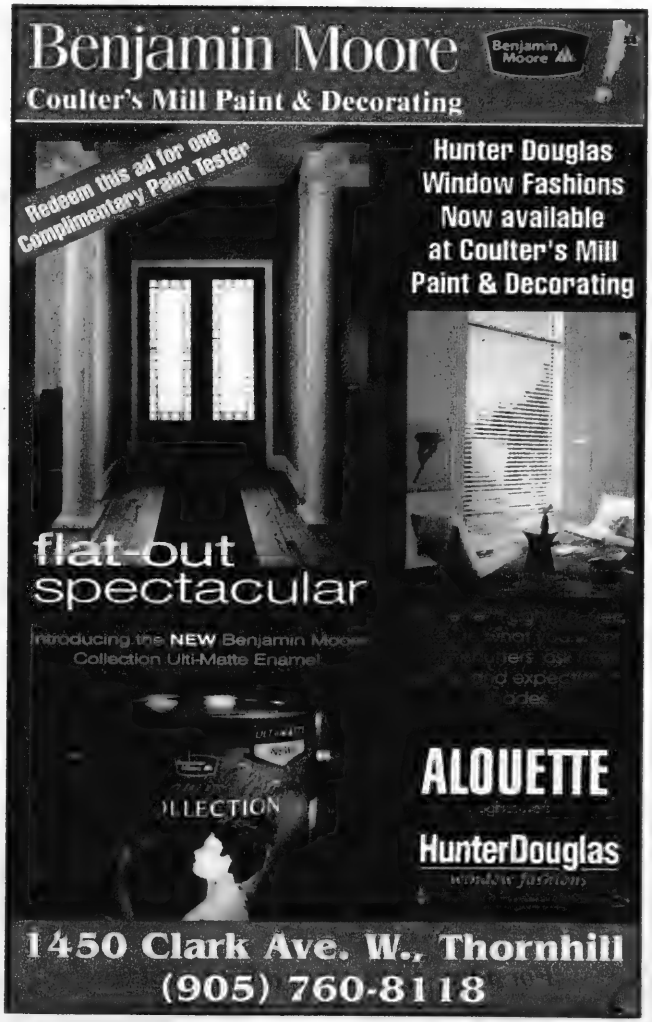
Viva Condominiums is close to stores and restaurants and a short drive or bus ride away from Yorkdale Shopping Centre. The area is well serviced by public transportation including the Bathurst Street bus, and Wilson Heights and York Mills subway stations are seconds away by car, as is Highway 401.

Jay Brown's grandfather, Sam, started The Brown Group in the early 1950s. The Remington Group was formed just after World War II by Donato Bratty. Now, his son Rudolph "Rudy" Bratty is Remington's chair and CEO, and his son Jerry is the company's chief operating officer. Both families have left an indelible mark on the GTA.

The Browns have focused on management and land development, and today their property management portfolio covers 2,200 residential units and a half million square feet of commercial space in the GTA.

Three years ago, The Brown Group created a memorable loft condo project on Sorauren Avenue and the company is the managing developer behind Tribute Communities' 2,500-home Inspiration project in Richmond Hill.

The Remington Group builds about 700 homes each year through its Remington, State Park and Broadway companies. Remington is developing Downtown Markham, 3,500 new homes in a combination of mid and high-rise condominiums in the area between Warden Avenue and Kennedy Road north of Highway 407.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Dress your dinner table elegantly

Cover photo from *Entertaining on the Jewish Holidays*, Modan Publishing House

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

You're planning an elegant dinner party and you want to wow your guests. You're not sure, though, how to set the table. Ditching the paper plates and plastic cutlery is definitely a no brainer, but then how do you choose the proper tableware?

For starters, you might want to turn to the experts for some advice. Linen retailer Ellis Chitiz of Deblins (416-782-2910) and Gisella Goodman of Goodman's China and Gifts Ltd. (905-731-3564), offer plenty of ideas on how to create the right mood and table setting for an elegant dinner party.

Goodman's (1136 Centre St.), the company founded by Sam and Gisella Goodman 34 years ago, continues to be a family-run business. Sam is retired, but Gisella runs the store with two of their three daughters, Rozsi Lebovich and Susan Goodman. The store moved from its original location on Wilmington to Thornhill five years ago.

Much of their merchandise – fine china, crystal and cutlery can be viewed on their Website: www.goodmanschina.com.

Gisella Goodman says that simple bone china – white with a silver band – is the ideal setting for a formal elegant dinner. Wedgewood, Mikasa, and Royal Worcester, companies that make this elegant dinnerware, are just some of the lines that are available at Goodman's.

While the white and silver design of china is recommended, she stresses that any set of dishes will do, as long as they're bone china and are part of a matching set.

Bone china is manufactured in a special way, she notes. "It starts out as porcelain, [then] they add metal bone to make it whiter and stronger. It becomes more translucent. There's nothing stronger than bone china."

There are different styles of china, says Goodman. "You can go towards a more traditional set which has more gold and more designs on it. Modern is plainer – more simple."

She says people usually choose simpler and more elegant patterns for their meat china, while the dairy dishes tend to be more colourful.

Choosing the right crystal also adds to the elegance of the dinner setting, she explains. "Crystal should have at least 24 per cent lead in it. It has to glow like diamonds when you put it on your table."

She warns people to be careful when buying crystal. "They have to watch out that the glasses are not too heavy on the bottom and thin on top. When you wash them they could break."

She says there are some beautiful lines of crystal available at Goodman's, among them, Mikasa, Royal Doulton, and Waterford, which is the top of the line, she says. As well, people can choose from a wide selection of crystal barware, including fluted champagne, liqueur, high ball and martini glasses.

According to Goodman, you can dress your table with more crystal such as crystal water goblets and wine glasses; however, you want to avoid cluttering the table. "Don't use glasses that are too tall."

Serving platters are always 14 and 16 in., she says. "If you're going to pass food along, have two serving dishes and pass them around in different directions. With vegetable bowls – unless you have room – leave it to everyone to pass them around."

Serving dishes don't necessarily have to match, she adds. "Different funky pieces can go nicely. If it doesn't match, it doesn't matter. They come and go from the table very quickly."

There are several options for cutlery. She recommends silver-plated or sterling for more formal dinners. However, high quality stainless steel sets are also acceptable and are popular because they requires less care than silver, she says.

'Before you set the table, you'll need an appropriate table cover'

Some of the better makes of cutlery carried at Goodmans include Sheffield, Robbe and Berking, Oneida, and Reed and Bartin.

Before you set the table, you'll need an appropriate table cover, says Chitiz, owner of Deblins Linens, which has three 15,000 square-foot locations in the GTA: 39 Orfus Rd. (416-782-2910); 7979 Weston Rd. just north of Highway 7 (905-264-0975); and 2575 Dundas St. W. in Mississauga (905-820-1509).

Chitiz recommends damask tablecloths for formal occasions. Damask, he explains, is a woven cloth that comes in cotton, linen or a blend of the two. White damask can actually be bleached for stain removal, he adds.

Deblins also carries a poly-cotton damask cloth in a scroll design made in Israel. It comes in white and natural and is available in a variety of sizes up to 198 inches in length.

For lower maintenance tablecloths, Chitiz suggests a stain-proof polyester that requires no ironing. He notes that Deblins' Diamond and Dot cloths, which are available exclusively under Deblins' Charlemagne brand, come in six colours – navy blue, black, mint, gold, ivory and white – and in many different sizes right up to 216 inches in length.

They wash beautifully, he says. "Just wash the cloth in cold water and dry it in a cool dryer."

Continued on page B31

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Do a mitzvah with a gift of Judaica gallery owner says

By RUTH SCHWEITZER
Special to The CJN

Ayala Bar is an Israeli who has applied her skills as a jewelry artist to the creation of mezuzot that are a visual delight.

Bar's beautiful creations made of brightly coloured glass and beads set in intricate patterns are part of the extensive collection of stunning Judaica on display at A Show of Hands Petroff Gallery (1-877-542-3600, 416-782-1696, www.ashowofhands.com), which specializes in three-dimensional works.

Along with Bar's creations, the gallery's collection of mezuzot includes Yehuda Parmat's elegant glass designs, Ed Cohen's wood inlay, Emily Rosenfeld's contemporary pewter look and Brian and Alice Bergner's hand-carved Jerusalem stone. The pewter and Jerusalem stone pieces can be used outside, but the others in the collection are too fragile to be exposed to the elements, says Steven Petroff, who owns A Show of Hands with his wife, Sara Levine Petroff.

Some of the couple's collection of Judaica, such as textile artist Edna Sandler's tallit and an array of glass menorahs, seder plates, Shabbat candlesticks and challah covers, can be seen from almost anywhere one stands in the spacious gallery.

The Petroffs' website also features works by the gallery's artists. In the Judaica section of the website, one can view many pieces, among them Sara Beames' striking cobalt menorah and Quebec artist Sylvie Belanger's contemporary and colourful transparent glass menorahs.

The gallery has a large selection of kiddush cups, including one of Yehuda Parmat's colourful cups made of sandblasted glass and Kathleen Manhattan's clear cup with a touch of blue at the top of its stem. Manhattan's kiddush cup rests on top of a clear plate etched with the Star of David in a picture on the gallery's website.

Sara Levine Petroff, an artist and an interior designer, occasionally designs pieces that other artists execute. The result of one such collaboration, with Boris Kramer, is the striking simchah menorah. Kramer used blacksmithing techniques to create the steel menorah. Its branches are figures of dancers and its shamash is the bride.

Giving Judaica such as a seder plate as a gift is a mitzvah, Petroff says, because you're helping someone to celebrate a Jewish holiday.

When you're shopping for a gift, trust your instincts, he advises. "Even if you know someone's colours and what they need, you never know for sure."

A Show of Hands carries kaleidoscopes by Joanne Flatlow-Jacobs – among them one with a klezmer theme and another with the lion of Judah theme – as well as kaleidoscopes by other artists. The gallery has the largest selection of contemporary kaleidoscopes in Canada, and Petroff says they make great gifts for men.

Israeli glass artist Andreas Meyer's functional glass display pieces come in bold red, etched with thin black lines, and in more subtle creamy white glass, decorated with wispy burgundy leaves and flowers.

The white pieces are great as a wedding gift, Petroff says. "Even if you don't know someone's home very well, these will fit anywhere."

The gallery offers at-home consultations for which Sara Levine Petroff brings pieces to people's homes and makes suggestions to beautify their home.

"She makes sure pieces tie together in a room," Petroff says.

Sara does the in-gallery displays and buys the art, while Petroff takes care of the business side.

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Matching napkins and tablecloth complete the look

Continued from page B30

Cotton should never be put in a hot dryer, he says, because it can shrink and it creases more.

Chitiz notes that Deblins has extra-large banquet-sized tablecloths. "We now carry cloths 216 inches long. You won't find that size anywhere else in the city on the shelves except at Deblins. It's very well priced."

The Diamond and Dots comes in a 70-in. width. He says this size is wider than most other standard tablecloths, which are usually in the 60-in. range.

Chitiz stresses the importance of using matching cloth napkins for an elegant dinner. "Don't use paper napkins. If you're serving beautiful food, and you're using beautiful china and a beautiful table cloth, why kill the whole mood with paper napkins. Buy the matching or co-ordinating napkins and finish it off beautifully with a napkin ring."

He says Deblins' napkin rings come in wood, acrylic and metal. "Metal is more formal and traditional. Wood and acrylic are more contemporary. You can dress up or dress down a table with napkin rings. They're the smallest items, but they're immediately visible and they add a nice finishing touch."

Chitiz says ideally, a tablecloth should have an overhang of 10-15 in., but it can be as short as a seven- to 12 in. "If your table is between sizes always go for a longer than shorter tablecloth. However, if it's more than a 15 in. overhang you have the wrong size.

"The only exception is with a round table. Some people like to drape the tablecloth to the floor. At Deblins, we carry a 90-in. round cloth. It's almost impossible to find that size at a department store."

There are lots of knowledgeable people on hand to help out at the store if people have questions, says Chitiz. "I say, 'You worry about the food. Leave the table linens to us.' "

Creating Generations of Beautiful Living Spaces
Miriam Muller Celebrates 40 Years of Success

This spring marks the 40th anniversary of an icon in the world of interior design. Miriam Muller, owner of MM Interiors and Designer Treasures in Toronto celebrates four decades of creating beautiful living spaces.

Today, Designer Treasures, Miriam's store on Avenue Road is the culmination of her expertise as an interior designer and her acumen as a successful businesswoman. With impeccable taste, she has filled the showroom with fabulous finishing touches ranging from distinctive furnishings, accessories and artwork to exclusive window coverings. Recent changes at the showroom include theme displays so clients can better visualize a decorating scheme. And should you need a little (or a lot!) of guidance creating the room or home of your dreams, there is plenty of professional and personable help at hand.

Designer Treasures offers a comprehensive range of in-home consulting services. And as a consultant, much of Miriam's success can be attributed to her down-to-earth approach in executing stellar style. Her credo of creating environments that respect a client's individual taste and budget has earned this interior designer a solid reputation in the industry and generations of loyal customers.

Miriam helps homebuyers make economically sound design decisions as well as assisting the city's jet set make their opulent living spaces. In an age of big-box retailing and flavour-of-the-month decorating, Miriam Muller is a timeless treasure indeed.

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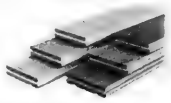
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Decorate your home with Judaica

Continued from page B31

This fall, a dozen artists who create Judaica for A Show of Hands will be involved with a fundraising project for an, as yet unnamed Jewish day school. Part of the purchase price of each work of art will be contributed to the school.

Eventually two or three schools will be involved in the program, Petroff says. "We know how important Jewish day schools are."

Another Toronto gallery that carries a wealth of Judaica is Heritage Fine Art (416-260-0398).

It has one of the largest collections of Jewish-themed art and Judaica from around the world, including European paintings from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, as well as modern works from around the world.

The gallery is owned and operated by Igor Kuchinsky, 96, and his wife, Tatiana, 83. Both are Holocaust survivors from Poland, where Kuchinsky, who holds a PhD in musicology, was a concert pianist and his wife was a ballet dancer. They made their way to Canada in 1948, settling in Montreal.

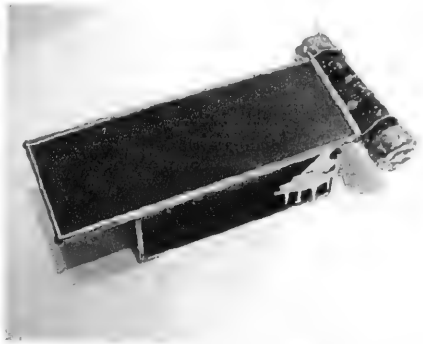
Kuchinsky became the cultural program director for the Canadian Jewish Congress, a position he held from the mid-1950s to the late '60s, says Kuchinsky's son, Bob.

As the commissioner of Expo '67's Pavilion of Judaism, Kuchinsky was introduced to Jewish art and Jewish artists from around the world. Once Expo ended, he continued to mount exhibitions at the pavilion.

"He was continually involved in world-class art and exhibitions from around the world," his son says.

Tataina Kuchinsky ran a ballet school in Montreal for a time and in the late '40s went back to school, where she earned a master of social work degree.

In the early 1970s, Kuchinsky and his wife moved to Toronto. Kuchinsky opened Galerie Heritage on Yorkville Avenue, which he operated for 25 years. Tataina became director of the Wagman Centre of the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care, a position she held for 25 years.



In the late '80s, Tatiana Kuchinksy retired from Baycrest. She opened an antique business at the Harbourfront Antique market. Kuchinsky closed his Yorkville gallery and amalgamated his business with his wife's.

The Harbourfront Antique Market closed a year ago and the market's high-end dealers, including the Kuchinskys, have relocated to the Toronto Antique Centre on King Street West, near the Royal Alexandra Theatre.

"Even at their advanced age, they're down there every day," Bob Kuchinsky says. "Mixed in with the vendors, you have two spry senior citizens running one of the largest operations in there."

Kuchinsky advises people to buy art or antiques that they love. The first impact of art is emotional, he says, unlike a refrigerator or a television set. "It's a combination of investment and emotional attachment. It increases in value as it adds pleasure to your life."

Kuchinsky says that some customers send their decorators to his parents' gallery to select paintings and antiques for them.

After more than 30 years of accumulating antiques and art, his parents' collection is phenomenal, he says. "It's an eclectic collection, from 17th century Dutch paintings to modern Russian works."

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Bedrooms need comfort and warmth

By ELYSSE ZAREK
Special to The CJN

If you are looking to redecorate a bedroom, Miriam Mueller of Designer Treasures Interiors (905-764-3737) has some suggestions.

One of the first things she considers when redecorating a bedroom is the mood that the room's owner wants to achieve. For the most part, people want their rooms to be relaxing spaces, she says.

"Think about what you want to feel in a bedroom. It's such an intimate place."

Most people tend to prefer warm, soothing colours in a bedroom. "To make a room feel warm, I use butter colours, sage green, taupe, or maybe a darker colour. Don't use too much in blues because they are cold colours," she says.

To enhance the cozy atmosphere of a bedroom, Mueller suggests window shades or curtains. "Blinds with sheers and overdrapes are big now," she says. "Venetian blinds and shutters are out."

Some people like to introduce silks, sheer or print fabrics or trimmings.

Mueller recommends buying linens, rugs and drapes to match the floors, then deciding on a paint colour because it is easier to match paint to fabrics than the reverse.

When it comes to buying linens, most people are deceived by the thread count, says Freddy Faust of Revelle Home Fashions (416-703-4533). It's the yarn count that's more important. The higher the yarn count, the stronger the fabric, he says.

"If it feels nice and it's cotton then you shouldn't worry about the thread count," says Faust, who stocks fine Israeli and Italian linens.

The same holds true for duvet covers.

"Thread count is not important in a duvet. The real thing is the quality of the down inside the duvet and the processing of the down," says David Saini of David's Fine Linens (416-590-7311).

Good-quality down is resilient and bounces back up when you push it down. "If it's flat then it's not good quality," Saini cautions.

The most luxurious bed sheets are made from Egyptian cotton. "It's like a silk," says Saini. However, the price often reflects its top-notch quality. The most versatile shades for linen colours are ivory, white and earth tones, he adds.

The key to maintaining fine linens in excellent condition is to wash them in mild soap, says Saini. Brands like Sunlight and Tide are too harsh on delicate fabrics. If you throw your linens in the washing machine, do a smaller load of laundry. Fabrics absorb extra water that makes them heavy, and fine detailing on linens can get caught on rough patches inside the washing machine.

When buying linens, Faust recommends asking about the store's return policy. Sometimes the size labels on a package of linen aren't accurate, and there's no sense in being stuck with sheets a size too big or too small.

"You spend about 25 per cent of your life in bed," he says. "Don't be stingy with it."

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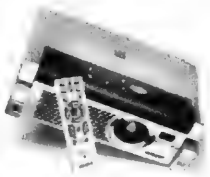
Salespeople can help customize your home entertainment system

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

There was a time when the experience of a jumbo screen and surround sound could be enjoyed only in the confines of a movie theatre.

That time, says William Freeman of Kromer Radio, has passed.



With 16-foot projectors and digital surround-sound speakers as examples of the high-tech products offered at specialty electronics stores, the motion picture theatre experience is now a popular form of home entertainment.

"It's something families do together at home," says Freeman, a custom home electronics specialist.

"And there's a better picture and better sound."

Freeman and Richard Bowden of Bay Bloor Radio agree plasma televisions and LCD technology are the hot sells these days. Another product gaining steam, although it won't hit the Canadian market full stride until July, is Apple's highly touted iPod personal digital music player.

Whatever the high-tech product is, Bowden says the first step before making a purchase is determining the purpose of the product.

"If all you want to do is watch television while you eat breakfast, you don't need a home theatre," Bowden advises. "If you want to watch really fabulous movies all the time, design the system and buy accordingly."

That's where knowledgeable salespeople come into play.

"You need a professional to explain to you the advantages of each piece," says Freeman.

"At Kromer, what you have are a lot of experienced people who have a large amount of training."

Bowden urges customers to be straightforward with salespeople about what you're seeking and how much you can afford.

"Be honest with the salesman. Say, 'If this was the dimension of your room and you have $5,000 to spend, what would you buy?'" says Bowden.

"That would be an intelligent way to do it."

Doing some research on reputable electronics companies can also come in handy. "Sony makes great televisions, but that doesn't mean they make great speakers," says Freeman, noting that certain companies specialize in particular products.

Be aware that delivery and installation of these products may not be a cinch and you may have to pay a little more for those services. But Bowden notes that basic delivery and setup, including instructions for the user, is performed by Bay Bloor Radio staff at no cost.

Continued on page B35

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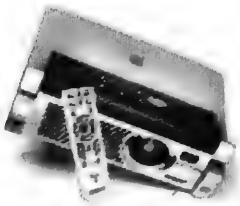
Home entertainment system is **affordable**

Continued from page B34

While cost is usually an aching issue, Bowden and Freeman note that prices have come down over the last few years.

"A very good, high definition projector may have cost $12,000 three years ago. Now you can get one for $3,000," says Freeman.

Kromer Radio, located at 420 Bathurst St., and Bay Bloor Radio, in the Manulife Centre at 55 Bloor St.W., have been in business 47 and 58 years, respectively. To reach Bay Bloor Radio call 416-967-1122. To contact Kromer Radio phone 416-920-6700.



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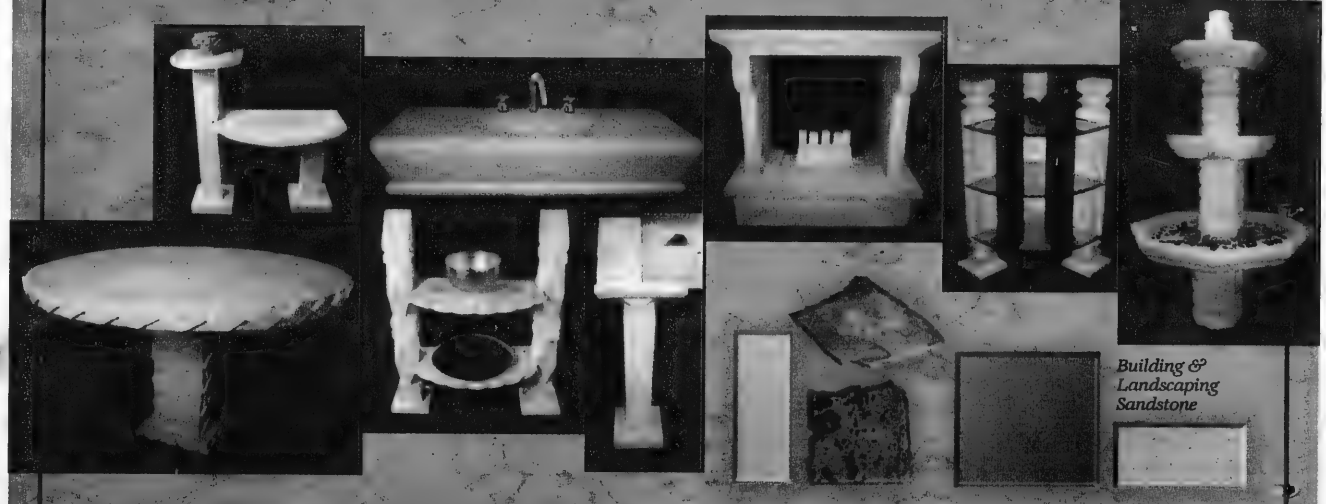

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A colourful garden
is bright addition to any home

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

Traditionally, Victoria Day weekend is the official start to the planting season but eager gardeners don't have to wait until then to get going. Gardening experts Ray Sue of Sue's Fruit Market (905-731-2132) and Ben Hoffman of Fairlawn Market (416-781-8922) advise people to use the time earlier in May to clean up their gardens and prepare their flower beds.

These local flower and plant retailers note that along with cleaning the garden, early-bird gardeners can also plant pansies at this time of year. Pansies, which come in a variety of colours, are hearty annuals that can resist colder spring weather.

Both Sue's, which has three locations, and Fairlawn Market, which is located at 1704B Avenue Rd. at the corner of Fairlawn Avenue, sell a large variety of annuals, hanging baskets, and cut flowers. Fairlawn also carries a broad assortment of perennials.

The late Kong Sue opened the original Sue's at 3673 Bathurst St. just south of Wilson, (416-781-2734) in 1973, shortly after immigrating from China with his wife Yin. The store, a popular place for buying quality fruit and vegetables, cut flowers, and indoor plants, as well as floral arrangements for holidays and hanging baskets, expanded to 7241 Bathurst St. in Thornhill in 1983, with a third location opening at 205 Don Head Village in Richmond Hill (905-737-0520) in 1986.

Ray Sue, a co-owner of the stores with his four siblings, offers plenty of gardening advice. He says one of the first things to do before planting is to replenish the soil. He suggests covering the flower beds with loam, a black-coloured soil, because many gardens don't have enough soil.

He notes that different varieties of annuals need different levels of sunlight. For instance, marigolds and geraniums take full sun while impatients and begonias do best in partial shade. Annuals can wilt when the temperature rises above 30 degrees and so he stresses the importance of making sure the flowers get an adequate amount of water.

They may need watering twice a day during hot weather.

Continued on page B37

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Advice for the amateur gardener

Continued from page B36

Sue recommends watering the flowers first thing in the morning, and after the sun sets during peak heat times. He warns against watering during the peak heat times because the flowers can go into shock. Otherwise, in normal warm weather, once a day watering is adequate, he says.

Sue's offers hanging baskets with a selection of annual flowers that include geraniums, impatients, New Guinea impatients, petunias and a baby petunia that "falls nicely over the edge of the basket that can take sun.

"The hanging basket is like an instant garden," he says "A lot of customers are buying these prepared flowers. They're like the colourful big baskets with everything in them."

The Fairlawn Market also carries a wide variety of annuals, hanging baskets and cut flowers. Impatients come in variety of colours, among them, pinks, hot pinks, purple, salmon and white. Other annuals include pansies, snapdragons, marigolds and ivies.

Hoffman, who co-owns the store with Paul O'Neill, says that they offer the basic gardening supplies such as peat moss, top soil, grass seed, miracle grow and other chemical fertilizers, and vegetable and herb plants. There is also a variety of common perennial flowers, clay pots, cast iron urns and urn liners with simple arrangements.

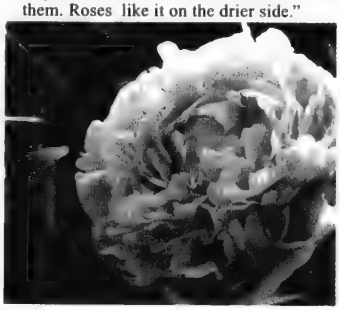
Customers can also count on solid gardening advice, says Hoffman. For example, his staff will help people come up with designs for their cast iron urns and other gardening pots. "A lot of people have them. We give them ideas on how to fill them."

He says it's important to wait until mid May to do planting because one has to know where the shady areas in the garden are, and you can't tell that until the trees are in bloom.

Annuals generally need a sunnier exposure than perennials, but certain perennials like clematis and roses need more sun, he says, noting that he carries about 15 different colours of clematis. Roses also come in a wide selection of colours. "We carry the standard hardy hybrid in lots of colours – yellow, white, pinks, oranges, reds.

The rose blooms are the size of standard cut flowers at the florists and flower markets, he adds.

"Rose bushes should be planted in the spring and do well if they are fertilized with a mound of manure," explains Hoffman. "They're sun-orientated. They also need to be protected in the winter. Don't over-water them. Roses like it on the drier side."

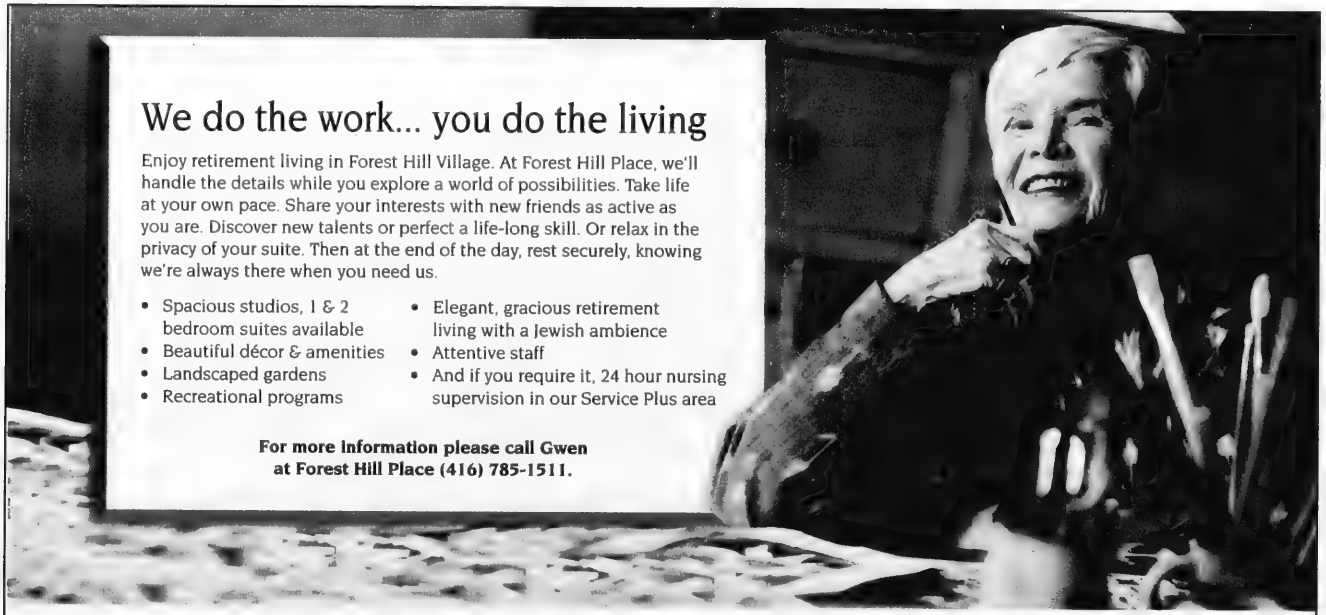


Other perennials requiring a lot of sunlight are poppies, which come in shades of reds and oranges. Two different sizes are available: dwarf size that serve as ground cover, or a taller variety that grows to about two feet tall, says Hoffman.

You'll find foxglove in a variety of pinks – they require partial sun – and perennials such as trilliums and lily of the valley for more shaded areas, he says.

Other perennials available at Fairlawn Market include bleeding heart, hostas, delphenians and lupins.

Hoffman says vegetables and herbs can be planted in mid- May once the nights are warm. The selection of herbs include basil, coriander, oregano, rosemary and thyme. He recommends planting vegetables such as tomatoes and zucchini, which are very easy to grow if they get enough sun.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No Place Like HOME

Synergy provides multiple home services

By SYLVIA BROOKE
Special to The CJN

In order to create a home environment that is both aesthetically pleasing and optimally functional, Synergy Home Systems (905-669-5005) installs multi-purpose state-of-the-art electronics to simplify seemingly complex equipment. The result is the ultimate in comfort and security with flawless design.

General Manager Robert Campol explains how the company concept came to be. "When I started the business I saw there was a void in the home electronics industry, where individual companies were only looking after one area of a client's needs. What ended up happening was that as systems were forced to communicate with each other, misunderstandings ensued. I decided the time was long overdue to have one company deliver multiple services successfully."

From security to home entertainment, Synergy Home Systems installs and services quality equipment that enhances home life for a discriminating clientele. They can provide the ultimate escape for any film buff, a personal sanctuary of a THX-certified home theatre away from the noise of the family room and buzz of the kitchen. This is a retreat to escape to, a sound-insulated room where one sits comfortably in a motorized recliner, while watching a 100-in. screen with a projector. The theatre is designed and built to accurately reproduce movie soundtracks, truly a treat for the senses, and all at the touch of a button.

When one wants to simply watch TV in a shared living area, home designers are thrilled with the magical mirror. This specially designed mirror cleverly conceals a plasma TV. When the TV is in use the picture is excellent, but turn the TV off and a framed mirror is all there is to see, blending in beautifully with the room décor.

A multi-room audio system is a centrally located stereo system that family members can access from any room in the house. It enables them to listen to a variety of musical media: radio, CDs, satellite music, music off the Internet, from wherever they are. As Campol adds, "it's great for large families with different musical tastes."

For those who require minimal lighting during the night hours of Shabbat, a system with a built-in clock can be designed and programmed to have the lights dim out automatically at a certain hour, and then turn off at a later hour. Lighted pathways can also create just enough light to illuminate certain routes. For instance, a family may opt to have a path of lights set up from the front door, on up the steps and bedrooms, to light the way when coming in Friday night.

Synergy Home Systems also creates exquisite home gardens, both for the indoors and out. They artfully blend technology with nature, strategically placing stereo speakers or functional lights within rocks or even waterfalls. The whole system can be easily controlled with a personal digital assistant.

To protect one's home and garden, Synergy Home Systems expertly installs innovative security systems. Cameras can be placed off the property, looking at the home from the back, perhaps from a hidden camera in a tree. Video surveillance is available for the playground, pool or anywhere in the house, very important for parents who want to check up on the safety of their children.

With safety comes peace of mind, and there is no better frame of mind in which to enjoy the comforts of your home. From telephone/intercom systems to high-speed internet wiring to serene gardens, Synergy Home Systems creates comfortable worry-free home environments in which to live, love and laugh.

One stop shopping for all your backyard needs

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Fortinos (1-800-565-9690) is quickly becoming the "destination stop" for outfitting backyards and decks, says Frank Marchese, the company's category manager specialist.

"Years ago, people would come food shopping and pick up items for their backyard. Now, we've become their one-stop shop."

With everything in-store, including patio sets, umbrellas, lounge chairs, hammocks, patio lights and barbecues, Marchese says, Fortinos – with 20 stores across southern Ontario – can handle all of a customer's outdoor living needs.

Patio sets range from $189 to high-end sets at $599, which are usually made up of 10 pieces, including cushioned chairs. "There is one for every budget and every family size," he says.

"Prices are kept low because everything is self-assembled. Assembly is easy, however. Even first-time buyers have no trouble following instructions," he says.

"We stand by our products, which are of the highest quality at the lowest possible retail price. When people see our products – at least one of each piece is on display – at the store, they know they're getting the best for the best price."

Once the patio furniture is set up, he says, it's time to accessorize with stepping stones, backyard statues, windmills and fountains, "not to mention an important item in any backyard – the barbecue.

"Especially popular are our gazebos, which can be assembled on the deck or across the back lawn. We cannot get enough in. With more and more people wanting to stay out of the sun, the gazebo is the answer to an afternoon in the backyard."

At a price of about $199, he says, the gazebos can be left out all year long. "If after a few winters outside they need to be replaced, the low price makes that feasible."

When it comes to gardens, says Marchese, Fortinos hasn't forgotten about plants and flowers. "We have everything you need to brighten up your flowerbeds, including bedding plants, annuals, shrubs, grass seed, as well as plant foods, fertilizers and gardening equipment."

Staff are always available, he says, to answer gardening questions. "We're starting the season for backyard entertaining, and we want to make sure customers get everything they could ever want for their backyard at our stores."

No Place Like HOME

Baby strollers come in an array of colours and styles.

Bring home baby
safely and in style

By SYLVIA BROOKE
Special to The CJN

When you bring home your baby, everything's new – the experience, the emotions, the environment – but also the equipment, the furniture, the accessories. With a little expertise in that department, all areas in this new life should fall into place.

The knowledgeable staff at Dear-Born (905-881-3334) is available to help new parents with this often baffling maze. As Cathy Scott, company founder explains, "we're dealing basically with the first-time mom and the new baby. We're a full-service, specialty baby store."

In their warm atmosphere, you can find whatever you need – cribs, cradles, high chairs, change tables, car seats, strollers and layettes. Children's photographer David Amoils even has a studio on site. Their selection includes such trusted names as Greco, Britax, Dutailier, Absorba, Kooshies, Osh Kosh and Perego.

"We're the largest Perego retailer in Ontario," Scott says. They're also an authorized Perego repair centre.

Dear-Born has a computerized gift registry. This can be most helpful, especially to those living outside the city. They can simply phone in their gift choice, confident that it will be the right one.

Scott founded the store 25 years ago to focus on giving customers special attention. The store philosophy remains the same. They take special orders and offer full service; they will even install your child's car seats, to ensure they are installed correctly for maximum safety.

Everyone knows safety is the number one concern around babies, and Babyproofers Limited (416-561-2524) is a child safety specialist. Owner Yehudah Franken is a member of the International Association for Child Safety.

His private consultation service emphasizes recognizing and preventing potential dangers. He looks at a living environment from a child's eye view, spotting sharp corners, unlocked cabinets and open doors, and customizes it with the child's safety in mind. Gates and magnetic locks for doors and drawers are installed, door stopper and doorknob covers are provided, as are toilet locks and covers for the spout in the bathtub.

As prevention is the best medicine, he checks the hot water setting and lowers it if necessary. This is the best way to avoid scalds or burns.

Franken says his at-home service "saves people a lot of time, and it's much more convenient to have someone come to the home."

He provides parents with tips on how to make the home environment safer. For instance, he warns them about allowing pots and pans to be made into playthings.

Franken says there should be a respectable distance between children and these household items in order to prevent familiarity and potential tragedy should a child grab a boiling pot off the stove. "I show that there are a lot of things one can do to make the home safer, now and later."

Furnishing children's rooms takes a lot of planning. The shift from baby to child and later to teen furniture should be a smooth one. The staff at Kiddies World of Furniture (905-624-9092) are experts in that transition. With its complete line of tot to teen furniture, it provides one-stop furniture shopping for all the kids in the family.

First opened by Jerry White as a baby furniture shop, White realized that as his clients grew older their furniture needs changed. In the late '80's, he introduced age-appropriate furniture for the young student. Cribs, change tables and gliders could now be replaced with beds, desks and night tables. All are available at great prices and styles to suit the most particular adolescent taste.

Jerry's son Shawn, has since joined the business. He explains how Kiddies World of Furniture can offer such a selection to this wide age range. "We are the biggest retail store from baby to teen in the Greater Toronto Area – our store is about 15,000 square feet." They typically have 85 crib sets on display and 50 different styles of strollers shown on the floor at any time.

With professional knowledge and personalized service, one can shop the gamut from playpens to rugs to battery-operated cars.

"We have a huge range of linen," notes Shawn, "because each crib has its own set." Such established names as Pali, AP Industries and Canadian-made Ragazzi furniture are well represented.

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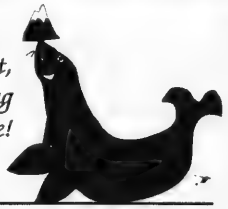

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Add a splash of colour

What was once a closed medicine cabinet, is now a display case for colourful bath and body bottles!

This red room, converted from two bedrooms is a family room/office with vaulted ceiling, built-in entertainment unit, granite desk and camouflaged filing cabinets.

Kosher lamp changes Shabbat

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

A revolutionary invention now enables observant Jews to dim a light, or turn it on or off on the Sabbath or yom tov.

The halachically approved Kosher-Lamp invented by Rabbi Shmuel Veffer, gives off light or shuts off the light when you rotate an inner shade.

Rabbi Veffer of Aish HaTorah Village Shul, says the idea for the lamp originated when his wife Chana, who is an avid reader, asked if he could improvise a light so she could read in the bedroom on the Sabbath.

"After a visit to the local hardware store with my son," he says, "we came home with some hodgepodge parts, and by the end of the day we had put together the first clunky working model. By the following Sabbath, our children and friends wanted one."

Soon after, the rabbi approached Moshe Orzech, one of his congregants who is in the lighting importing business, and with a handshake, a partnership was formed to produce and distribute the KosherLamp.

"After seeing the working model," says Orzech, "I immediately understood the potential. A lamp you can turn on and off on Shabbat — the possibilities were endless."

Orzech set off for China to build a prototype, and Rabbi Veffer continued to refine the KosherLamp design.

The rabbi, who has a degree from the University of Waterloo in mathematics and computer sciences, designed a website.

As well, he approached a number of rabbis in Canada, the United States and Israel and received halachic approval, and then registered the concept with the patent office.

He says that the lamp has many uses, not only for observant Jews but for anyone who wants to read but does not want to disturb another person in the room.

The design is simple but ingenious, he says.

There are two independent cylinders, each with its own window. The inner cylinder can be rotated with a simple twist. When the two windows are aligned, the light comes out. When they are not aligned, the light is blocked and stays inside the lamp. You can adjust the cylinder to allow partial light.

Rabbi Veffer says that halachically, you can open and close a cupboard that has a light on inside on the Sabbath.

That principal applies with the KosherLamp. When you open the inner shade, the light remains on and when it is closed, the light is not visible.

The cost of the KosherLamp is $39.95 in Canada and includes the bulb and all taxes. The lamp can be shipped anywhere in North America.

For more information on the KosherLamp or to order, call 416-487-5483 or 1-866-661-5483, or online www.kosherlamp.com.

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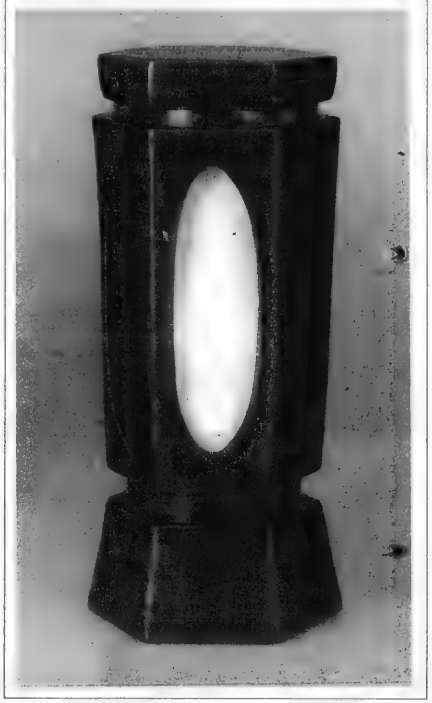

Israeli sandstone versatile and durable

Carmel Stone Decor (905-479-8067), manufacturer of sandstone home accessories and architecture, can introduce homeowners to a broad range of design options made of imported Jerusalem sandstone, says company president Carmela Lombardi.

With years of combined experience and talents, Israeli and Palestinian artisans use local Jerusalem sandstone to create superior crafted tables, shelving, columns, crowns, rails and archways, she says. The artisans hand-chisel each piece with pride, creating unique and opulent looking accessories for your home.

Historically, architecture from the Middle East has included homes, buildings, and temples that have all withstood the test of time, says Lombardi. "Landscaping with sandstone slabs provides a safe and desired appearance."

She explains that sandstone is a type of sedimentary rock made from accumulated particles of sand deposited by water, glaciers or wind.

The porous texture, non-fading colours, and earthly beauty of the stone will be admired and appreciated for many years to come, she says.

"Sandstone, whether used indoors or outdoors, offers versatility, durability and longevity. When properly sealed, natural stone is simple to care for and to maintain. Nothing is added to the stone process, so it is 100 per cent sandstone."

Because the products are heavy – approximately 150 lbs per cubic foot – Lombardi says it is important to ensure that there is adequate structural support to hold the load.

Thickness is dependent on use, she says. "For building and landscaping, its thickness varies and can be about 1.25 inches. For furniture, the thickness varies from one to 1.25 inches."

In addition to home furnishings, building and landscaping, she says, "sandstone can be used for monuments, fireplaces, mantels and hearths or plaques, and pieces can be customized. Your creativity and imagination makes [its uses] limitless."

Sandstone products are by sent by ship in crates and require six to eight weeks for delivery. Custom orders may take up to 12 weeks. Delivery to homes is arranged through a local carrier.

Carmel Stone Decor is open to the public by appointment only.

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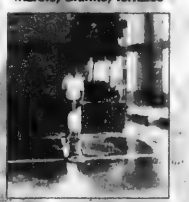

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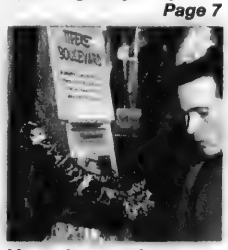
This Week

National

She'arim to honour outgoing CJC national president. *Page 6*

Canada will be an Al Qaeda target, expert says. *Page 7*



Homeless artist inspires creation of mentoring program. *Page 33*

Arts & Travel

Filmmaker tackles topical and historical themes. *Page 48*

Books & Authors

Bob Woodward book recounts Bush's decision to topple Saddam Hussein. *Page 52*

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Montreal police charge three in UTT firebombing

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Three people, including a mother and son, were charged in connection with the April 5 firebombing of the United Talmud Torahs (UTT) library in St. Laurent.

Simon Zogheib and Sleiman Elmerhebi, both 18, were charged May 15 with four counts each of arson, possession of incendiary material, conspiracy and uttering threats. Elmerhebi's mother Rouba Elmerhebi Fahd, 36, was charged with being an accessory after the fact.

All three pleaded not guilty at their arraignment in Quebec Court and elected to be tried by judge and jury. They were detained until a bail hearing, which was set for this past Monday.

Not guilty pleas entered at arraignment

They were arrested at about 6:15 a.m., May 14. Two other men, both 18, were also arrested at that time, but after questioning, they were released because of lack of evidence.

Police said the investigation continues and more charges and more arrests could be made. The investigation is being conducted in collaboration with the RCMP and Sûreté du Québec.

According to the *Globe and Mail*, the suspects are of Lebanese origin and neighbours say they are Christian. Elmerhebi and Fahd have reportedly been living as tenants in a duplex in St. Laurent near the school for about five years. Zogheib, who lives in the north end of Montreal, is a university student, the *Gazette* reported.

Notes left at the scene claimed the firebombing was in retaliation for Israel's assassination of Hamas spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin.

Continued on page 29

Sifting the blood-soaked sand

The conflict in Gaza took on a heightened violent dimension last week. Thirteen IDF soldiers were killed in three separate incidents; Some 30 Palestinians were killed and 88 homes demolished. These photos show IDF soldiers painstakingly probing the sand for the remains of fellow soldiers killed in Rafah. Palestinians at first refused to surrender the body parts of IDF soldiers who were killed when their vehicles were bombed.

[Israeli photos]

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Condoleezza Rice urges PA to reform security forces — please see page 37

Canada

Zundel Appeal Dashed

TORONTO — The Ontario Court of Appeal last week ruled it doesn't have jurisdiction to hear Holocaust denier Ernst Zundel's challenge to a "security certificate" issued against him. The certificate, based on secret intelligence and signed by two cabinet ministers empowered by federal anti-terror laws, declares him a danger to Canada who should be deported to his native Germany. Zundel has been in jail since Ottawa started deportation proceedings against him 15 months ago, when U.S. authorities dumped him at the border for overstaying a visitor's visa. The Federal Court of Canada has been hearing his case in secret. He could remain in jail while it finishes its work, or seek to have the Supreme Court overturn the latest ruling.

Cdn. Wexner Winners

TORONTO — Four Canadians have won Wexner Graduate Fellowships from the U.S.-based Wexner Foundation. Torontonians Adam Cutler, a former University of Toronto student, will begin rabbinical studies in the fall at the Jewish Theological Seminary, while fellow Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto graduate Yona Shem-Tov, a former CHAT Jewish history teacher, will start a PhD in Jewish history at New York University. Torontonian David Koffman, a graduate of Northern Secondary school and the University of Toronto, will also start doctoral studies in history and Judaic studies at NYU, while Rabbi Noam Silverman, a Montrealer and a graduate of Hebrew Academy and Yeshiva University, will attend Stanford University for religious studies. The two-year renewable fellowships cover tuition and living expenses for graduate training in Jewish education, Jewish communal service, the rabbinate, the cantorate and Jewish studies.

World

JAFI Reps Detained

AUCKLAND, N.Z. — The Israeli Embassy in New Zealand is probing the detention at Auckland Airport of the treasurer of the Jewish Agency for Israel earlier this month. Treasurer Shai Hermesh and senior consultant Yigal Sela were detained by customs agents for several hours on suspicion they were Mossad agents or drug-runners or were illegally transporting food across borders. Sela said the agents told them, "We are treating all you Israelis the same. You are nothing but drug dealers and spies." The incident came after recent allegations that two Israelis arrested and charged with fraudulently trying to obtain New Zealand passports were Mossad agents. The JAFI pair were on a fact-finding trip to the South Pacific.

Drabinsky's Sequel to *John* in Doubt

TORONTO — Plans by ex-theatre impresario Garth Drabinsky to film another Jesus-centred epic to follow last year's *The Gospel of John* are on hold because his production company, Visual Bible International (VBI), is in financial trouble, the *Globe and Mail* reported.

Drabinsky had said production on *The Gospel of Mark* was to start in Toronto and Spain this summer using *John*'s creative team. But the actor who played Jesus has yet to be offered the part again, while the studio where many *John* interiors were shot hasn't been booked and the scholars advising VBI have yet to discuss a third draft of the script, the *Globe* reported.

A spokesperson for Toronto-based VBI, which hopes to film all 66 books of the Christian Bible by 2015, said no decision has been made on what its next film may be, and its new CEO said it's "three or four months behind schedule."

VBI, which has seen most of its board resign in a recent management controversy, sold only 40,000 VHS and DVD copies of the John film in 2003, well short of its 600,000 target. VBI has said that if it doesn't meet new sales targets, it could default on debt and cease operations.

Hate Crime Sentence

MELBOURNE — An Australian man has received a suspended sentence for violent threats against the local Jewish community, the first time a conviction has been recorded for a crime against Jews in Melbourne. Stephen Kennedy, 44, was found guilty recently of making a death threat and of using a telecommunications device for harassment for a six-minute recording on the answering machine of the Jewish Community Council of Victoria. Further incidents while he is serving his sentence will result in jail time, he was told.

Oz Bomb Trial Delayed

PERTH — The trial of Jack Roche, an Australian man accused of plotting to bomb the Israeli Embassy, was delayed last week after some jurors read a newspaper article that defence lawyers said would affect their impartiality toward the British-born convert to Islam.

Duke Serves Whites

NEW ORLEANS — White supremacist David Duke, released from jail to a Louisiana halfway house last month, is doing community service with his "white civil rights group." Duke had served a year for fraud. "My work-release plan was approved in the normal channels," he told the *New York Times*. The website for his group, the European-American Unity and Rights Organization, says it's an answer to the Anti-Defamation League and other "anti-European" U.S. groups.

Throwing for Palestine?

ATHENS — A Greek javelin thrower who has not competed since the early 1990s has petitioned the International Olympic Committee to compete under the Palestinian flag at the Athens Olympics in August. Sofia Sakorafa, 47, who broke the women's javelin world record in 1982, says she has become a Palestinian citizen and hopes to compete for the Palestinian team. She said she wanted "to serve the universal [human] spirit that is still being produced today from the ancient Greek spirit."

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Former citizenship judge lauded for community work

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

He rose from the ashes of the Holocaust and made "never again" his mission, working for human rights and social justice across the globe.

For his righteous efforts, former citizenship judge Sigmund Reiser, 80, was recently honoured as the inaugural recipient of the Yakir Hakahal Award, literally "precious to the community."

"I feel humbled receiving this honour," Reiser told 450 guests gathered at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda synagogue for the gala award dinner, proceeds of which will go to the Sigmund Reiser Fund for Truth and Justice in Race Relations. "I feel I am accepting this on behalf of all the survivors of the Shoah who came to Canada."

Reiser said education is the best means to prevent and confront discrimination, and called for "an official program in the curriculum [dealing with] anti-Semitism and bigotry."

He also spoke of the need to build bridges with other ethnic groups, particularly with the ethnic press, to foster understanding and tolerance.

Many public servants and community leaders Reiser has worked with, including Liberal MP Art Eggleton, Liberal MPP Monte Kwinter and former Liberal MP Robert Kaplan, attended the dinner.

Among the speakers were Reiser's grandson Jonathan Guberman, event chair Gerald Hartman, Beth Emeth rabbis Howard Morrison and David Bauman and synagogue president Pearl Grundland.

The keynote speaker was federal Justice Minister Irwin Cotler, who spoke about fighting anti-Semitism and all forms of bigotry.

The presence of so many people engaged in community service was rather fitting, given that Reiser's biography reads like a case study of tireless volunteerism.

Within years of the Polish immigrant's arrival in Canada, Reiser excelled as a leading insurance sales agent with London Life. He earned a series of promotions, eventually landing in Toronto, where he began his community service endeavours.

At the urging of his wife of 59 years, Carole, Reiser became involved at Beth Emeth and had a leadership role in several Jewish organizations, including B'nai Brith Canada, the Jewish National Fund, State of Israel Bonds, Canadian Society for Yad Vashem, The League for Human Rights Cabinet and the Robert Kaplan Scholarship Fund.

Since he had lost 21 relatives in the Shoah, human rights became a major cause for Reiser. He has served on the Canadian Human Rights Commission and in the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario and was appointed a citizenship judge in 1998.

Among his achievements in that role was speaking to 15,000 elementary school students about Canadian values and citizenship obligations.

In the political sphere, the Liberal party member was campaign manager for Kaplan in 1988 and Eggleton in 1993 and 1998. Reiser also contributed to the elections of Kwinter and former Ontario MPP Elinor Caplan.

For his accomplishments, Reiser has received numerous awards – most notably he was named a member of the Order of Canada in 1997 and received the Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002.

In his keynote address, Cotler extolled Reiser for being a model tzaddik.

"You are a veritable, full-time volunteer, a true advocate for justice," Cotler said. "You give meaning to the protection of human dignity."

Cotler condemned the recent escalation of anti-Semitic acts in Canada and internationally and outlined several ways to combat anti-Semitism and bigotry, including the establishment of hate crimes units, increased anti-racist education and intercultural dialogue.

"We will consign anti-Semitism to the dustbin of history where it belongs," Cotler pronounced. "We will not be silent, we will not be intimidated, we will speak up."

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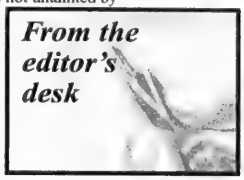
Reflections about integrity

Integrity is the chief currency of all news and media outlets. We trade on our credibility. The bargain we strike with our readers is a simple one: for our readers' loyalty we promise to provide news that is reliable, fair, honestly compiled and untainted by personal prejudice or bias.

Editorials, commentaries, analyses and opinions, of course, are not untainted by personal prejudice or bias. Indeed, personal prejudice and bias are their very essence.



When a mistake or error creeps into a news story, we take remedial steps that include, at a minimum, correcting the record at the first available opportunity. Integrity demands nothing less. And we expect the same from all news sources upon whom consumers innocently, in good faith, rely for honest news reporting.

Unfortunately, not all news sources act with equal dispatch or vigour when their integrity is on the line. Two cases from last week tell very different tales about the emphasis on integrity of some media outlets.

Case 1: London's *Daily Mirror* recently published some photographs that depicted the abuse of Iraqi prisoners by British soldiers. One of the infamous photos showed a soldier urinating on a captive. But the photos, it turned out, were all doctored. They were false documents.

The newspaper's board of directors took immediate remedial steps. "There is sufficient evidence to suggest that these pictures are fakes," the board's press release said. The *Mirror* apologized for the mistruths it unwittingly perpetrated on its readers and then, correctly, dismissed the editor, Piers Morgan, because, he apparently knew the photos were fakes.

Morgan, however, was unrepentant. "The pictures accurately illustrated the reality about the appalling conduct of some British troops," he said.

In his own mind, Morgan justified the publication of cut-and-paste photos because he believed they *illustrated* the "appalling conduct of some British troops" somewhere in Iraq.

They were not actual images of appalling conduct. Indeed, the appalling conduct depicted in the photos did not occur. But Morgan believed "some British troops," somewhere in Iraq, must have been guilty of "appalling conduct." So he concocted an illustration as it were, of what his imagination – his prejudices and biases – offered up as likely appalling conduct by British troops in Iraq, and presented it to the public as reliable news.

Morgan's dismissal from his post was entirely appropriate. He was made to account for his behaviour.

Case 2: Two weeks ago, CBC TV ran a news story by Neil Macdonald from Washington concerning the revelations of the torture of Iraqi captives by some American prison guards at the Abu Ghraib prison.

Macdonald's angle on the story was unusual: "The occupation of Iraq and George Bush's unprecedented alliance with the right-wing government of Israel has placed Americans overseas in danger."

To prove his point about Bush's "unprecedented alliance with the right-wing government of Israel," Macdonald lined up an on-camera statement by a former American diplomat, Eugene Bird, who is now a widely known anti-Israel lobbyist in Washington.

"We know that the Israeli intelligence was operating in Baghdad after the war was over. The question should be: were there any foreign interrogators among those that were recommending very, very bad treatment for the prisoners?" Bird said.

The purpose of Macdonald's report was quite transparent: to associate the unfolding Abu Ghraib torture scandal with Israel. But there is no such association. Nor did Macdonald introduce any evidence of such an association.

Three days later, the CBC issued a clarification regarding Macdonald's unconscionable news report: "In a report on the U.S. abuse of Iraqi prisoners, we included a comment from a news conference by retired American diplomats criticizing U.S. Middle East policy. A representative of the group suggested that Israeli intelligence might be linked in some way to the abuse at the prison. The fact is there is no evidence that Israel was involved in what happened in the Iraqi prison. The comment from the diplomat should not have been included in the report and we regret the error."

But the clarification was seen by viewers as grudging, weak and hollow. In an effort to stem the rising tide of anger, the corporation's news editor-in-chief, Tony Burman, issued a further statement of clarification a week later explaining the report had suffered "due to editorial lapses that somehow slipped through the system."

Burman denied that there had been any "wilful distortion" by Macdonald. Technically, Burman may be correct. Macdonald did not "distort" Bird's words. Rather, he cleverly manipulated them. But Macdonald concocted a news report, as surely as Piers Morgan concocted a photograph. He effectively grafted Bird's outrageous slander against Israel to the Israel-as-endangerer-of-Americans-overseas theory that informed the beginning of his news report. However, Macdonald was not peddling news. He was peddling his prejudices and biases. If the concoction was wilful, which it was, then the resulting distortion had to be wilful as well.

The difference in the way the two cases were handled should open our eyes to what the CBC has become and to the low standard to which they appear to hew in protecting their own integrity. —*MBD*

SeeJN

HELPING WITH THE CURE: Amanda Belzowski, 6, and her family sold lemonade May 16 and raised $3,137 for the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario's Becel Ride for Heart. Amanda has sold lemonade for five years, and this year's donation brings her total to more than $10,000. Amanda's family also participate each year in the Becel Ride for Heart. The 17th Annual Becel Ride for Heart kicks off on Sunday, June 6, 8 a.m., with a separate in-line skating event beginning at 7:45 a.m. This year's ride is expected to raise $1.55 million. For information and the nearest check-in centre, call 416-486-RIDE or visit the website at www.heartandstroke.ca/rideforheart. Registration takes place up to the day of the event. Cyclists and in-line skaters can register by mail: P.O. Box 1227, Station K, 2384 Yonge St., Toronto, Ont., M4P 3E4, fax: 416-932-1620, phone: 416-486-RIDE (7433), and on-line until June 2: www.heartandstroke.ca/rideforheart.

Israelis resilient amid terror: Haifa U professor

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

In the face of an unprecedented wave of Palestinian terrorism, the most important weapons Jews in Israel have at their disposal are their optimism, resiliency and faith in the future, an Israeli social scientist said last week.

"The enemy is strong, but we're stronger," declared Gabriel Ben-Dor, a Haifa University professor of political science and academic director of the National Security College, Israel's West Point.

Delivering the first of two Harry Posen Memorial Lectures at Holy Blossom Temple, Ben-Dor acknowledged that about 80 per cent of Jewish Israelis regard terrorism as an existential and personal threat.

> ***'The enemy is strong, but we're stronger'***

Yet more than eight out of 10 Israelis are confident of Israel's ability to face the challenge posed by terrorism and are willing "to stick it out."

As well, nine out of 10 Israeli Jews believe the Israeli armed forces are winning the war against terrorism, noted Ben-Dor, citing data from a study he and his colleagues recently completed.

"We, as a society, have responded well to the threat of terrorism," he said, adding that 86 per cent to 91 per cent of Jewish Israelis are patriotic and love Israel.

The comparable figure for Israeli Arabs is considerably lower, he pointed out. They will have to decide where they stand in the struggle between Israel and the Palestinians.

Haredim are increasingly proud of Israel, and non-Jews from the former Soviet Union who have settled in Israel with their Jewish spouses and relatives are just as patriotic as settlers in the territories.

The average Israeli has a low opinion of the Knesset, politicians and the media. But they admire the Israeli army and the Supreme Court, believing they are above the fray.

Palestinian terrorism has increased in scope and intensity since the outbreak of the second intifadah, he said.

During the early years of Israeli statehood, terrorists usually came from neighbouring Arab countries. But today, they hail from the West Bank and Gaza, and tend to be less educated and poorer than in the past.

Fatah, controlled by Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, perpetrates about one-third of all suicide attacks, said Ben-Dor.

But Islamic fundamentalist groups such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad enjoy greater support than Palestinian secular organizations.

Israel needs to separate from the Palestinians, and the sooner the better, because the Arab-Israeli conflict has dangerously morphed into a confrontation between two distinct societies, Ben-Dor said.

"The sooner we're able to draw our boundaries, the more secure we'll be."

Israel's decision in the wake of the Six Day War to integrate the territories into its economy was a mistake, an "unqualified disaster," he said, referring to Moshe Dayan's Open Bridges policy.

In his estimation, the security fence currently being built through the West Bank will become a security barrier in the short run but a political boundary over a longer period of time.

He added that the level of terrorism has declined drastically in areas where there is a fence.

A ripple of surprise coursed through the audience when Ben-Dor claimed that the Palestinians have received more economic aid from the European Union in recent years than Europe received from the United States under the Marshall Plan after World War II.

HARRIS HONOURED: Milton Harris, chair and CEO of Harris Steel Group Inc., centre, was honoured last week by the Native Men's Residence (Na-Me-Res) on Vaughan Road for his donation of $250,000 to the Tumivut Youth Centre for homeless young people. Harris, a well-known Jewish activist, was joined at the unveiling of a plaque by Avrum Rosensweig, left, executive director of Ve'Ahavta, which has partnered with the Aboriginal community on many projects, and by Greg Rogers, executive director of Na-Me-Res. [Ron Csillag photo]

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Greater Toronto Area

She'arim to honour outgoing CJC national president

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Keith Landy

Keith Landy, local lawyer and outgoing national president of Canadian Jewish Congress, will be honoured by Dr. Abraham Shore She'arim Hebrew Day School, Sara and Sam Hennick Education Centre, on June 15 at Le Parc Hotel.

She'arim is Canada's first and only Jewish day school for children from all religious backgrounds who have learning disabilities including Asperger's Syndrome and/or attention deficit (hyperactivity) disorder.

In conjunction with Jewish Toronto Tomorrow, She'arim was recently involved in a fundraising campaign to move into its current premises at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre.

Landy, vice-president of the World Jewish Congress, a member of the executive committee of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims and a recipient of The Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal, said he did not hesitate to accept the honour from the school, which had 68 students when it moved into the BJCC three years ago, and now has 100.

"I agreed on the basis that the focus of the evening is on the school, not on me.

"She'arim is a small school with a waiting list for [students] who, when given the right [opportunity], go on to excel in any and all fields of endeavours.

"It provides all the benefits of a Jewish day school education in an individualized setting. I encourage everyone, [whether or not they have] children, to view She'arim as a community treasure. There should never be a child on a waiting list."

In Landy's three-year term as CJC president, he served as counsel at the Somalia Inquiry, was instrumental in the passage of Holocaust Memorial Day and Yom HaShoah in the Ontario Legislature, and was a delegate at the United Nations World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa, in 2001.

The success of any community position is measured in small amounts, he said.

"Any achievements, however small, are worthwhile."

When his term began, the second intifadah was gearing up "with weekly and almost daily horrors in the Middle East," he said.

"The community had been lulled into a complacency since the '90s, through the Oslo accords and through the spectre of possible peace in the Middle East. North American Jewry, particularly, was at a place where anti-Semitism such as was present in pre-war Europe, was unheard of."

Then came Durban, he said, "which is now a metaphor for hate, anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism.

"From that point forward, it became apparent to the larger community that there was a convergence of anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism. It became difficult to simply say, 'We are criticizing Israel, but we are not anti-Semitic.' That became difficult to sustain as a concept."

As bad as the local spate of recent anti-Semitic acts have been, Landy said, it took time before the public began taking the issue seriously.

"In and of themselves, the incidents were small in terms of impact; there was no loss of life. Each one, however, is horrendous and unacceptable.

"[We at Congress] woke the community to the dangers, and sensitized politicians to the point where there has been a clear denunciation of every attack that has occurred."

A "wonderful" aspect of his term, he said, was the opportunity he had to visit small communities across the country.

"Every [Canadian Jew] needs to see the hunger people in smaller communities have for Jewish community events. It is the role of Congress to unite these communities."

It was a highlight for him stand on Parliament Hill at a rally for Israel in April 2002, he said. "Ottawa has a warm and welcoming Jewish community, and we are lucky to have its support."

A native of England who was raised in South Africa, Landy said that Canada is a community of immigrants.

"When we get together with other ethno-cultural groups we get a sense of the [uniqueness of Canada], and we can espouse Canadian values.

"From that perspective, that is what drives me. It has been a privilege to serve the community, and if the right opportunity arises, I will get involved again. Once you are involved, it is hard not to remain involved."

An upcoming triennial national plenary assembly for the installation of new CJC officers is set to take place in Ottawa in June. Landy said it will be a scaled down event because of its proximity to the federal election, adding that politicians who would typically attend the plenary will be tied up with the election instead.

Greater Toronto Area

Canada will be an Al Qaeda target: terror expert

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

A panel of terror experts agrees Canada will certainly be attacked by Al Qaeda and is not prepared to deal with the impending crisis.

"Some day Al Qaeda is going to launch a successful attack in Canada. That is a reality," says John Thompson, president of the Mackenzie Institute.

"This is a threat we should all be taking seriously."

Thompson was speaking as part of a panel on terrorism at a recent town hall discussion called "Global Terrorism: Is Canada at Risk" in North York, organized by The Speakers Action Group.

Besides Thompson, the panel included *National Post* reporter Stewart Bell and Owen Sound police chief Tom Kaye. The moderator was Leo Adler, national affairs director at the Canadian Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center.

Kaye said Canada's dwindling and poorly funded military, as well as inadequately trained and equipped emergency services personnel, do not have the resources to respond sufficiently to an attack.

"There are 60,000 to 70,000 people in the army. You could put them all in the Skydome," Kaye said, noting Canada's per capita funding of the military is 80 per cent lower than in the United States.

Kaye said an anti-terrorism response team has been established by the Ontario Provincial Police, but it, too, is limited.

"It's only 32 people... and [how] could the team come into Toronto where they don't have jurisdiction?" Kaye said.

Bell, the author of *Cold Terror: How Canada Nurtures and Exports Terrorism Around the World*, said as many as 50 terrorist groups operate in Canada, primarily using the country for recruitment and fundraising, the forging of passports and the dissemination of propaganda.

"Our open society is exploited by the terrorists," Bell said, adding that Canada's poor record at deporting suspected terrorists has contributed to the presence of terrorist cells.

He cited a number of recent Canadian terror suspects, including Ahmed Said Khadr, an Al Qaeda member whose family continues to live in Canada, and Hezbollah cell operatives who "used Canada almost as a Costco."

Bell said the Hezbollah members, who resided in Vancouver, helped finance the terror group's activities but were not convicted because Canada did not have a law against fundraising for terrorism.

The panellists agreed that Osama bin Laden's mention of Canada in November 2002 as a "country that should be attacked" should be taken seriously, especially since Canada is the only country bin Laden named that has not yet been hit.

"Al Qaeda is gunning for us," Bell said. "They see us as an infidel country."

The panellists urged Canadians to put more pressure on elected officials on the issue of security.

"There is a huge disconnect between what the public wants and what the politicians are giving," said Kaye.

"The government has to know people want to be safe... that at least we'll be in a position to respond."

During a question and answer period, an audience member whose husband was killed in the 9/11 attacks echoed the panellist's views and her own disappointment at Canada's lack of support for 9/11 victims.

"There is nothing in place for terrorist victims," said Maureen Basnicky. "My government has let me down."

Party to help young Jews show solidarity with Israel

By CARA EDELL
CJN Intern

If you're between the ages of 19 and 26, want to party with hundreds of people from across Toronto, and are interested in supporting a worthy cause, then mark May 23 on your calendar.

L'CHAIM 2004, a charity event hosted by Van Warner Entertainment and UJA Federation, will be held Sunday night at 10 p.m. at the Capitol Event Theatre, 2492 Yonge St.

In association with the AEPi fraternity, the Birthright Israel Alumni Committee Toronto, the Canadian Federation of Jewish Students and Hillel Western, the first annual fundraiser will bring together young Jewish adults to celebrate their unity and show solidarity with Israel, said organizer Daniel Warner.

"It's a great cause, at a great venue, on a great weekend," he said.

Warner, a University of Western Ontario business student, is no stranger to the party industry.

As London's AEPi social executive for this past school year, he organized events such as Splash Bash, Rock with Israel, and the Unity Party.

He came up with the idea for L'CHAIM 2004 after visiting Israel on a Birthright trip in June 2003. Inspired by a trip leader who urged participants to become active in the Jewish community, Warner said he is doing his part by organizing this function.

Warner said he has been working with Annie Raphael, a post-program planner with Birthright, who has been "a great help on all ends" in bringing L'CHAIM 2004 to life.

"Our goal is to raise $5,000 for the UJA Federation Walk with Israel and Magen David Adom," Warner said.

He said he has been raising money for Magen David Adom, AEPi's national charity, throughout the year.

Promoting UJA Federation's Walk with Israel, which takes place Sunday, May 30, has been his attempt to encourage people "to be more active," he said.

Warner is optimistic L'CHAIM 2004 will be a success, and expects a turnout of about 600.

The event will open with a performance by the Mill Street Band and will feature DJ Mr. Nice Guy.

Tickets can be purchased in advance for $10 by calling Warner at 416-540-7373. Tickets at the door will be $15.

Anyone interested in volunteering their time can contact Warner.

The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, Canadian Region
And the **Conservative Synagogues of Toronto**
Invite the Community to **Observe Shavuot**
The Festival of the Giving of the Torah
With the Study of Torah **TUESDAY, MAY 25, 2004**
All are welcome to attend Tikkun Leil Shavuot
at the following participating Conservative Synagogues

ADATH ISRAEL CONGREGATION (AI)
BETH EMETH BAIS YEHUDA (BEBY)
BETH DAVID B'NAI ISRAEL BETH AM (BDBIBA)
Joint programme held at
Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am, 55 Yeomans Rd.
416-633-5500
9:45-10:45 p.m. **Rabbi Philip Scheim** (BDBIBA)
Belief in God: Is it a Mitzvah?
11:00 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Panel Discussion
Rabbi Howard Morrison (BEBY)
Rabbi Steven Saltzman (AI)
Rabbi Philip Scheim
Rabbi David Seed (AI), Moderator
Spirituality, Holiness and Halakhah: A Search for Meaning
12:45-1:45 a.m. **Rabbi Howard Morrison**
"Swimming in the Sea of Talmud"
2:00-3:00 a.m. **Rabbi David Seed**
The "Why's and How's" of Torah Study
3:15-4:15 a.m. **Rabbi David Bauman** (BEBY)
Tikkun Leil Shavuot:
A Spiritual Response to Shavuot
4:30 a.m. Sunrise Shaharit Service
Refreshments served throughout the night.

BETH TIKVAH
416-221-3433
Services beginning at 8:30 p.m.
Light dinner at 9:15 p.m.
by advance registration only.
Opening Presentation with
Rabbi Michael Stroh of Temple Har Zion
"Does Maimonides Have A Secret Doctrine?"
Songs & refreshments 11:30 p.m.
A full night of study: **"Maimonides on Revelation: Insights Into the Giving of the Torah for Today"**
Beginning at 12:00 midnight,
led by **Rabbi Wayne Allen**
Early Minyan 5:15 a.m.

BEIT RAYIM SYNAGOGUE
905-770-7639
Ma'ariv services begin at 6:45 p.m.
Light meal to follow - requires reservation
Study session
"A Jewish State — Many Faces: Study of early Zionist sources
All are invited to attend

BETH TZEDEC
416-781-3511
Beginning with Minha/Ma'ariv at 7:30 p.m.
An All Night Torahthon
will follow from 9:15 p.m.
With keynote scholar from Israel,
RABBI HARVEY MEIROVICH and others.
Lectures and discussion groups
throughout the night.
Dawn Shacharit/Musaf services

SHAAR SHALOM SYNAGOGUE
905-889-4975
International evening of study in conjunction with Women's League of Conservative Judaism
"THE BOOK OF RUTH"
Dinner by reservation only 7:15 p.m.
Candlelighting/Minha 8:25 p.m.
Study Session 1 - Guided Study 8:40 p.m.
Maariv 9:40 p.m.
Kiddush & Dessert 10:00 p.m.
Study Session 2 - 10:20 p.m.

The Canadian Jewish news

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Dry Bones
A "LIGHT UNTO THE NATIONS"?
THEM?!
ISRAEL IS SUPPOSED TO BE A "LIGHT UNTO THE NATIONS"?
HAH!
MAYBE IT MEANS THAT THE REST OF THE WORLD GOES INTO THE DARK AGES.
HMMM... IT IS GETTING SORT OF DIM DOWN THERE.

A warning

Thirty-seven years ago yesterday, on the 28th day of Iyar, June 7, the Israel Defence Forces reunited Old City with New City Jerusalem. The divided capital had been a snapshot of time frozen 19 years earlier, blood-soaked in the fiery aftermath of Israel's War of Independence. When fighting stopped, the Jordanians ruled east Jerusalem and Muslim authorities controlled the Jewish holy places of the Old City. Such was the nature of their control that Israeli Jews were prevented from worshipping at the Western Wall, synagogues were destroyed, cemeteries were vandalized and holy Jewish sites were desecrated.

Today, Muslim authorities are again making pronouncements about control over Israel's capital. And we must all take notice, for a significant threat may soon hover over the next horizon. *Ha'aretz* journalist Nadav Shragai (see the Perspectives page) sums up the resurgent Islamic claim to the Jewish capital: "In the last generation, the Islamic and Arab history of Jerusalem has gradually been rewritten. At the heart of this new version is the Arabs' historic right to Jerusalem and Palestine. The main argument is that the Arabs ruled Jerusalem thousands of years before the children of Israel. In addition to building the Arab-Muslim case, the Muslim thinkers are formulating a denial and negation of the Jewish-Zionist narrative. Included in that effort is the de-Judaizing of the Temple Mount, the Western Wall and Jerusalem as a whole."

Shragai observes that the new theological-historical campaign by Muslim authorities to uproot the Jews from ancient Israel was already well entrenched in 2000, when then-prime minister Ehud Barak was negotiating with Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat at Camp David.

"The myth of the fabricated Temple is the greatest crime of historical forgery," Egyptian archeologist Abe al-Rahim Riham Barakat has written. Barakat's opinion does not appear to be a minority opinion among Muslim clerics. PA-appointed Sheikh Akram Sabria, the mufti of Jerusalem, has said that there are "no remains proving the Jews' claim that there was a temple at the site of the Western Wall."

Only the short-sighted among us will fail to see that the campaign to remove the Jewish connection from ancient Israel is, at the same time, a campaign to remove the western connection. If Jerusalem was not holy to the Jews, it could not have been holy to Jesus. And only those same short-sighted individuals will fail to grasp further that the fight against the Islamic forces who preach a de-Judaized Holy Land is also the fight against the same Islamic forces who preach terror against the West.

Though he spoke the following words in 1949 when the UN debated the internationalization of Jerusalem, David Ben-Gurion's words speak to us today no less forcefully than when he spoke them aloud to a hostile world. " A nation that, for 2,500 years, has faithfully adhered to the vow made by the first exiles by the waters of Babylon not to forget Jerusalem, will never agree to be separated from Jerusalem."

On Yom Yerushalayim, we recall Ben-Gurion's words and bear in mind the warning that is taking ugly shape.

Editorial Advisory Board: Irving Abella, Michael Brown, Sandra Brown, Donald Carr, Paul Cooper, Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, Zac Kaye, Igor Korenzvit, Lou Ronson, Jacques Sayegh, Mike Shriqui, Ron Somogyi, Pamela Medjuck Stein, Rabbi Reuven Tradburks

Asking about community priorities

How ironic is the headline, "The Future Face of Jewish Toronto" (*CJN*, May 13), which refers to the community's plans for expansion and development – as if one could personify concrete structures? In the view of a growing significant group of parents, "the future face of Jewish Toronto" looks quite grim, as hundreds of parents are increasingly leaving the day-school system due to the escalating costs of Jewish education. Funds that could have benefited hearts and minds are now being diverted to bricks and glass.

Where are our priorities? It is commonly accepted that a Jewish education is the best antidote for assimilation and intermarriage. Community centres, no matter how beautiful, do not have that power. I can foresee a day in our not-too-distant future when our magnificent community institutions will be devoid of Jews and will stand as a stark reminder of our misguided priorities.

Yossi Adler
Toronto

* * *

Will Jews fill the buildings?

Under the headline "The Future Face of Jewish Toronto" on the front page of *The CJN*'s May 13 issue are artist conceptions of two impressive planned community building projects in the GTA, which we are told will cost $250 million to build. Much good work will no doubt be done in these buildings, and those who support this endeavour deserve great appreciation and encouragement.

However, the "future face of Jewish Toronto" will surely be the face of proud Jews, not the façade of buildings, however impressive. And the only reliable, time-tested way of ensuring this human Jewish continuity is Jewish education. Yet Jewish education in Ontario is in a state of deepening crisis, as tuition increases above the rate of inflation over the last decade have squeezed the middle class slowly out of Jewish day schools and forced many Jewish families to have fewer children.

Non-discriminatory government funding of Jewish schools, equal to funding for Catholic schools, is just one possible solution. In the meantime, the Jewish community can require every community member, as a condition of membership in a shul or enrolment in a school (and simply as a matter of good conscience), to pledge five per cent of their family estate by will to support Jewish day-school education.

Unless the current crisis in day-school funding is addressed with the same vigour by our community organizations and philanthropists as they now devote to buildings, we cannot be assured that there will be enough Jews around to fill those magnificent buildings with their good works.

Michael Orr
Toronto

* * *

Koren is wrong

In his Hebrew language column from *The CJN* April 22, Gidi Koren wrote the following (roughly translated):

"Israel should evacuate, as quickly as possible, all Palestinian territories. As long as Israeli soldiers are killed in order to protect little children with long peyot in Hebron, tens of thousands of young Israelis will continue to emigrate to Europe and North America."

How dare he vilify one of the most patriotic and devoted segments of Israeli society – the religious settlers! These families, who daily risk their love for the land and whose boys join the toughest units in the Israel Defence Forces and are devoted to Torah values, are a source of pride. To blame them for the departure of "westernized" Israelis to the West is not only false but divisive, at a time when we should be fostering unity.

Incidentally, I remind Koren that Hamas, Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, Islamic Jihad, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Tanzim, Fatah and the Palestinian Authority have all demanded in Arabic that Jews must leave Haifa and Tel Aviv, not only the West Bank and Gaza. Does Koren really expect peace and tranquillity to come once we leave the "territories?"

George Jakubovic
Toronto

* * *

Three out of nine Jewish justices?

Canadians are currently waiting to see which two new Supreme Court of Canada appointees will replace Justices Iacobucci and Arbour when they leave the Court in June.

The first Jewish justice of the Supreme Court of Canada was Bora Laskin, who was appointed chief justice by then-prime minister Pierre Trudeau. Another Jew did not take a seat on the Supreme Court of Canada until the recent appointment by former prime minister Jean Chretién of Justice Morris Fish. It is interesting to note that four of the leading contenders for the current openings in the Supreme Court of Canada are Jewish.

Notwithstanding a few isolated recent incidents of anti-Semitism in Canada, Canadians can take great pride in the fact their county is a tolerant society that simply does not tolerate anti-Semitism. It will be interesting to see if, after all the candidates are reviewed and it turns out the two most qualified people are Jewish, Canada will be prepared to accept three Jewish justices out of nine on the Supreme Court.

Bert Raphael
Toronto

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

MIAs: Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz.

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Perspectives

A campaign of denial to disinherit the Jews

By NADAV SHRAGAI

Years ago, a group of archeology students from Bar-Ilan University went to Jerusalem's Kidron Valley, hoping to save archeological remnants from earth the Waqf (Muslim religious trust) had dug up on the Temple Mount and dumped in the riverbed. A Waqf official noticed the students and began yelling at them. One sentence struck them in particular, they reported: "'You have nothing to look for here, just as the Crusaders had nothing to look for here. Jerusalem is Muslim.'"

In the past, such comments could be seen as the exception. But that changed at the Camp David Conference of June 2002. It was then that senior Israeli officials became aware that the claim that Jews have no real connection to Jerusalem and its holy sites had not only been disseminated and become entrenched in Arab and Muslim communities and part of the public discourse, but had also been adopted by the Palestinian leadership.

Indeed, a new study by Hebrew University's Prof. Yitzhak Reiter, conducted for the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies, states: "In the last generation, the Islamic and Arab history of Jerusalem has gradually been rewritten. At the heart of this new version is the Arabs' historic right to Jerusalem and Palestine. The main argument is that the Arabs ruled Jerusalem thousands of years before the children of Israel [did]. In addition to building the Arab-Muslim case, the Muslim thinkers are formulating a denial and negation of the Jewish-Zionist narrative. Included in that effort is the de-Judaizing of the Temple Mount, the Western Wall and Jerusalem as a whole."

Reiter, who is with the Hebrew University's Truman Institute, is a longtime specialist in the modern history of the Middle East. He reviewed a collection of religious rulings by key muftis in the Muslim world and Internet sites of Islamic movements. He pored over many popular books in Arabic that deal with Jerusalem and sifted through reports and articles on the issue, dating back to 1967. Today he says, "New myths, some of them fictitious and some of them based on facts on the ground, transform the stories about Al-Aqsa into furious struggle."

Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat and Sheikh Raed Salah, like Sheikh Haj Amin al-Husseini, the grand mufti of Jerusalem at the turn of the previous century, and many others, he said, "are using the religious symbols of Jerusalem to enlist the entire Muslim world in its struggle" in several ways.

The Muslims are slowly dropping use of the name given to the Temple Mount complex – Haram al-Sharif – which gave it its status as the third holiest site in Islam, and reverting to exclusive use of the earlier name, Al-Aqsa, which appears in the Qur'an.

Al-Aqsa now refers to the entire Temple Mount complex, including the Western Wall, and not just the mosque. The tradition connecting the three mosques in Mecca, Medina and Al-Aqsa is being used by the Palestinians to exert pressure on Muslim states by saying, as the Palestinian minister of Waqf affairs, Sheikh Yusef Salameh, said in November 2002, "Making a mockery of Al-Aqsa will lead to a mockery of the holy sites in Mecca and Medina because there is a connection between them that must not be broken."

At the same time, there is growing use of the term Al-Aqsa as a symbol and a name for different institutions and organizations, be they Jordanian army journals, Palestinian police units established by the Palestinian Authority in Jericho, Fatah terrorist cells known as the Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade or Internet sites of the northern and southern branches of the Islamic Movement and organizations they have set up and, of course, the current intifadah and the Arab summit convened in its wake.

Contrary to the standard history, in which the Al-Aqsa Mosque was built in the seventh century, in recent years an ancient tradition from the beginning of Islam has been gaining ground. The claim is that the Al-Aqsa Mosque was built 40 years after the construction of the mosque in Mecca by Adam (that is, close to the seven days of creation).

Other traditions that appear in the Waqf administration offices in Jerusalem attribute the building of the mosque to Abraham and Solomon, as Islamic figures, with no connection to Judaism. The former Jordanian minister of Waqf affairs Abed al-Salaam al-Abadi, Sheikh Raed Salah and Islamic Internet sites refer to Abraham as the builder of the Al-Aqsa Mosque 4,000 years ago.

For hundreds of years, Jerusalem has been known in Islam as a sanctified place, first and foremost for having been designated as the place where prayers should be directed (*kabila*) before Mohammed adopted the Kaaba in Mecca as the *kabila*. In general, Jerusalem was the direction of prayers for 16 months.

However, now the view that Jerusalem served this purpose for some four years and four months is experiencing a revival. The Palestinian Authority-appointed mufti of Jerusalem, Sheikh Akram Sabri, and Sheikh Yusef Kardawi, the most popular mufti in the Muslim world, who currently lives in Qatar, are only two heralds of this message. The verse in the Qur'an that mentions the Al-Aqsa Mosque, and adds "whose surroundings we have blessed," is meriting an expanded interpretation. The surroundings of Al-Aqsa Mosque are not narrowly defined, as was the case in the past, and they are now providing an opening for the interpretation that Al-Aqsa refers to all of Jerusalem, and most recently, that it refers to all of Palestine.

Members of the Saudi royal family, as well as Sheikh Kardawi, Syrian clerics, Palestinian archeologists such as Dimitri Baramki, and others identify the Jebusites as an ancient Arab tribe that wandered from the Arabian peninsula, together with the Canaanites, around 3,000 BCE, which predated the children of Israel in the land.

But the new history most jarring to the Jewish community is that the First and Second Temple are lies fabricated by the Jews. In public discourse among Arabs, participants regularly add the word "*al-maz'um*" – that is, the presumptive or fabricated – when referring to the Jewish temples. Mufti Sabri says there are no remnants proving the Jews' claim that there was a temple on the site.

The current Jordanian minister of Waqf affairs, Ahmed Khalil, said last year that Israel is trying to intervene in Al-Aqsa affairs and conduct excavations beneath the mosque in order to build the fabricated temple there.

Arafat Hajazi, a member of the southern branch of the Islamic Movement, asks in an article published in 2002 on the movement's website why the Jews did not build their Temple during the longer than 500-year period between the time it was destroyed a second time by Titus and the period when Abed el-Malik built the Al-Aqsa Mosque. He also notes that hundreds of archeological delegations have conducted excavations in the vicinity of Al-Aqsa and not one of them has found remnants of the Temple.

In another article, which recently appeared on the Internet site of the northern branch of the Islamic Movement, Egyptian archeologist Abed al-Rahim Rihan Barakat, the manager of the archeological site at Dahab in Sinai, writes, "The myth of the fabricated Temple is the greatest crime of historical forgery."

A fatwa on the site of the Waqf in Jerusalem states that David, Solomon and Herod did not build the Temple. Rather, it says, they repaired something that had been there since the time of Adam.

There is a similar campaign of denial with regard to the Western Wall, and it has two aspects: one is the identification of the Western Wall as a sacred place for Muslims because the prophet Mohammed tethered his horse Al-Buraq there and because it is part of the Al-Aqsa Mosque. The other is the argument that the Jews fabricated the Western Wall as a place sacred to them and that they have no historical connection to it. Palestinian and Egyptian religious authorities have issued fatwas to that effect.

"Al-Aqsa is in danger" continues to be the motto of articles by Muslim figures and the focus of mass rallies organized each year by the northern branch of the Islamic Movement in Israel.

"The most far-flung Muslim communities hear the stories about the Palestinian struggle over their sacred site, and through the political tale, the revised religious traditions are also internalized," Reiter says.

"The fact that Israel's official policy – as embodied in the decisions of the Chief Rabbinate Council, the government and the High Court of Justice – leaves the administration of the Temple Mount in the hands of the Muslim Waqf is not recognized in the contemporary Muslim world.

On the contrary, "the activities of extremist Jewish entities, some of them minuscule, to revive the [First] Temple ritual is perceived and disseminated by Palestinian sources as if it is a reflection of official policy," Reiter says.

Reiter's work was delivered as a position paper to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and was discussed recently at a seminar at the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies. Two main conclusions emerged from the discussion. One is that Jerusalem, today more than in the past, is a pan-Muslim Arab issue, and therefore a decision about it cannot be made by the Palestinians alone. Secondly, any Arab official seeking to work out an arrangement for Jerusalem and the holy sites is constrained by the Islamic religious world and thus, as a negotiator, has little room to manoeuvre.

Nadav Shragai writes for Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

The author writes about the effort by Muslim authorities to portray the Jewish claim to the temples in Jerusalem as "lies". [RNS/Reuters photo]

Opinions

Drafting kids to die

It has taken the fortitude of clinical psychologist Marty McKay to bring to Canadian public attention an aspect of the Khadr file that might otherwise have been ignored. We'll remember, of course, that Maha Elsamnah Khadr is the matriarch of a family that has actively promoted the jihadist madness of Osama bin Laden for many years. Moreover, this same woman has brazenly encouraged her children to volunteer for suicide missions on behalf of the Islamic cause. But, after returning to Canada to seek medical help for her son, Karim, she is likely going to get more than she bargained for. It now seems probable that, largely due to McKay's instigation, the Children's Aid Society will be after her to determine whether her actions, and those of her family, meet the criteria for child abuse.

Lawrence Hart in Hamilton

It is likely they do.

And inasmuch as the Khadr story has sensitized Canadians to a particular case within a local context, it also speaks to a much more serious, and increasingly tragic, phenomenon – that of the enticement of children into armies and militias in general. It has been estimated, in fact, that hundreds of thousands of so-called "child soldiers," many as young as 10 years old, and some even younger, are engaged in combat of the most horrific sort in ragtag units around the globe. The problem is most acute in Africa and Asia, but prevalent, as well, in several of the trouble spots of Europe, Central America and the Middle East.

The motives for deliberately sending children into danger, and in many instances to certain death, differ by region and by the nature of particular conflicts. However, what occurs under the umbrella of the Palestinian Authority must rank among the most sophisticated and cold-blooded indoctrination processes of any regime that lures children to its ranks. An ethos of violence, a glorification of martyrdom and a hatred for Israel are known to take root at a very early stage in the "education" of young Palestinians. Why should it, therefore, be surprising that we are seeing an apparent drop in the age of children who have been successfully recruited for *shahada* (martyrdom)?

While PA leaders and their counterparts in Hamas and Islamic Jihad have always insisted that they do not sanction the exploitation of children as "human shields" or suicide bombers, mounting evidence to the contrary is undeniable.

It is way past time for the international community to rouse from its stupor and do whatever is necessary to make PA President Yasser Arafat and his cronies accountable for one of the more egregious of all crimes: the callous abuse and shameless murder of their own children.

Businessman confronts one of Israel's national failures

A few weeks ago, the father of a close friend of mine in Canada spent a busy six days in Israel. He was no ordinary visitor. A spry 94-year-old retired businessman, Irwin Green is an impressive figure.

But far more than his age sets him apart.

Robert Sarner in Jerusalem

Originally from Detroit but now living in Florida, Irwin is a regular traveler to Israel. This was his third trip in the past year-and-a-half.

Each time it's been for the same purpose – to help make Israel a better place by making it a more just country.

Irwin does not believe in coercion, but his actions invariably force Israelis to face an issue most have traditionally ignored, to Israel's detriment.

"Aside from the moral issues involved, Israel is losing a great deal by not utilizing and better integrating 20 per cent of its population," says Irwin. "There must be equality for all citizens in Israel. Israeli Arabs are very much second-class citizens in their own country."

Jewish Arab relations in Israel is an issue that has become increasingly dear to Irwin. He's committed to improving the situation and puts his money where his mouth is. In recent years, he's contributed more than $2 million to projects aimed at nurturing Jewish Arab coexistence and greater equality for Israel's Arab minority. But more than just signing checks, Irwin gets actively involved in helping develop each endeavor.

During his visit to Israel last month, Irwin helped inaugurate a new soccer stadium he funded in Nazareth Illit that will be used by local Jewish and Arab youth. Accompanied by his son Don who lives in Toronto, Irwin took part in a special ceremony involving 1,200 teenagers and local dignitaries.

In his address to the crowd, which included several hundred members of a Michigan solidarity mission, Irwin said that it is a new challenge for Jews to be in the majority in a country after being in the minority for thousands of years.

Irwin also visited a child development centre he funded in neighbouring Nazareth, the largest Arab city in Israel. During the construction of the three-storey building that is nearly complete, Irwin used fax, e-mail and phone to work closely with Mayor Ramez Jaraisy and the Arab builders to oversee the project. This summer, Irwin plans to return to Israel for the inauguration of the centre, which will provide services for both Jewish and Arab children in the region.

At the cornerstone laying ceremony in 2002, Irwin and his son Don, co-founder of the Roots clothing company, arranged a public reconciliation between Menachem Ariav, the Jewish mayor of Nazareth Illit and Jaraisy, his Arab counterpart in Nazareth. Until then, the two had been locked in a bitter dispute and had refused to speak to each other since Arab rioting erupted in the area two years earlier.

A prolific reader of newspapers, Irwin is better informed about current affairs in the Middle East than many Israelis. When in Israel, which he has visited 15 times since his first trip in 1956, he likes nothing better than to engage people in intense discussions about the state of the nation.

It disturbs Irwin that while the country's Arabs enjoy full civil and political rights, they suffer from major economic and social gaps in the levels of state development accorded to the Jewish and Arab sectors. He often speaks of the disparities in government funding in public health, education, welfare and infrastructure.

Earlier this month, the Central Bureau of Statistics released new figures showing that Israeli Arabs are much poorer than their Jewish compatriots. As well, the data indicated that eight out of every 1,000 babies born to Israeli Arab mothers die, double the number among Jews.

It was but the latest illustration of the disadvantaged state of Israel's Arab minority and the failure of the Jewish majority to remedy a decades-old situation. It one of Israel's greatest national failures, one no less significant than the failure to make peace with the Palestinians.

"We Jews often consider ourselves guardians of what is right," says Irwin. "Not only is it right for Israel to improve the status of its Arab citizens, Israel stands to gain on many levels."

Irwin is trying to make that happen. Long may he thrive and make many more return visits to Israel.

Readers can contact Robert Sarner at rsarner@netvision.net.il.

EU and UN trying to hijack disengagement

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's unilateral disengagement proposal is far more popular in Washington and Brussels than among the activists in his own party. U.S. President George W. Bush has heaped praise on this brave and bold decision, promising U.S. diplomatic and other assistance. And the so-called Middle East Quartet – which includes the United States, the European Union, the United Nations and Russia – has endorsed the plan as an important step on the road to peace. These words were welcomed by many of the Israelis who enthusiastically endorse separation, in strong contrast to the 60,000 members of the Likud Party who voted against the plan.

Gerald Steinberg in Jerusalem

But past experience has shown that when the UN and Brussels agree with Israel and the Americans, something is not quite right. Europe – led by France – has opposed Washington's Middle East peace efforts since 1967 and is not about to get religion.

The gap is huge – American policy is based on sympathy for Israel as a fellow democracy under threat, but Europe (supported by the oil-rich Arab countries) starts with misplaced empathy for the Palestinian "victims." For decades, Europe has promoted the myth that the creation of a Palestinian state, ostensibly next to Israel and not in place of it, will bring peace. The Americans are more realistic, declaring that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and fellow terrorists must be replaced by a new leadership, while Europe continues to pay homage to the "President of Palestine."

Given this history, it would be surprising if Europe backed any policy presented by Sharon and Bush. And indeed, beyond the headlines, there is little agreement on unilateral disengagement. The plan that Europe and the UN are promoting is, in many ways, the direct opposite of the one favoured by Israel and the United States.

Under Sharon's approach, Israel will choose where and when to draw the lines, based on security and demographic principles, and not on UN resolutions written by the anti-Israel club. Furthermore, Israel will maintain full security control over Gaza to prevent the Palestinians from importing missiles and explosives. The purpose of unilateral disengagement is to manage the conflict, because, as both Sharon and Bush understand, there is no realistic way to reach a serious agreement in this generation.

But European governments, working closely with United Nations "humanitarian aid" agencies and powerful non-governmental organizations, have prepared an action plan that attempts to impose their version of peace. Under a plan developed by Terje Roed-Larsen, one of the Norwegians responsible for the Oslo catastrophe, this international presence would have air and sea access, meaning that Palestinians working under UN protection (such as the UNRWA relief organization) could resume smuggling weapons via air and sea ports. Of course, this would be officially forbidden, as it was under the 1993 Oslo "peace" accords, but in practice, neither Europe nor the UN have any ability to enforce such promises. And since the Europeans and the UN view the Palestinians as victims, regardless of wars and terrorism, Israeli security requirements are ignored in Larsen's plan.

On another critical dimension, Sharon and most Israelis support unilateral disengagement (except the Likud activists who voted no, and other opponents) as an alternative to international plans that would create a failed Palestinian state under Arafat's violent and corrupt rule. In contrast, Europe and the UN hope to use disengagement and the removal of settlements as the first steps towards precisely this outcome. For them, the main framework for peace is the post-Oslo "road map" plan – which was forced on Washington just before the Iraq war in the attempt to appease the Arabs.

If an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and isolated settlements near Jenin ends up giving birth to Arafat's Palestinian state and forcing Israel to return to the 1949 ceasefire lines, there is no sense in beginning. Despite the apparent logic of unilateral disengagement and the reduction in daily friction, if Europe and the UN are allowed to hijack disengagement, this plan will never get off the ground.

Jerusalem: a partitioned city for centuries

Ever since Israel wrested the eastern half of Jerusalem from Jordan in the 1967 Six Day War, the dogma spouted by Israeli politicians has been that Jerusalem is Israel's "undivided" capital.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

To be sure, Jerusalem is Israel's capital city. Yet, in practice, Jerusalem – conquered and reconquered no less than 38 times since its founding – is the world's most divided metropolis.

"Jerusalem," American novelist Herman Melville wrote in 1860 after a visit, "is besieged by an army of the dead."

One hundred and forty four years after he penned these lines, Jerusalem, alas, is deeply split along religious, ethnic and national lines.

Jerusalem's Jewish and Arab inhabitants live and pray in different neighbourhoods and houses of worship. They speak different languages and attend different schools. They read and watch different newspapers and television shows.

In other words, they live parallel but separate lives.

No matter how hard Israelis strain to perpetuate the myth that Jerusalem is indivisible, the facts on the ground suggest otherwise, and they cannot be altered unless Israel and the Palestinians reach a comprehensive agreement, which seems plainly out of sight at this particular juncture.

Jerusalem, nonetheless, is central to Judaism: as the site of the First and Second temples, as the capital of ancient Israel's monarchy, and as the subject of perennial lamentation.

Jews face toward Jerusalem when they pray, and biblical literature and Jewish law and folklore celebrate Jerusalem's glory and mourn its devastation.

In short, Jerusalem is the repository of Jewish messianic hopes.

Although Muslims ruled Jerusalem for hundreds of years and are clearly attached to it, Jerusalem never acquired an exclusively Islamic character, nor was it ever considered an Arab capital.

Yet, paradoxically, as British scholar Bernard Wasserstein points out in *Divided Jerusalem* (Yale University Press), his terrific, dispassionate history of the city, early Zionist thinkers generally avoided attributing special importance to Jerusalem.

Achad Ha-am, having been repelled by his first encounter with the Jews of Jerusalem, chose to settle in Tel Aviv.

Theodor Herzl was shocked by Jerusalem's filth.

Arthur Ruppin established the Zionist Organization's first Palestine Office in Jaffa.

From the 1880s onward, Jewish settlers looked down on Jerusalem, appalled by its squalor and obscurantism.

Even some Hebrew writers, such as Yosef Haim Brenner and Nathan Alterman, demystified it.

The division of Jerusalem into four residential quarters – Jewish, Muslim, Christian and Armenian – had its origins during the Mamluk period, and was driven by each group's respective desire to settle around their most important holy places and shrines.

Alongside this factor, the splintering of Jerusalem was a function of external pressures, the jockeying of great powers – the Ottoman Turks, Britain, Russia and France – to gain a controlling foothold within its storied walls. Jerusalem was captured by the Ottoman Turks in 1516, and remained in their hands, as a political backwater, for the next 400 odd years.

Contrary to the claims of contemporary Arab propagandists who wish to de-link Jerusalem from Jewish history, Jews formed the majority of its residents by the 1880s.

By 1914, the outbreak of World War I, which would transform the region, Jerusalem was home to 45,000 Jews out of a total population of 70,000. Palestine was then inhabited by 85,000 Jews, compared to some 700,000 Muslims and Christians.

Foreign funds – in particular Jewish and Christian – and the general growth of security accounted for the geographical expansion of Jerusalem in the late 19th century.

However, few Zionist newcomers settled in Jerusalem, preferring to live on the coastal plain. In fact, many secular Zionists equated Jerusalem with all that they considered backward-looking in Judaism.

The British army, commanded by Gen. Edmund Allenby, marched into Jerusalem in 1917, setting the stage for Britain's League of Nations mandate, the first Christian administration of the city since the Crusades.

Under the British, Jerusalem was transformed, and politically for the first time in its modern history, it became a capital in name and spirit.

Britain took extraordinary care to curry favour with all religious groups, but it was not long before the first major outbreak of sectarian violence erupted in Jerusalem.

In April 1920, the Muslim religious festival of Nebi Musa deteriorated into a political demonstration in which five Jews and four Arabs were killed.

The riot, Wasserstein notes, had two far-reaching consequences.

The Arab mayor, a nationalist from the Husseini clan, was dismissed and replaced by a moderate Arab dignitary from the rival Nashashibi family. This development would define local Arab politics for decades to come.

Subsequently, Sir Herbert Samuel, the British high commissioner, appointed Hajj Amin al-Husseini as Grand Mufti of Jerusalem. He turned out to be a radical Arab nationalist who exacerbated Jerusalem's existing fissures.

As Arab-Jewish tension in Palestine intensified in the 1930s, Chaim Arlosoroff, the head of the Jewish Agency's political department, suggested that Jerusalem be divided into Arab and Jewish boroughs.

The British demurred, claiming the proposal would increase friction.

In 1937, when the centre of Jewish gravity in Palestine had moved decisively to Tel Aviv, the Zionist leadership proposed partition in Jerusalem.

The logic was clear.

If Jews were to gain an unassailable grip in Jerusalem, which was voluntarily segregated and coveted by Muslims and Christians alike, the city would have to be formally divided.

A Jerusalem committee, created by the Zionist Executive, therefore proposed that Jewish-inhabited western and northern districts of the city, together with Mount Scopus, be included in a Jewish state.

The upshot: the 1938 Woodhead Commission rejected partition on practical grounds.

In 1947, the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine recommended, in effect, that Jerusalem be internationalized.

The UN's Palestine partition plan echoed this recommendation. And although the scheme was stillborn, the British, on the eve of their 1948 withdrawal from Palestine, took steps toward facilitating Jerusalem's partition.

The War of Independence formalized the partition of Jerusalem into eastern and western districts.

Strangely enough, Israel's first president, Chaim Weizmann – the man who brought the 1917 Balfour Declaration to fruition – established his official residence in Rehovot.

The postwar ceasefire in Jerusalem was generally observed, but sniper fire was a perpetual hazard.

Within three weeks of the Six Day War, Israel removed most of the physical obstacles – barbed wire entanglements, fortified emplacements and minefields – to expedite movement between east and west.

Having annexed the eastern portion, Israel expanded the city's area from 13,000 to 28,000 acres.

As Teddy Kollek, the mayor, paved new roads and meshed utility services and bus routes, the Israeli government expropriated Arab-owned lands in eastern Jerusalem to make way for what would eventually become 11 new Jewish neighbourhoods.

The walls of eastern Jerusalem

Palestinian Arabs in Jerusalem have staunchly resisted integration into Israel, and not surprisingly, Jerusalem has been a bone in the throat of a series of negotiations, from 1978 onward, to defuse the Arab-Israeli dispute.

Being of the view that Israel cannot exercise long-term sovereignty over the city's Arab areas, Wasserstein believes that Jerusalem should be partitioned.

Yet, as the 2000 Camp David talks showed beyond any doubt, a solution in Jerusalem is far off.

Even U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, in a major speech on the Arab-Israeli conflict three years ago, stayed clear of this inflammatory issue.

It seems clear that Jerusalem will be a contentious issue for years to come.

Grandmother reveals the secret of 105 lb. weight loss

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Jewish Life

The costs of full-time Torah study

By ELLIOTT MALAMET

One of the more controversial issues that currently confronts Jewish education are the economics of full-time Torah study. The phenomenon of learning Torah without any other form of gainful employment into one's late 20s, not to mention 30s and 40s, is rather unprecedented in Jewish history, as many of the greatest Torah minds of the past supported themselves in some fashion.

JEWISH EDUCATION
The Next Generation

I heard a story recently about a young man who had spent a number of years after high school involved in full-time learning and was advised by the head of his yeshiva that he should not go to university – or any other post-secondary institution – under any circumstances. The parent of this child, an Orthodox professional, while fully supportive and even proud of his son's learning, nevertheless had grave concerns about the child's economic future. Upon expressing these concerns to his son's rosh yeshiva, he was advised that "God would help." The father took this as not simply a reference to divine providence, but also as a veiled allusion to his own responsibility to permanently support – in a financial sense – his son's learning.

The ethic of totally committed and family/community supported Torah study has its vigorous adherents who argue, not without cause, that in a Jewish world decimated by secularism, the Shoah and assimilation, there is an overriding need to cultivate an elite who are devoted to pure Torah study, and that university is verboten. (Of course, this is not the philosophy of all yeshivot). The biblical model of the tribes Yissachar and Zvulun are mentioned as the paradigm of those in the working community gaining merit by supporting those who are involved in continuous study.

The question of who picks up the tab for this ideal, however, is a much thornier problem. What happens, as recent trends indicate, when the flow of parental or philanthropic funding dries up? With what vocational skills will these young scholars be able to enter the workforce?

And what is the effect on the spouses of these yeshiva students, who may be expected to work at least part-time to help defer expenses? Jonathan Rosenblum, an articulate haredi columnist living in Israel, noted that "wives are overwhelmed by the burden of being the main financial support," while at the same time raising a growing family. Psychological professionals who deal with such families have noted enormous and increasing stress on the woman in her quest to master these multiple roles.

Finally, what about many students in yeshivot, in high school and beyond, who are, in fact, floundering under the burden of having to be Talmudic learners 12 hours a day, and have neither the intellectual facility nor the emotional temperament for that kind of education, but persist out of peer pressure and fear of not fitting into the system?

In light of these serious issues, I can empathize with the father mentioned above and his frustration with his son's spiritual leader.

Some young people may be the Torah giants of tomorrow, but many others are ill-served by being in such programs. In all cases, it will require wisdom and sophistication, and not platitudes, to properly negotiate the difficulties of this complex problem.

Book sheds light on 'new anti-Semitism'

***Those Who Forget the Past: The Question of Anti-Semitism*, edited by Ron Rosenbaum, Random House $24.95 (paperbound).**

Books
Bernard Baskin

The basic premise of this invaluable anthology is clear and unmistakable. The widespread belief that the 21st century would usher in universal peace and understanding proved to be illusory and simplistic. Actually, in the context of a media-saturated and globalized village, anti-Semitism has recharged its battery with a vengeance. In the Islamic world – and increasingly in western Europe – it has become a malignant form of autointoxication.

Most good-hearted and rational persons refused to believe that anti-Semitism could, once again, become a serious problem. They were wrong. This is an egregious error that must not be repeated in our time.

Edited by Ron Rosenbaum, author of *Explaining Hitler*, and with an afterward by the redoubtable Cynthia Ozick, *Those Who Forget the Past* brings together some 60 distinguished writers and intellectuals to discuss the origin and nature of the new anti-Semitism.

They grapple with difficult and salient questions: Is a second Holocaust possible? Is the half-century Israeli experiment a failure? Do atomic weapons pose a threat to Israel's existence? Can Islam ever reconcile itself to the existence of a Jewish state? How are fantastic anti-Semitic conspiracy theories created and spread in the Arab world? Why do college campuses seethe with anti-Jewish calumny and violence? To what extent is religion the basis for anti-Semitism? What can we learn from the murder of Daniel Pearl? And so on.

Thanks to Europe's welcoming immigration policies and to their own high fertility, Muslims are now a significant demographic factor on the continent. If in 1945 they numbered fewer than a million, today they are more than 15 million, with some two million in England, more than 4½ million in France, three million in Germany, nearly a million apiece in Italy, Spain and Holland, and the remainder scattered across more than a dozen other countries.

They are, of course, a heterogeneous population, and most of them are no doubt neither in the grip of radical Islam nor susceptible to appeals to violence. But some significant number of them are, and the challenge they pose can only grow.

Hallucinatory fantasy is common in Arab countries. In Saudi Arabia, for example, a government-controlled newspaper excites its readers with a story of the Jewish use of the blood of gentile adolescents, not for Passover matzah, but for Purim pastry. The victim is placed in a needle-studded barrel, the story says. "These needles do the job and the victim's blood drips from him very slowly. Thus, the victim suffers dreadful torment – torment that affords the Jewish vampires great delight as they carefully monitor every detail of the blood-shedding with pleasure and love that are difficult to comprehend."

Holocaust denial, central to Arab anti-Semitism, helps to forge a strategic alliance with Europe, which waited more than half a century for a way to blame the Jews for their own destruction. So instead of sounding the alarm over genocidal Islamist Jew-hatred, many Europeans have eagerly embraced the Nazification of the Jews.

This has nothing to do with legitimate criticism of Israel and everything to do with delegitimizing the Jewish state altogether in readiness for its dismantling.

Harold Evans, former editor of the London *Sunday Times*, is astonished at how frenzied, vociferous, paranoid, vicious and prolific the new anti-Semitism is, and how little this fact has been reported, analyzed and commented on in the West by press, academia, church and governments.

"A single skinhead assault on a synagogue in Europe is news," Evans says, "but not the unremitting daily assault on Jews waged from Morocco to Cairo to Damascus, from Baghdad to Teheran, the Gaza Strip to Karachi. The media in the Middle East is an open sewer."

The story of 20th-century Europe before World War II, wrote the historian Norman Cohen is a story of how a "grossly delusional view of the world, based on infantile fears and hatreds, was able to find expression in murder and torture beyond all imagining. It is a case history in collective psychopathology, and its deepest implications reach far beyond anti-Semitism and the fate of the Jews." Those words remain frighteningly relevant today.

Those Who Forget the Past is an outstanding, many-sided, insightful contribution to our understanding of an ancient disease which is growing virulently in our time.

Jewish Life

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Something other than blintzes

Unlike other holidays in the Jewish calendar, only one festival, Shavuot, has become synonymous with dairy foods. And not just with any dairy foods, but those ubiquitous blintzes and cheesecakes. If your bubbie gave you her beloved blintz or cheesecake recipe, enjoy it, *gezunterheit*! But today we're going to take a breather and look at some *other* marvelous traditional and contemporary Shavuot dairy dishes.

Before we get to the recipes, a word about the holiday. Shavuot is best known for the giving of the Torah. So why the association with dairy foods? Two of the most famous reasons on Virtual Jerusalem's list **[http://209.58.241.78/vjholidays/shavuot/dairy.htm]** are: On Shavuot, the Jewish people received a new code of law, including the dietary restrictions that became part of their daily life. To avoid transgressing the new, unfamiliar laws of separating meat and milk, they ate only dairy products on the holiday. Another reason: The Torah is compared to milk, as it is written: "Sweetness drops/ From your lips, O bride; Honey and milk/ Are under your tongue" (Song of Songs, 4:11) **[www.hareidi.org/ref/Song_of_Songs4.htm]**.

For those who like their food with a dash of mysticism, Lesli Koppelman Ross provides sources in kabbalah that tie the numerical value of milk, *chalav*, which is 40, to the number of days Moses spent on Mount Sinai receiving the Ten Commandments **[http://tiny url.com/3534u]**.

If you're looking to expand your Shavuot repertoire, visit the RFJC Recipe Archives **[http://tinyurl.com/2cyn7]**. How does a Minty Cucumber Soup followed by an Artichoke-Spinach Casserole or Carrot Vichyssoise with Orange Nectar sound? You can find those and more than 100 other Shavuot recipes at RFCJ. And when you're done with those, go to the Jewish Food Mailing List Archives, with its separate sections for Shavuot savouries (including Cheese-Lox Casserole, Crostini with Gorgonzola and Honey) and sweets (Cappuccino Phyllo Cups and Sugarfree Cherry Noodle Kugel) **[http://tinyurl.com/24owf]**.

Author Claudia Roden recommends Sephardi foods such as Les Fila au Fromage, small cheese triangles or cigars. "These ever-so-light little pies, also known as filikas, ojaldres and feuilletes, were always among the most popular items on the buffet and tea tables of Oriental Jews." Roden fills them with Edam, Gouda, cheddar, cottage cheese and butter. Fortunately, her Muhallabeya sounds like it may be a bit gentler on the waistline. The milk pudding (known as "sutlage" in Turkey and the Balkans) is "the all-purpose dessert of the dairy table and the traditional sweet of Shavuot and Purim." It calls for rice flour, cold milk, sugar and a mixture of flavourings and garnishes **[www.jhom.com/calendar/sivan/recipes.htm]**. For other Sephardi dishes, visit the Jewish Heritage Online Magazine, which looks at Shavuot food traditions around the world, including a Sephardi seven-layer cake called Siete Cielos (Seven Heavens), symbolic of the seven celestial spheres God traversed to present the Torah to Moses on Mount Sinai **[www.jhom.com/calendar/sivan/dairy.htm]**.

For something non-traditional, Israeli food writer Daniel Rogov consulted with three Israeli chefs who created entrées with Mediterranean ingredients: Eggplant and Vegetable Tart with Bulgarian Cheese, Cheese-filled Raviolis with Tomato Sauce and Tart of Mushrooms and Goat's Cheese **[http://tinyurl.com/2e4qv]**.

If you love dairy food and have been to Israel, then you've probably sampled Labane, a salty and sour cheese that calls for regular or goat's milk. The Jewish Reconstructionist Federation's Shavuot website says making Labane "is a lot of work but is definitely worth it." The milk must be properly heated, cooled, strained and then filled into a cotton cloth, which is suspended over a pail for 10-12 hours **[www.jrf.org/israel/shavuot-action.html]**.

If you are lactose intolerant, don't despair. Most of these sites provide pareve recipe alternatives.

I know I said this would be a blintz and cheesecake-free column. But I think that doesn't preclude e-mailing a Shavuot greeting card with a photo of a virtual cheesecake or a virtual blintz. Or if you prefer, you can always send your friends virtual bourekas **[http://209.58.241.78/vjholidays/shavuot/cheesecake.htm]**.

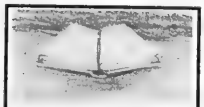
Have a very happy holiday.

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

By RABBI LEIGH LERNER

Commandments to live by

On Shavuot, in celebration of the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai, we read the Ten Commandments. It's said that the Ten Commandments are the basis of our society, the law from which all other laws derive. Therefore they've been given careful scrutiny over the ages and have also been the subject of ample parody.


Rabbinic Reflections

Arthur Hugh Clough of Victorian England wrote *The Latest Decalogue*, which was both a take-off on the Ten Commandments and a commentary on the petit bourgeois mentality of England during his lifetime:

Thou shalt have one God only; who
Would be at the expense of two?
No graven images may be
Worshipped, except the currency.
Swear not at all; for, for thy curse
Thine enemy is none the worse.
At church on Sunday to attend
Will serve to keep the world thy friend.
Honour thy parents; that is, all
From whom advancement may befall.
Thou shalt not kill, but need'st not strive
Officiously to keep alive.
Do not adultery commit;
Advantage rarely comes of it.
Thou shalt not steal; an empty feat,
When it's so lucrative to cheat.
Bear not false witness; let the lie
Have time on its own wings to fly.
Thou shalt not covet, but tradition
Approves all forms of competition.

Might we not venture to posit a few serious commandments for our own age? How about, "Thou shalt not expect it all right now." From one-hour solutions on television dramas to stock market inside traders, one symptom of life today is to want it all right now. Yet, to arrive at Shavuot, we must count day by day from the outset of Pesach, as the Omer reminds us that Mount Sinai did not appear instantly on the horizon, and the march to Eretz Yisrael would take another 40 years. There's plenty wrong with our world, but there may not be a quick fix. Maybe we need to remember this: "Thou shalt not expect it all now."

Another commandment for our time might be, "Thou shalt not expect too much." Don't be a *chazzer* – we mustn't be piggish. There's such a thing as an expectation that's too high.

Exam season approaches in our high schools. Parents who expect great grades from their children may relentlessly pressure them to attain beyond their capabilities. Children, too, may want an entire season at summer camp or to wear only this summer's designer labels, though their parents' pocketbooks cannot match such expectations. The ancient sacrifices once required 10 per cent (and more) of each Jew's yield. It reminded us that one who receives 90 per cent of expectations is doing just fine. We mustn't be *chazzers*.

One other modern commandment might be Hillel's old dictum, "Do not separate yourself from the community." Contemporary values atomize society by emphasizing the individual. Individual rights are the positive side of the coin, but the philosophy of everyone for him- or herself is the negative side. Jews believe in having a minyan – a minimum number, a quorum – to make up a congregation. We cannot survive and do our work as a Jewish group, we cannot sing in chorus the song that is uniquely ours, if everyone calls their own tune.

Shavuot, a major holiday too much observed in the breach by contemporary Jews, shows us that the sense of community in Jewish religious life is at stake. Let us not separate ourselves from the community, beginning with coming to synagogue to hear the Ten Commandments call us to right living.

Rabbi Lerner is spiritual leader of Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom in Montreal.

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Former MK favours withdrawal to pre-'67 borders

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

A just and workable two-state solution can only be achieved if Israel withdraws to its pre-1967 borders with minor territorial adjustments, a former Knesset member said during a recent trip to Toronto.

Naomi Chazan, of the left-of-centre Meretz party, contends that Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's unilateral plan to pull out of the Gaza Strip and four settlements in the West Bank – which the Likud party soundly rejected last week in a referendum – envisages a truncated rather than a viable Palestinian state.

Delivering the third annual Charles and Andrea Bronfman Lecture in Israeli Studies at the University of Toronto, Chazan said that if Sharon's plan is fully implemented, Israel will retain settlement clusters in the West Bank and the prospect of a viable, contiguous Palestinian state will be seriously eroded.

The alternative to a two-state solution is a one-state solution, which would fundamentally alter Israel's Jewish character, she warned.

Chazan, who was an MK from 1992 to 2003, believes that support for a viable two-state solution has coalesced in Israel, the region and abroad.

Speaking of Israel's 37-year occupation, she said, "We can't control another people against their will. It's immoral and it's killing us."

Chazan speculated that Sharon has no intention of relinquishing the bulk of the West Bank.

And so "Gaza first" may yet morph into "Gaza alone," she said.

Under this scenario, Sharon would fortify existing settlements in the West Bank and finish the security fence jutting into Judea and Samaria.

Chazan urged Sharon to launch bilateral negotiations with the Palestinians, construct the fence strictly along the Green Line and not to strengthen the settlements.

> ***'We can't control another people against their will'***

Scoffing at Sharon's claim that Israel has no one to talk to on the Palestinian side, she said, "It's self-defeating to assume we don't have a partner. I've been working for years with moderate Palestinians, and I can name names."

By definition, she added, Israel should negotiate with its enemies. Failure to do so will cause further violence.

She acknowledged that Yasser Arafat, president of the Palestinian Authority, is no Nelson Mandela – the first black president of post-apartheid South Africa.

But neither is Sharon an F.W. DeKlerk, she asserted, referring to the last white president of South Africa who paved the way for the end of apartheid and the introduction of multiracial rule.

Accusing the current Israeli government of consistently having undermined the Palestinian Authority and delegitimized Palestinian leaders, Chazan accused Sharon of failing to cultivate the first and the present Palestinian prime ministers.

Currently a fellow at the Center for International Studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston, she described the status quo in the territories as untenable and unacceptable. "Everyone is suffering. We can't continue on the present path."

But she acknowledged that the breakdown of mutual trust between Israel and the Palestinians is so entrenched that it has become a debilitating feature of the conflict.

Blasting Sharon's lack of sincerity, Chazan said he continually affirms his commitment to the internationally sponsored "road map" peace plan, but actually undermines it by refusing to negotiate with the Palestinians and by pressing ahead with the Gaza plan.

Chazan warned that if the United States sticks by Sharon's plan, Washington will no longer be regarded as an honest broker in the Arab-Israeli dispute.

Her criticism of the plan notwithstanding, Chazan admitted it is a "brilliant and masterful" manoeuvre.

It isolates the Israeli far-right and blurs differences between the Likud and the Labor parties.

And by virtue of the fact that the Likud bloc and the Labor party are converging, Sharon's moves set the stage for a fundamental realignment of domestic politics in Israel, said Chazan, who is also a professor of political science at Hebrew University.

In a back-handed compliment, she said the plan contains two elements the peace camp has always promoted: a withdrawal from occupied territories and the dismantling of settlements.

"It starts what the left wanted," she observed, saying the concept of unilateral separation from the Palestinians was conceived by the Labor party.

With Sharon having decided to pull out of Gaza, Israel has reached the most critical juncture in the Arab-Israeli dispute since the 1967 Six Day War, and possibly since the 1948 War of Independence, she said.

Chazan predicted that Sharon will go ahead with the plan, despite the results of the May 2 referendum. She spoke before it took place.

Whatever happens, the plan will change the shape of the Middle East and the Arab-Israeli conflict, Chazan said.

In reply to a question, she noted the Camp David summit of July 2000 should not have taken place due to improper preparations.

Even if Arafat had accepted Israel's ideas, the Knesset would have rejected them. Ehud Barak, then Israel's prime minister, had already lost his parliamentary majority, Chazan pointed out.

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Greater Toronto Area

Oakville teen selected for Reform program

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

When Zach Newburgh was younger, he would go to synagogue because his parents Marc and Cheryl, wanted him to. As he got older, though, the Oakville teen developed a genuine interest in Judaism.

Zach Newburgh

Earlier this year, the Grade 9 student at Iroquois Ridge High School was the only Canadian among 12 students selected for the Union for Reform Judaism's Meitav Youth Fellowship, a three-year program of Jewish learning and leadership training. The program begins next month with a stint at the Reform movement's Camp Swig in northern California. Newburgh will join the other Meitav fellows there and spend three hours a day studying Hebrew in preparation for a semester of study in Israel in Grade 11. Later in the summer, he will return to the Reform movement's Camp George in Ontario for his sixth year there.

To qualify for the leadership program, Newburgh had to be nominated by his rabbi.

"He's a very bright, motivated person with a lot of great skills already," said Rabbi Paul Sidlofsky, spiritual leader of Oakville's Shaarei Beth El Congregation, the only synagogue in Halton Region with approximately 130 families. "I was very happy to nominate him."

Over the past year, Newburgh has become active in the temple youth group, serving as its communications vice-president and prompting the group's adviser Seth Winberg, to suggest that he would be a good candidate for the fellowships. He still attends congregational school and also organized a Sunday morning minyan that ran about half a dozen times, inspired by an Orthodox minyan he attended with his grandfather in Baltimore on his 13th birthday

"I loved the closeness of the minyan," said Newburgh, who lived in New York until he was five. "I put tfillin on for the first time, and I was just wowed." For about a year after that, he attended Thursday morning minyan at Hamilton's Beth Jacob Congregation, a Conservative synagogue about 25 minutes by car from his home. His mother Cheryl, would make a special trip to drive him there every week before school.

In recent years Newburgh has found there's a lot that's "awesome" in Judaism. When he first learned about Gematria, for example – the system that assigns number values to Hebrew letters – he found it fascinating.

At first Newburgh started taking his Judaism more seriously because he thought it would be "cool" to be a little different from his mostly non-Jewish peers. Of 1,000 students at his school, he figures there are barely half a dozen who are Jewish.

Although he has experienced the occasional anti-Semitic incident in the public school system, he said it was not tolerated by the administration and was dealt with.

His friends, who have attended the occasional family seder and Shabbat service over the years, are very supportive of his Jewish involvement. "They think it's awesome," he said.

In fact, Newburgh, an honours student who enjoys playing basketball and guitar, is thinking about becoming a rabbi when he is older, although he is also considering a career in law.

For now, though, he is looking forward to the fellowship. "It's a great opportunity for me to learn about Judaism." He's been in touch with the other participants by e-mail, and feels they are going to become close friends.

Newburgh is somewhat apprehensive about going to Israel for the first time, but, he said, "I also can't wait. You can't just be scared your whole life. It's always going to be scary."

YOM HASIDUR: Associated Hebrew Schools Grade 1 students recently celebrated Yom Hasidur. The children prepared all year for this special ceremony where they lead the morning prayer service and received their own beautifully covered prayer books, which they will use through the rest of their school years.

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Hana's Suitcase becomes real for 500 Ontario students

By ROCHELLE KAHN
UJA Federation

It might be hard to reconcile the Holocaust with anything uplifting but, for the 500 students participating in the 24th Annual Senior Student Conference on the Holocaust, the day's ultimate message was all about hope and strength. As Grade 10 and 11 students from Toronto's Branksome Hall explained, "if we all work together, of course we can change the world. But we have to step up, speak up, respect and appreciate what we have. We can't hate; look what it leads to."

Powerful messages from young voices, but the students spoke in unison, after a riveting presentation by Karen Levine, author of the award-winning book and radio documentary, *Hana's Suitcase*, and subsequent discussions with a number of Holocaust survivors, including Hana's brother, George Brady.

Hana's Suitcase is the true story of how a determined museum curator in Tokyo searched the world to connect a suitcase from 1930s Germany to George Brady in Toronto. The suitcase, painted with the words *Hana Brady, May 16, 1931 – Waisenkind*, the German word for "orphan," belonged to George's sister Hana, who died at the hands of the Nazis.

Attended by students from 21 schools in the Greater Toronto Area, the day-long seminar was sponsored by UJA Federation's Holocaust Centre of Toronto and hosted by the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE).

Levine took the seminar's first question, "why is there so much antisemitism today?" and responded that there is no answer. All hatred and bigotry, she said, are wrong and evil. "What will you do to make a difference? How will you positively change the world?" she asked.

Brady told his personal story with openness and humour, stressing the need for tolerance and optimism. "There's always a way to turn things around," he said. "The identification number tattooed on my arm is the best thing I have; it reminds me that I have no problems."

Brady noted that when he speaks with student groups, whatever their size or culture, they are consistently captivated. "It's not the applause that is significant; it's the quietness."

Lorraine Sandler, Chair of the Holocaust Centre's Education Committee, spoke about the heightened awareness of antisemitism and the urgency to educate all youth about their individual responsibility in creating a civil society. Seargents Heidi Schellhorn and Shauna Leitch, of York Region's Hate Crimes Division, also participated in the day. Echoing Sandler, Schellhorn reinforced the division's agenda for vigilance and the need for each of us to monitor our own behaviour and safeguard each other's welfare.

Students from across Ontario learned about the dangers of antisemitism from George Brady (front left) at the 24th Annual Senior Student Conference on the Holocaust last week. (Photo by Eve Marks)

The art of the grant: free seminars for Jewish artists

By CHERYL LANDY
UJA Federation

For artists who have never applied for public funding, the thought of getting through the grants process can be daunting.

That's why UJA Federation has come together with the Toronto Jewish Arts Council to provide seminars for artists in Toronto's Jewish community to help them get through the process. The seminars are free, require advance registration and will offer important information relevant to artists who have never applied for public funding, those who have never been successful in their applications, and those looking for something new.

Painting by Dennis Karpov. Jewish artists in Toronto will learn the trick involved in getting arts grants at a free information session June 7. (Photo by Eve Marks)

The first seminar will take place Monday, June 7 at 7 p.m. at the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre. The panel will include experts from every level of government from which funding for artists is available. They include grants officers from the Department of Heritage, the Ontario Arts Council, the Toronto Arts Council, the Trillium Foundation and the Small Theatre Administrative Facility (STAF), a not-for-profit organization that enables artists to create quality works while allowing professional administrators and publicists to handle their management and promotion needs.

This series of seminars, a first for the Toronto Jewish Arts Council, will help bring together artists from across the community and across art forms.

One of the goals of the seminar is to receive feedback on the needs of the Jewish arts community.

The Toronto Jewish Arts Council will soon present its first grants to five visual artists, who will each receive $5,000. The council is also compiling the first web-based Jewish Arts Directory, in the Arts Council and Directory area of UJA Federation's web site, www.jewishtoronto.com.

To register for the seminar, contact Shelly Rotman at 416-635-2883 ext. 137 or at srotman@ujafed.org.

Jewish life in Toronto – taking it to the streets

Living in Toronto – one of Canada's most vibrant Jewish communities, it's easy to take things for granted. Can we remember a time when the Jewish community wasn't a dynamic presence in the city? More than that, when do we ever stop to explore how it all came to be?

That's the essence of what UJA Federation's Sense of Spadina tours do, every time they hit the streets of old Jewish Toronto. And a new season of tours is ready to begin.

Ontario Jewish Archives Director Ellen Scheinberg is proud of the tour's development and current revitalization plans. "We have grown from a modest program conducting two or three tours a year to a more substantial program, aimed at providing an active and exciting service to the entire community and tourists."

Established some 30 years ago, this unique initiative continues to branch out and set the standard for Jewish communities across North America, uniting people with their history in a hands-on way. The script and itinerary for the tour grew out of the dedicated efforts of volunteers, who meticulously recorded oral histories of area residents and merchants.

Peter Kozinetz & Bob Mercer outside their streetcar, 1921 (photo #6460, Ontario Jewish Archives).

Interior of the Kiever Synagogue, c. 1974 (photo #332, Ontario Jewish Archives).

Cyrel Troster, a longtime, valued member of the Spadina tour team, is passionate about the program, the community, and the chance to bring its story to an expanded audience. "In 1974 when the tour began, we offered it to educators, school groups, synagogues and seniors. The number of participants and the frequency of tours was limited by a small, albeit committed, volunteer base."

There have been a lot of changes since, not only in the neighbourhood itself, but also in the tour's ability to promote its history. "Response is gratifying. Today, we are training many more guides, which will make this program more widely accessible," Troster notes. It's even starting to make inroads into the burgeoning *simcha* market – not sure what to do with your out-of-towners on the bar mitzvah weekend? Arrange a Sense of Spadina tour!

For information about participating in or booking a Sense of Spadina tour, contact Ontario Jewish Archives at 416-635-2883 ext. 170 or at oja1@ujafed.org.

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Carville: Iraq has caused "considerable harm" to U.S. interests

By WENDY LAMPERT
UJA Federation

The man who masterminded Bill Clinton's rise to the White House in 1992 believes that U.S. President George W. Bush's decision to fight the war in Iraq has done "considerable harm" to American interests around the world.

James Carville, the veteran political strategist known as the "raging Cajun," told 500 of UJA Federation's leading donors last week that "Canada would be better served by a fresh perspective on U.S. policy" – namely that of Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry.

According to Carville, while President Bush is likely to stay his course, "he keeps pursuing policies that don't work. Failed policy is a pretty good reason to get rid of a government," he noted. "Kerry is more flexible. If one policy doesn't work, he'll try something else."

Carville said the decision to enter Iraq was made for the wrong reasons. "There was a basic assumption that you could remake the world with U.S. military might. They thought they could make democracy work in the Middle East, and see a flower bloom in the desert. They didn't look carefully at the history books."

Carville's lean figure, intense gaze and Louisiana drawl are familiar to anyone who follows American politics. The colourful Democrat is co-host of CNN's *Crossfire*, and appears regularly on *Meet the Press* with his Republican wife, Mary Matalin, assistant to President Bush and counselor to Vice President Dick Cheney.

Despite his wife's assurances to the contrary, he is already predicting a long, bitter battle for the White House, with a win for John Kerry and the Democrats in the November election. "I've never seen a campaign of this duration and this intensity," he noted. "There's no historical precedent."

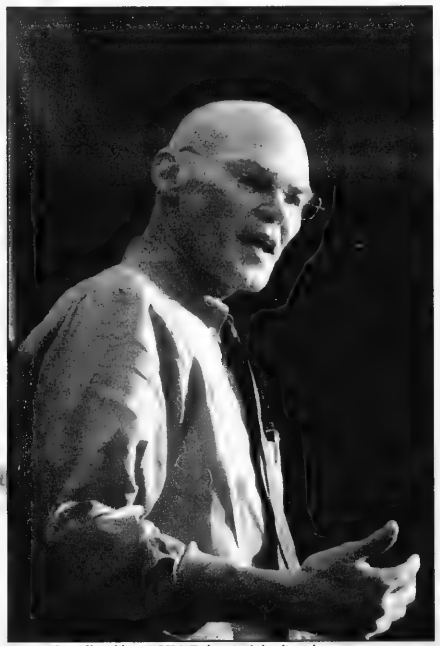
The central difference, said Carville, is the continuing military hostilities in Iraq and recent revelations of extreme mistreatment of Iraqi prisoners of war at the hands of U.S. military personnel. "This is the kind of thing that happens in wartime," he added.

But Carville believes that if necessary, both presidential candidates would make the decision to leave Iraq. "Support for the war has dropped by 25 to 30% in the last three months. We will cut and run if we have to," he noted.

The political pundit said the election will hinge on a small number of votes from a tiny percentage of the U.S. population. Carville says political candidates generally know which states they will carry in the upcoming election. "The only states you try in are the ones you aren't sure of," he said. With about 75% of the states already decided, the 10% of U.S. voters who are undecided becomes inordinately important. "What that means," noted Carville, "is that 2.5% of America's citizens will decide who becomes the next president."

In the end, Carville believes that change is good – especially for Canada. That's why he's betting on John Kerry.

"Canadian interests are better served by a fresh perspective on U.S. policy."



James Carville addresses UJA Federation's leading donors.
(Photo by Stephen Epstein/Big Dipper Communications)

March of the Living brings Jewish history home

By ROCHELLE KAHN
UJA Federation

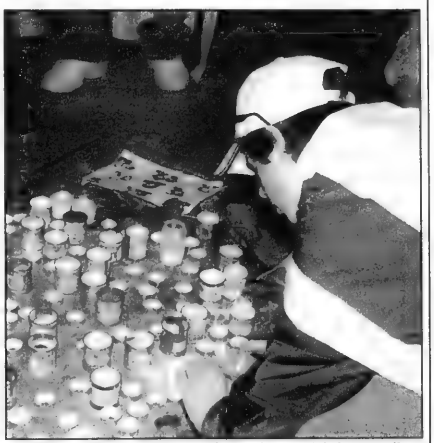
Six million. A number that's burned into the consciousness of every Jew and singlehandedly tells a story of the Holocaust. But it's also such an unimaginable figure that, for those on the recent March of the Living, it couldn't convey the impact of a much smaller one.

In a forest outside the small Polish *shtetl* of Tykochin, 2,400 Jews lie in three mass graves. Last month, March of the Living participants from around the world visited their modest dwellings, walked into their beautifully appointed shul, and gained a palpable sense of who once comprised this tiny Jewish community, long destroyed. Standing in the forest outside of town, where those last Tykochin Jews walked to their death, the reality of that loss and lost potential came to life.

"For us on the March," explained Rabbi Glen Black, Regional Director of NCSY, "Tykochin took the six million and turned them into a small family, real people. You could almost hear a child asking a parent, as they walked from the *shtetl* to the forest, 'are we there yet?'"

Anita Ekstein, a Holocaust survivor and veteran March participant, agreed that as much as you can read about what happened, "until you're physically there, you can't imagine it." Particularly meaningful for Ekstein was sharing the experience with her grandson Eli. He reflected the same sentiment, noting the added dimension to familiar stories. "I never would have expected how much the trip would change me," Ekstein noted, "giving me a much better appreciation of my family, my Judaism; an overwhelming sense of Jewish pride."

Toronto March of the Living Chair, Dr. Irv Gottesman, stressed how the trip's Israel component is essential to bringing the experience home. "After seeing the death and destruction, coming to Israel is magical, mystical. Our youth are taught about being a Jew, past and present," Gottesman explained, "and they're compelled to think about what might have been, if only Israel had been an option then."



March of the Living participant Josh Disenhouse, 16, lights a candle at Auschwitz in memory of those who died there. (Photo by Ryan Blau)

"The March has much to share about understanding our Jewish identity and what we need to carry into the next generation," observed Rabbi Lori Cohen of Toronto's Temple Sinai.

The March, sponsored in Toronto by UJA Federation, included 111 young participants.

Meeting members of the legislature

Jewish community leaders connected with several members of the Ontario legislature at a reception earlier this month sponsored by the Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA), UJA Federation and Canadian Jewish Congress Ontario Region. A representative from each party shared thoughts about our community and the government's support for Israel. Pictured (l-r) are: UJA Federation President Ted Sokolsky; Liberal MPP Mike Colle; Conservative MPP John Baird; NDP MPP Michael Prue; Liberal MPP and Ontario Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services Monte Kwinter; Liberal MPP David Zimmer; Conservative MPP Jim Flaherty; and Canadian Jewish Congress Ontario Region Chair Ed Morgan. *(Photo by Stephen Epstein/Big Dipper Communications)*

Any questions concerning information or photos that appear on these pages should be directed to jewishtorontonews@ujafed.org

JEWISH TORONTO IS PUBLISHED AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

No Israeli security without Palestinian state: Lerner

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

Rabbi Michael Lerner takes a step back before delving into the meaning and origins of the Jewish Renewal movement and the "Tikkun Community" with which he's so closely associated.

"I can tell you what Judaism is," the noted liberal thinker and editor of *Tikkun* Magazine offers in a telephone interview with the *The CJN* prior to attending two conferences in Toronto this past week – his first trip to Canada. "Judaism is the argument that has been taking place for over 3,200 years over what Judaism is."

As Rabbi Lerner sees it, Jewish renewal offers an argument of its own, and a pretty radical one. It's "the attempt to restore Judaism to its deepest spiritual and ethical roots at a time when much of the Jewish leadership and communal institutions have sought to remake Jewish life in the image of contemporary materialism and selfishness."

A tall order, he concedes, but one that's needed to help shake modern Jewish thought from being mired in the belief that the universe cannot change, or be changed by humans.

"Many Jews who see themselves as religious are actually Hellenists in drag," Rabbi Lerner argues in blunt fashion, "because they believe the world cannot be fundamentally changed and that Jewish interests are best accommodated in maintaining the status quo.

"We," meaning the Tikkun Community of which he's co-chair, along with philosophers Cornel West and Susannah Heschel, "understand God as a force of healing and transformation in the universe," one that facilitates transformation "from that which is, to that which ought to be."

Rabbi Lerner and his growing cadre of followers around the world aim at nothing less than breaking "the tendency to pass on pain and cruelty from generation to generation" and encouraging "transcendence to generosity and compassion."

In other words, living up the ideals found in their name. The Hebrew word *tikkun* means to "transform," "heal," or "repair," and is often paired with *olam* – "the world."

Tikkun Magazine, founded in 1986 as a left/liberal alternative "to the voices of Jewish conservatism and spiritual deadness in the Jewish world," has been described by the *New York Times* as "one of the most influential and innovative voices in American intellectual, cultural and political life." After being quoted by former U.S. First Lady Hillary Clinton in her famous "It Takes a Village" speech, the media labeled Rabbi Lerner, at least for a while, as a White House guru.

But he's not without detractors. Many Jewish voices have heaped vitriol on him for his stance on the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, labeling him an enemy and a self-hating Jew for suggesting Israel has mistreated and dehumanized Palestinians.

"The Torah says love your neighbour, not love your neighbour only if he's nice," he counters. "It's absolutely categorical. You must love the stranger as yourself."

Rabbi Lerner headlined two local appearances, the first at "Spirit Matters: Wisdom Traditions and the Great Work," from May 13-16. The conference assembled a wide array of spiritual luminaries to explore the teachings of over a dozen religions and traditions on the "wellbeing of the Earth community."

The second event, entitled "Building Bridges: Spiritual Politics & Reconciliation at Home and in the Middle East," held last weekend, was touted as the first major effort of the Tikkun community of Toronto "to help to spread the Tikkun vision."

That vision hinges on five main points: "Ecological sanity;" a "new bottom line," away from money and power; peace and social justice; peace, justice and reconciliation for Israel and the Palestinians; and finally, spiritual components, including meditation, prayer, compassion, forgiveness and repentance.

If all that sounds a bit a squishy and leftish, Rabbi Lerner is quick to point out that he eschews labels of left and right, saying he and his movement have been critical of both.

"We trying to build a social movement that transcends old left/right categories. We are critical of the left for not being adequately sensitive to people's spiritual needs and hunger for meaning.

"The right, unlike the left, acknowledges that people have spiritual needs but they distort it because they associate it with demeaning 'the other.' In America, 'the other' is gays, lesbians and African-Americans. In Israel, it's Palestinians. In much of the Arab world, it's Jews and in Europe, it's Muslims.

"I've been challenging the left for failing to have adequate compassion for the Jewish people and [failing] to distinguish between Israeli politics and the fundamental legitimacy of the Zionist enterprise, which I support."

The tikkun movement advocates a "progressive middle path. We are pro-Israel and pro-Palestinian We oppose the occupation because we want a strong Israel and we are deeply dedicated to Israel's security and wellbeing."

A student of the late philosopher and Jewish theologian Abraham Joshua Heschel, Rabbi Lerner is also critical of Israel and the Palestinians.

"Both people are incredibly screwed up and have treated each other in ways that are morally insensitive and require serious *tshuvah* [repentance] on both sides.

"There is no possibility of Israeli security without the Palestinians achieving a viable economic and political state for themselves in a way that affirms their dignity and humanity."

To the Palestinians, he has this message: "There's no way to achieve a state without giving to the Jewish people physical security and [the] recognition of the humanity and fundamental decency of Jewish people."

It's not an easy task to summarize, but tikkunists "seek a post-triumphalist, post-tribal spirituality capable of responding to the universe with awe and wonder at the grandeur of creation."

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Greater Toronto Area

Note to Zerbisias: Facts matter

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

In a May 5 *Toronto Star* letter to the editor, Alan Dershowitz, the Harvard law professor and author of *The Case for Israel*, disputed an allegation by media columnist Antonia Zerbisias in her April 27 column, "Yet one more salvo over Jenin."

Describing an interview with Dershowitz in the documentary *Jenin: Massacring Truth*, Zerbisias wrote that he "supplies observations that darkly allude to how anti-Semitic any criticism of the Israeli government really is."

In his letter, Dershowitz wrote: "I have never said that, and I challenge Zerbisias to provide quotations to support her false characterization." To date, Zerbisias has been silent on the subject.

Journalists are supposed to be committed, above all else, to establishing the truth. This dispassionate search for truth – accomplished, if at all, by confronting one's prejudices – is often called objectivity, at least in some philosophy circles.

But journalistic objectivity may be impossible to achieve – and even unnecessary – according to veteran writer Robert Fulford. In his May 8 *National Post* column, "'Objective' journalism? There's no such thing," Fulford argued that the concept of objectivity should be abandoned as a "beguiling fiction," so rife with bias of one sort or another is the journalist's craft of telling stories.

Wrote Fulford: "[M]ost of us [have] discovered that describing human life without a point of view is impossible and probably not desirable." Referring to an article in the *Columbia Journalism Review*, he cites the types of biases he has in mind: attitudes towards conflict-driven stories, pack journalism, event-driven coverage, and even accepted wisdom.

In place of objectivity, Fulford favours fairness, which, he wrote, "is possible if writers understand their own biases." (One day, perhaps, he will elaborate on the term.)

Zerbisias' allegation against Dershowitz represented a form of bias in the extreme – a flagrant violation of accuracy that Fulford does not include on his list. There is no doubt that Fulford's critique of objectivity – his recognition of human interests and points of view that affect journalists' coverage – was not meant to deal with gross bias that violates the facts, whether deliberately, or inadvertently through sheer laziness or sloppiness.

Many, and perhaps most, journalists are committed to being both interesting and factual. Unfortunately, for some reporters no amount of evidence can contradict a deeply held prejudice. Such journalists must be held accountable.

In this case, Zerbisias, a media critic, attributed beliefs to Dershowitz for which there is no proof. His written and spoken words fly in the face of her accusations. In fact, the evidence that Dershowitz does not subscribe to these beliefs is so overwhelming that the only honourable and intellectually honest thing that Zerbisias can do is to admit that she was wrong, and that her bias against Dershowitz and, indeed, against Israel, blinded her to the facts.

In a news article last Friday, headlined "CBC addresses on-air 'mistake,'" Zerbisias reported on the network's admission that an error was made in Neil Macdonald's May 4 story for *The National*, which included a heavily biased and unsubstantiated allegation about Israeli involvement in the Iraqi prisoner abuse scandal. The CBC was compelled to issue a correction – or rather a "clarification" in the network's terminology. On May 7, it announced: "The fact is that there is no evidence that Israel was involved in what happened in the Iraqi prison." Zerbisias reported that the CBC released a statement about how this mistake came about.

Now that Zerbisias has reported on the CBC's acknowledgement of its serious factual error, perhaps it's time she turned her attention to her own unsubstantiated allegation against Dershowitz.

We're waiting.

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

FAMILY EDUCATION: Sharon and Aaron Plener are seen making mezuzot at a recent family education program at Shaar Shalom Religious School.
[Mara Swartz photo]

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Greater Toronto Area

Domestic violence a health issue, says JWI's Woman of the Year

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Violence against women is in large measure a health issue, says Toronto lawyer Jane Pepino, recently honoured as the 2004 Woman of the Year by Jewish Women International of Toronto.

"Domestic violence is more than an issue of equity or justice. Putting an abuser in jail does not heal the woman," she says.

Pepino, who received the Order of Canada in 2000, has served as president of the Metro Action Committee on Violence against Women and Children and chair of the board of Women's College Hospital. She is currently on the board of the amalgamated Sunnybrook and Women's College Sciences Centre.

The first ever female member of the Metropolitan Toronto Board of Commissioners of Police, she went on to become vice-chair and acting chair.

She is also founding chair of the Ontario Women's Health Council, an independent body established by the Ministry of Health in 1998 whose mandate is to advise the minister on matters relating to the improvement of women's health in Ontario.

With regard to domestic violence, Pepino says things have improved to the extent that more tools are available for determining who is a victim of abuse and who has been in an accident.

"Hospital emergency room workers are being trained to understand that when they see a woman with a broken arm, she has not necessarily fallen down the stairs.

"But, even though we can patch a woman up we cannot get enough [hospital] beds, and we cannot get court orders unless there are documented threats to a woman's life."

Among those who have obtained court orders, she says, there are still a good number who have been killed by their spouses.

"Even if there were enough effective tools available through the justice system, the woman needs to heal. She needs to deal with the impact that domestic violence has had on her life and on the life of her children, both emotionally and spiritually."

The reality, Pepino says, is if a man gets charged, his income is affected. "The woman is walking on a knife's edge. If he's not working, she has no income."

Organizations such as Jewish Women International are trying to stop the cycle of violence, says Pepino.

The organization currently has a waiting list for ASTEH – Alternative Short Term Emergency Housing, a kosher apartment run with Jewish Family & Child Service for women and their families who are fleeing abusive homes.

The only way to deal with domestic violence is to make it unacceptable for a man to feel he has entitlement, she says.

"I don't know how we'll get there, however. All we can do is pick away at the pieces in front of us, and then we can begin to see the larger picture.

"I am a firm believer in the power of one. Over the millennium women have quilted one piece at a time. It is when they stitch the pieces together that they get a quilt."

There is a "huge merit" to women's organizations, she says.

"Women do wonderful work in areas that men would not think about. The organizations do huge things; they work closer to where things happen."

Pepino obtains great satisfaction from her volunteer work. "I meet people I would not ordinarily meet, and I get the feeling that I have done something worthwhile."

Anyone can commit at least five hours a month to volunteer work, she says, "otherwise their life is out of control. If everyone else owns every hour of a person's life than something is wrong."

"If a person would deliver seven Meals on Wheels, they would have the opportunity of improving the life of seven other people. That is something [significant]."

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Eitz Chaim to dedicate Torah scroll in solidarity ceremony

Eitz Chaim School will be holding a Hachnasas Sefer Torah – a dedication procession for a refurbished Torah scroll – at 11 a.m.on Sunday, May 23, at its Patricia Campus.

Hundreds of students, families, community members and dignitaries are expected to attend. Funds to repair the scroll were raised by Eitz Chaim students.

The project was undertaken by the school's students and administration in reaction to a series of recent anti-Semitic acts in Canada as "a positive response to violence and anti-social behaviour, particularly, the burning of a Jewish school library in Montreal," the school said in a statement.

"This [past] winter has seen the rise of anti-Semitism to unprecedented levels in our community, " said Rabbi Isser Pliner, dean of Eitz Chaim Schools.

"The burning of the library at United Talmud Torahs in Montreal and the horrific vandalism at Toronto schools, synagogues and cemetery, deeply affected our students. We wanted to do something positive."

For more information, call Liora at 416-225-1187 or e-mail rosenbergj@eitzchaim.com.

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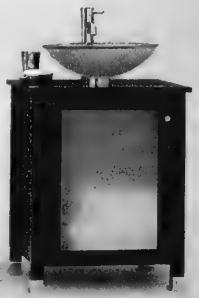

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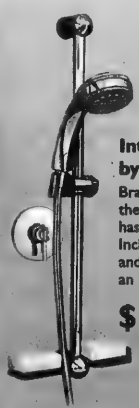

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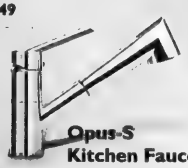

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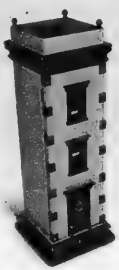

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From left, Toby Maskowitz, community service chair of Golda Meir chapter, Jewish Women International; Lori Steidman, the bat mitzvah; Rabbi Steven Shonblum; Roz Lewis, chapter president; and Joyce Shaffer, vice-president.

Reena resident celebrates bat mitzvah

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Lori Steidman tells everyone her recent bat mitzvah was a highlight of her life, says Lynn Johnstone.

Steidman, 40, is developmentally challenged and lives in a group home operated by the Reena Foundation. Johnstone is her support worker.

"Lori talked about her bat mitzvah for weeks before, and invited many people to the bat mitzvah," Johnstone said. "My excitement for her was so great. It was a joy working with her, meeting with the rabbi. You could see her excitement growing. She kept telling everyone how excited she was."

"It was an unbelievable experience for everyone at Lori Steidman's bat mitzvah," said Toby Maskowitz, the community service chair of the Golda Meir chapter of Jewish Women International, which arranged the bat mitzvah for Steidman.

"It was so emotional that I don't believe there was a dry eye in the synagogue when Lori was on the bimah at the Beth Radom Synagogue and recited her portion. Just to see the joy in her eyes was enough," said Maskowitz, who retired four years ago as co-ordinator of chaplaincy services at the Jewish Family and Child Services.

Last Sukkot, at a party Golda Meir chapter had sponsored for Reena residents, Maskowitz approached Arlene Margolese, the volunteering and Judaic programming co-ordinator for Reena, about the possibility of a Reena resident having a bat mitzvah.

In October, the chapter approved the project, and members began making arrangements for Steidman to learn her portion and organizing a party for Reena residents, Steidman's guests and chapter members.

Rabbi Steven Shonblum of Beth Radom Congregation prepared a tape and a copy of the week's portion in bigger letters for Steidman. He also met with her regularly to teach her the portion phonetically in Hebrew.

Golda Meir chapter members helped choose Steidman's outfit, arrange the program and the refreshments for the party, hire disc jockeys and purchase gifts for Steidman.

"Lori doesn't have a family. Reena has become her family," Margolese told *The CJN*.

Years ago, Margolese explained, people with developmental disabilities were institutionalized. Doctors would encourage families to forget about their child with disabilities and get on with their own lives.

This gradually changed in the 1970s, and when deinstitutionalization later became public policy, people with disabilities began to go back into the community. But "some families weren't willing to re-establish contact with their disabled family members," she said.

When Reena was created, it accepted some of these individuals into its group homes.

There were more than 60 people at the bat mitzvah, Maskowitz said. "Everyone felt that they were part of Lori's extended family."

Golda Meir chapter president Roz Lewis presented Rabbi Shonblum with a plaque of gratitude.

"Rabbi Shonblum has invited Lori to come to services, and she feels that she now has another family," Johnstone said.

Maskowitz presented Steidman with a *Land of Israel Haggadah*, a Magen David and other gifts on behalf of the chapter.

"I really enjoyed my party," Steidman said.

"Reena appreciates this incredible mitzvah of fulfilling a lifelong dream of Lori's by giving her the opportunity to celebrate her bat mitzvah along with every other Jewish woman," Margolese said. "We always welcome the community's involvement in our programs and helping our clients celebrate lifestyle events."

Koffler Centre music programs hit the right notes

By CARA EDELL
CJN Intern

The Koffler Centre of the Arts has announced a slate of original programs and concerts in tune with the tastes of Toronto's music lovers.

Its music school has contributed to the city's culture for years, but with the latest additions, adults and children can participate in a variety of new classes, said school director Adrienne Cohen.

The Koffler Chamber Orchestra, an "exciting new venture" made possible by the support of Leslie and Anna Dan, is in the process of being launched, Cohen said.

Maestro Jacques Israelievitch, concertmaster of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra since 1988, has agreed to conduct the group, she said.

Since giving a concert for the Koffler Centre last year, Israelievitch has been interested in continuing his affiliation with the school, Cohen said. When asked to start the chamber orchestra, "he was very receptive," she said.

Israelievitch said he is "tremendously looking forward" to working with the orchestra.

"I love to conduct, I love to make music," he said. "The atmosphere at the Koffler Centre will lend itself very well to the project."

Summer auditions for the orchestra will be open to the public, and Israelievitch will be judging the candidates. Rehearsals will begin in November, says Cohen, and the orchestra's first performance will take place next February at the Leah Posluns Theatre.

The school has also announced the creation of an opera program, thanks to a donation by Lindy Green, Cohen said.

Master classes for young advanced artists will be given weekly, with students performing for both conductor Sabatino Vacca and fellow musicians, Cohen said.

Guest artists, including Ermanno Mauro, will visit these sessions "to share their expertise," she said.

For children aged eight to 15 who "love to sing the latest hits," the school has designed a program featuring popular artists and genres. From hip hop to Broadway showtunes, kids can sing along with Allan Friedman, the BJCC's Centre Camp music co-ordinator, Cohen said.

Even babies and toddlers can take part in the action, as newborns to six-year-olds have been accounted for in programming, Cohen said.

Ruth Berger, previously involved with the Royal Conservatory of Music, will be holding children's music classes Tuesdays at the Koffler Centre beginning in the fall, Cohen said.

To add to the school's accomplishments, Cohen said Resa's Pieces, the Koffler Adult Band, had a "rousing fundraising performance at the Skymark Development recently."

The band came together four years ago, when people who had never before played an instrument and people who had been part of their high school bands joined "for fun," she said.

Led by conductor Resa Kochberg, Resa's Pieces is "a cohesive group" of 28 musicians who find the band experience "therapeutic."

Now in its fifth season, Resa's Pieces is holding its final concert of the term June 7 at the Leah Posluns Theatre.

The music doesn't stop there.

Cohen said the Koffler Salon Series will present three concerts at the Windsor Arms Hotel on Sundays in the fall. Performances will also be held in private homes, she said.

Also at the Windsor Arms Hotel, pianist and Juno award nominee Robert Silverman will join international wine connoisseur Tony Aspler for a wine tasting and piano concert on Nov. 7.

As well, this spring, the BJCC inaugurated a Koffler Jazz Café in its lobby, with local artists volunteering their time and talents for the enjoyment of the building's patrons, Cohen said. She hopes to have a regular performance schedule by the fall.

FEEDING THE HOMELESS: Grade 7 students at Bialik Hebrew Day School are taking tikkun olam very seriously. Here are some of the students who donated the ingredients and sandwiches to Ve'ahavta's project to feed the homeless.

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Yossi Warner Lipton, Top Ten Finalist
And the following students who successfully entered Round Two:
Rachel Hirshberg, Anna Pomson, Sigalit Weicman

Thanks to Rabbi David Itzhak and Rebecca Winter for guiding our students.

We are also proud of our graduates:
HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION
Josh Gutenberg, First Place, Canada
David Pellow, Third Place (tied), Canada

WORLD WIDE CHIDON HATANACH, ISRAEL
Yoni Halpern, Second Place, Int'l
Daniel Gutenberg, Sixth Place, Int'l

Yashar Koach to all of our students who participated in the Chidon HaTanach this year.

Netivot HaTorah
נתיבות התורה
Torah, Israel, Derech Eretz.

On Campus

York grad wins award to study Arabic in Israel

By ELYSSE ZAREK
Special to The CJN

A York University graduate student has won the Stephen Cooper award to study colloquial Arabic for beginners at Hebrew University this summer.

Hershel Recht, 24, is a master's student in political science, specializing in international relations and the Middle East. He believes that speaking and reading Arabic is essential to understanding the region and what ails it.

"How can you begin to understand the Arab mindset in the Mideast without understanding their language? If you don't understand their thoughts, then who the hell are you arguing with?" asks Recht.

Hershel Recht

The award, worth $1,600, will go toward paying his summer tuition at Hebrew University. The prize is administered by Beth Tzedec Congregation and is available to students up to age 30 with a commitment to the Jewish community to study overseas.

Recht's master's thesis, on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the prospects for peace, argues that without two willing partners for peace, the conflict cannot be resolved.

"If there's nobody to talk to, then there's nobody to talk to. But you can't absolve the Israelis of anything either," he says.

In preparation for his course, Recht has already started to learn Arabic.

"I'm learning the last two letters now," he says proudly. "When everybody else is learning the alphabet, I'll already know it."

Recht practises his Arabic pronunciation on the treadmill at the gym, and he admits his beginner's grunts have gotten him a few strange looks.

His interest in the Middle East grew after he saw the televised handshake between former Israeli prime minister Yitzchak Rabin and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat at the signing of the Oslo accords in 1993.

After completing his undergraduate degree in political science – on ethnic and nationalist conflicts and Canadian government policy – Recht applied to do his master's at York because several professors there, such as Saeed Rahnema, are Middle East experts.

But because York has few courses related to the Middle East, Recht developed his own course on Christian, Jewish, Islamic and Sikh fundamentalism and peace prospects in the Middle East. He has recently finished reading his 50th book on the topic.

Although Recht was at York during the clashes between pro-Israel and pro-Palestinian students, he has refused to get involved.

He says he won't even talk politics unless the person he is debating with has been to the Middle East and seen the situation on the ground. Recht went to Gaza several times in 1998, when he spent the year studying at Hebrew University and working on a kibbutz.

One of the things he has concluded is that the conflict is not going to be resolved any time soon.

"I don't think you can broker a peace conflict under these parameters," he says. "The Mideast is a constantly shifting paradigm that just can't sit still for five minutes.

"No one is going into the sea," he continues. "This is not the United States' Vietnam or the Soviet Union's Afghanistan. The Israelis, the Jews have nowhere to retreat to. Armed struggle will not convince the Israelis to give in."

Next year, Recht plans to create another course, this one on terrorism and its roots in modern times.

After he graduates, he wants to get a certificate in conflict resolution. His ultimate goal is to work as an ambassador, although he hasn't decided for which country.

ש'שאר ג'נינו

גידי קורן וחברים

מה יהיה

חברי מרכז הליכוד, במבחן כוח נגד ראש הממשלה, בחרו בעד הישארות ישראל ברצועת עזה ונגד הורדת ישובים ישראלים. דעתם זו מנוגדת לרצונם של רוב הישראלים היושבים בישראל. מבחינת שלטון תקין- היתה השאלה צריכה להישאל במשאל עם, שהרי לא עולה על הדעת שרק חברי מרכז של מפלגה אחת יחליטו בעניין כל כך מכריע. תכליתית, לא היה שרון חייב בשום הצבעה בכלל. ישראל יצאה מסיני ומלבנון ללא שום הצבעה. אלא שעכשיו, אחרי שהצביע, קשה לו להיחלץ מן התוצאה ולאמר "פיס, משנים את המשחק". ושוב, התהליך המדיני במזרח התיכון נקלע למצב האידיוטי שבו הקיצונים משני הצדדים מחליטים על סדר היום: גם עראפת וגם מרכז הליכוד נגד יציאה מעזה. זה כשלעצמו הוא סימן שהיציאה טובה לעם ישראל. צריך לקוות ששרון ימצא מוצא מהפלונטר הזה, כפי שיצא ממאות פלונטרים דומים בעבר. ביתמים ימשיכו חיילים בני שמונה עשרה ומילואמניקים בני ארבעים ליהרג על האדמות המקוללות של עזה. אבל שישאר בינינו.

אלופי אירופה

מכבי תל אביב היא אלופת אירופה. אידוע בהחלט משמח בחוויה האינטנסיבית הישראלית שהיא הרבה פעמים קשה מאוד. הזיכרון הקולקטיבי מעלה באוב את הזכייה המפורסמת הראשונה לפני יותר מעשרים שנה, שאחריה הטביע טל ברודי את הסיסמא "אנחנו על המפה". שימו לב- השמות שזכורים מאז הם מיקי ברקוביץ' ומוטי אראסטי. ועכשיו? אין בחמישיה הראשונה אפילו אחד שמדבר עברית. זה אולי לא מוריד מגודל הזכיה כי הרי אלה הם החוקים- אבל אולי כדאי קצת להוריד מן הפאתוס והמילים המתלהמות ולשים את האירוע בפרופורציה המתאימה: לחקת רקדני בֶּלֶט בינלאומיים מעולים עם כוריאוגראף ישראלי שמוציא מהם את המקסימום וקהל שמאוד אוהב אותם. אבל כמו תמיד- שישאר בינינו.

גבר דומה לתזמורת

תודה לדני על ההברקה הבאה:
"גבר דומה לתזמורת:
עד גיל עשרים הוא דומה לחליל: רק נוגעים בו וכבר מנגן.
גיל 30-20 לכינור: צריך לכוון 10 דקות כדי לנגן שעה.
גיל 40-30 לצלו: צריך לכוון חצי שעה כדי לנגן עשר דקות.
גיל 50-40 לפסנתר: מנגן רק באצבעות.
גיל 60-50 למנצח: מנחה אחרים מה לעשות.

דברים בשם אומריהם

מוסף יום עצמאות של ידיעות אחרונות החיל את "מילון הקלישאות הישראלי". היו שם הרבה דברים משעשעים וחכמים. היתה מבחר קטן וחזק:
"העולם כולו נגדנו:
.....יש משהו מעצבן בזה שמישהו מבחוץ אומר בקול רם את מה שאנחנו נוהגים להגיד על עצמנו בכל הזדמנות..."(איר לפיד).
"חברת התעופה הבטוחה בעולם:
....וגם יעד מספר 1 לחתקפת טרור. ונשאלת השאלה, מה מסוכן יותר: להפקיד את חייך בידי המאבטחים המעט פחות מיומנים של ק-ל-מ או לטוס ישיר עד ניו יורק במטוס מלא ישראלים?(התשובה הנכונה: אין כמו שופינג באמסטרדם)"(אבנר ברנהיימר)
"אנחנו על המפה:
....המנטרה הפטריוטית המפורסמת ביותר. יש משהו נוגע ללב ברצוננו התמידי להיות על המפה.....גם אנשים שלא גרים בארץ שלושים וחמש שנה חופכים להיות ישראלים ברגע שחצליחו במשהו. העיקר שנחיה על המפה...(איר לפיד).

Only paid Mazel Tov announcements can be guaranteed to appear in a specific issue, when received by deadline, 10 days prior to publication date. All other items will appear on a first come, first served basis as space allows.

Family Moments

only from The Canadian Jewish news

Mazel Tov to...

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

Label the back of all photos and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Send all your photos to:

The CJN, Family Moments, 1500 Don Mills Rd., #205 North York, ON. M3B 3K4
or email them to:
cblackman@cjnews.com

Mazel tov to Laurence, son of Joyce & Issie Yudkovitch on his forthcoming marriage to Kerri, daughter of Francine & Eliot Huxley of Milwaukee. Excited siblings are Wendy Yudkovitch and Stephen Huxley. A June wedding will take place in Milwaukee.

Jamie Gillman graduated with a bachelor's degree in health sciences from the University of Western Ontario, as well as placing fifth at the Canadian Interuniversity Sport Men's Wrestling Championships. A hearty mazel tov, Jamie!

Mazel tov to Steven & Aaron Salz who recently celebrated their Bar Mitzvahs.

We welcome Ari Ross Wilson into our world. Love from Nana Judy and Opi Frank Wilson.

Mazel tov to Bethany & Alan Bokser on the birth of Brooke Randi. Grandmothers are Freda Bokser and Bea Strasberg and great-grandfather Leo Frohlich.

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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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416-785-1333

What's New Deadlines: Monday, May 31 for the June 10 issue and Monday, June 7 for the June 17 issue. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Saturday, May 22

RABBI HARVEY MEIROVICH

Beth Tzedec Congregation hosts **Rabbi Harvey Meirovich** of the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, who will speak during Saturday morning services on "The Hertz Humash: The Case for Jewish Pride," and again at a study session after the service on "Multiple Torah Commentaries: Why?" He will also speak at seudah shlishit after Minchah at 8:10 p.m. on "The Creation Story: What Separates Orthodox and Conservative Judaism?" 416-781-3511.

Sunday, May 23

NA'AMAT FITNESS DAY

Enjoy a day of fitness and relaxation for women, including yoga class, a dairy lunch and raffle, and support Na'amat's work for women and children in Israel and Canada. 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. $25/person, $45 for two. For tickets, call 416-636-5425.

TIKKUN OLAM

Temple Kol Ami is hosting **Avrum Rosensweig**, director of Ve'ahavta, at the Chapters bookstore at Yonge and Steeles, where he will speak on tikkun olam. 7:30 p.m. Free. All welcome.

RUTH KELMAN LECTURE

Erica Brown, scholar-in-residence at Greater Washington Federation, will be giving the Fifth Annual Ruth Kelman Memorial Lecture on "Finding God, Seeking Community: Acceptance and Rejection in the Book of Ruth." 8 p.m. at Beth Jacob Congregation, 147 Overbrook Pl. $10. 416-633-5770 or www.torahinmotion.org.

SIYUM HATORAH

The first annual Siyum Hatorah Toronto will take place at Baycrest Terrace at 8 p.m. **Rabbi Paysach Krohn** will be keynote speaker. Visit www.siyumhatorah.com.

PARTY AT L'CHAIM 2004

If you are between 19 and 29 years old, come out for an evening of fun at the Capitol Theatre and support UJA Federation and Magen David Adom. Tickets $10. Call **Dan Warner** at 416-540-7373. 10 p.m. 2492 Yonge St. Dress to impress.

Monday, May 24

NA'AMAT CRAFT & GIFT SALE

Club Beersheba and Aviva chapters of Na'amat presents their Craft and Gift Show at Bayview Village Shopping Centre, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Great buys and a silent auction!

Tuesday, May 25

TIKKUNIM LEIL SHAVUOT

Temple Israel of London: Shavuot dairy dinner at 6 p.m. followed by an oneg. Study session at midnight. To reserve for dinner, call 519-858-4400. $10 adults, $5 children.

Solel Congregation: dinner, study and service with **Rabbi Sharon Sobel, Bob Gibbs** and **Yael Seliger**. Dinner at 6 p.m. Study at 9 p.m. For dinner registration, call 905-820-5915.

Beth Tzedec Congregation: All Night Torah Study titled "Confronting Modernity." Minchah service begins at 7:30 p.m. and is followed by a reception in honour of all Tichon graduates at 8:45 p.m. "The Battle for Tolerance and Pluralism," a chavrutah study with **Rabbi Harvey Meirovich** at 9:15 p.m. Alternative bar/bat mitzvah program for parents and children "#7: The Torah's Lucky Number?" with **Judy Shier Weisberg** at 9:15 p.m. Study continues throughout the night, followed by early Shacharit service. 416-781-3511.

Temple Har Zion: study session from 9-11 p.m. featuring **Arthur Benjamin** on "What Really Happened at Sinai."

Chabad Lubavitch of Markham: Shavuot@Chabad at 83 Green Lane includes a midnight Torah-thon with many speakers.

Continued on page 27

IF ANTISEMITISM CONCERNS YOU

— So Should —

Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies

- Critiques and informs media
- Requests action of political leaders
- Responds to daily threats
- Sensitizes law enforcement
- Monitors hate groups
- Investigates cyber terrorism and hate on the Internet
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On **June 10, 2004** Stand Against Antisemitism
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Newly Released Balcony Tickets: $36 (with dessert celebration)

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Joel Feldberg and Arthur Stern
Campaign Co-Chairs

Programme Highlights:
Lt.-Gen. (Ret.) Roméo Dallaire, key note
Rabbi Marvin Hier, Dean and Founder, Simon Wiesenthal Center
Evan Solomon, CBC News and Host of Hot Type
Tsepora, Mezzo-Soprano
Shlomy Assaf, Israeli Rock Performer

And ...**PRESENTATION OF AWARD OF VALOUR TO:**
Max Eisen, Shirley Anne Haber, Yaakov Roth and Irshad Manji

Limited Tickets: 416-864-9735 ext. "0" or email swcmain@pathcom.com

What's New

Continued from page 26

Wednesday, May 26

FAMILY SHAVUOT PARTY

Join Chabad Lubavitch of Markham for an ice-cream party, grand kiddush, bikurim parade and the reading of the Ten Commandments. 11 a.m.

Other News

STEPHEN BERK WEEKEND

Beth Tzedec Congregation presents a weekend of lectures by **Prof. Stephen Berk** titled "Czarism to Communism to Democracy," Friday through Sunday, May 28-30. At Shabbat dinner following services at 6:30 p.m., he will discuss "The Jewish Role in Russian Communism." During services on Saturday, he will talk on "Was Communism in Russia Good for the Jews?" and at a study luncheon following services, he will talk on "The Jewish Workers Paradise: Birobidzhan." He will also speak at Sunday brunch on "Can Jews Flourish Under the Current Russian Federation?" following Shacharit service at 9 a.m. To reserve for meals, call 416-781-3511.

SANFORD RAGINS WEEKEND

Temple Har Zion hosts **Rabbi Sanford Ragins** of Los Angeles as scholar-in-residence May 29 and 30. Shabbat services 9:15 a m. Torah study 10:30 a.m. Potluck lunch and lecture "Are the New Principles of Reform Judaism a Mistake?" at 12:30 p.m. Sunday breakfast and lecture "Was Reform Judaism a Mistake?" at 9:30 a.m. Sunday breakfast $8. 905-889-2252.

BONE MARROW DRIVE

Save a life by participating in the Gift of Life Bone Marrow Drive, Sunday, May 30 at the RioCan Festival Tent at the Walk with Israel at Ontario Place, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. If you are between 18 and 60 and in generally good health, have yourself tested. The test involves a quick and painless swab test inside your cheek. If you would like to volunteer at the drive with registration and swabbing, call 416-932-2831 or visit www.giftoflife.org.

ACJS CONFERENCE

The Association for Canadian Jewish Studies is holding their annual meeting Sunday, May 30 through Tuesday, June 1 at the Asper Jewish Community Campus in Winnipeg. The conference will include 24 papers and two major panel discussions. **Abe Arnold**, former chief executive of Canadian Jewish Congress, western region, will receive the Canadian Jewish Studies Distinguished Service Award. For more information, e-mail sj_landa@alcor.concordia.ca.

MELTON MINI SCHOOL

Join a model lesson at the Florence Melton Mini School, Thursday, June 3, 7:30 p.m. at Shaar Shalom Synagogue. For information, call 416-789-7400.

MONSTER RIDE

The Fifth Annual Monster Ride of 200 kilometres will be held on Sunday, June 5 to raise funds for the widow of terror victim **Yechezkel Goldberg** and her seven children. Goldberg was killed in a suicide bombing in Jerusalem in January. For information, call 416-633-6224.

HAMILTON NEGEV DINNER

The Jewish National Fund of Hamilton will honour **Joseph and Cheryl Greenbaum** at their 2004 dinner, Sunday, June 6 at Adas Israel Synagogue. **Jonathan Kay**, editorial editor and columnist at the *National Post*, will be guest speaker. For tickets, call 905-527-5516.

CANTORIAL CONCERT

Shaar Shalom holds their 30th Anniversary Celebration with **Cantors Ben Silverberg**, **Ben Maissner**, **Shneur Bielak** and 11-year-old **Jakie Young** singing Hebrew, Yiddish and English songs. Sunday, June 6 at 7:30 p.m. $20 at the door. Call 905-889-4975.

SEPHARDI MEALS

Circle of Care has added a Sephardi Kosher Meals on Wheels Program to the services they offer to the community. Menus reflect Sephardi culture and tradition. For information, call 416-635-2860.

SENIORS PROJECT

Baycrest Centre is offering a Computer Demonstration Project for a group of isolated seniors living in the community. The program consists of a computer-based support group for six seniors who live alone, and will run for approximately a year. For information, call **Renee Climans** 416-785-2500, ext. 2989.

FOR SENIORS

The Association of Jewish Senior's general meeting will take place on Thursday, May 20, 9:30 a.m. with **Avrum Rosensweig** of Ve'ahavta at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. Call **Tammy** at 416-635-2860.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Casino Niagara, May 20, Casino Rama, June 9. Saturday dance, May 29. Sunday dance, May 23, 30. 416-395-7881.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the boardroom at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. June 9, *Fiddler on the Roof* at Stage West. Call 416-630-9444.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. May 20, Israeli movie; May 29, discussion. Call **Menachem Wallach**, 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla**, 416-630-5771.

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

Come Thursday, May 20, 3-4 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge to a group meeting to learn more about vision. For information, call **Shawn Fremeth** at ext. 2986.

Smile Theatre will perform a musical story, *Consider this Lillie*, on Friday, June 4 1-2 p.m. in the Assembly Room. Free. Call **Melissa Konat** at ext. 2297.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W, 416-225-2112.

"The Morris 'Nafty' Naftolin Komedy Kabaret," Thursday, May 20, 2:30 p.m. in the auditorium.

Day trip to see *42nd Street* at the Drayton Festival Theatre and visit the St. Jacobs Market, June 3, 9 a.m. Members $45, non-members $50. For tickets, call 416-225-2112, ext. 134.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speaking seniors meets Tuesdays at 2:30 p.m. May 25, closed for Shavuot; June 1, Israeli movie. Call **Anna**, ext. 110.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or wwwmilesnadaljcc.ca.

MNJCC Community Choir 8th Annual Spring Concerts, Sunday, June 13, 3 p.m. and Wednesday, June 16, 8 p.m. with **Harriet Wichin**, conductor, and **Jack Gelbloom**, pianist, at the Al Green Theatre. Tickets: $20 family, $10 adults, $5 seniors/students.

Mini-Me Camp, a summer camp for 3-5 year olds, with exciting add-ons: Alphamania, Wild and Free. Call for information.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

The Koffler Gallery presents **Norman T. White**'s exhibit "Norm's Robots," May 13-June 27. "Norm's Robots" is the first solo show in 20 years. The exhibit contains both animate robotic works as well as presentations supported by video documentation and live performances. The Challenge: Sumo Robot Competition, Sunday, June 6, 12-4 p.m. at the BJCC Amphitheatre (rain date June 13). Free. Since 1992, White has fostered an annual festival of robotic performance in the guise of Sumo wrestling. A similar tournament, The Challenge, takes place June 6 in the outdoor amphitheatre of the Bathurst JCC. Prizes will be awarded to the top contender in each robot class: Sumo Classic, Sumo Clever, Robot Dancer or Robot Painter, Sumo Autonomous and Sumo Lightweight. Challenge two of White's wrestling robots: "Goody 4 Shoes," clever class, and "Low Life," autonomous class.

Koffler Nashir Children's Choir is holding open rehearsals/auditions for the fall season for children ages 8-15. Sundays through May at 3:30 p.m. Call ext. 228.

Prenatal class offered in conjunction with Mount Sinai Hospital, Sunday June 6 and 13 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. $136 per couple. Call ext. 390.

BUILDING RENAMING: Marla and Aubrey Dan, right, stand beside the new sign that renames Baycrest's Two Neptune Drive to the Reuben Cipin Healthy Living Community in honour of Marla's father, Reuben, left. The Dans' donation of $5 million to Baycrest's newest seniors' building will help Baycrest pay off its operating deficit, fund special projects for seniors and set up an endowment fund for social and wellness programming for the building's residents.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 34

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To place an unveiling notice, please call at least 15 DAYS prior to the date of the unveiling

OBITUARIES and Related Notices

To place any other family related notice, please call at least 10 DAYS prior to the issue date

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Jerry Satin	Apr 29/04	24 Cedar Springs Grove
Gangolf Herman	Apr 28/04	3800 Yonge St
Barry Charles Hyman	Apr 29/04	352 Cathcart St
Norman Latowsky	Apr 30/04	20 Swansdown Dr
Irene Clarfield	May 1/04	17 Bramble Dr
Esther Fine	May 1/04	3560 Bathurst St
Sadie Handelman	May 2/04	133 Torresdale Ave
Al Abrams	May 2/04	1555 Finch Ave E
Abraham Nyman	May 5/04	3560 Bathurst St.
Sophie Canning	May 4/04	1140 Bloor St W
Mollie (Molly) Sharpe	May 5/04	243 Lonsdale Rd
Albert Libman	May 5/04	150 Heath St W
Lou Wise	May 5/04	2500 Bathurst St
Louis Dutchkin	May 4/04	5725 Victoria
Rose Landau	May 5/04	1490 Rathburn Rd E
Jean Lams	May 7/04	3303 Don Mills Rd
Sophia Abramson	May 7/04	3560 Bathurst St
Gerald Malis	May 8/04	35 Finchurst Dr
Leona Chitel	May 7/04	447 Walmer Rd
Judy Morton	May 7/04	619 Avenue Rd
Shirley Eckler	May 7/04	49 Prince Charles Dr
Ruthi Goldberg	May 9/04	223 Banbury Rd
Haim Krohmalnik	May 10/04	111 Ridelle Ave #407
Harvey Albert	May 11/04	350 Lonsdale Rd

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Kahansky, Ellen	Goldhar, Sarah
April 30, 2004	May 5, 2004
Goldberg-Gilis, Girsh	205 Cummer Ave
May 1, 2004	Sarne, Manfred
Solish, Samuel	May 6, 2004
May 1, 2004	7460 Bathurst St
Rep Maple Road	Goodman, Sylvia Thelma
Pollock, Evelyn	May 7, 2004
May 2, 2004	400 Walmer Rd
1 Northwestern Ave	Keshen, Murray (Moishe)
Silver, Sarah	May 9, 2004
May 4, 2004	67 HighGrove Crescent
1035 Eglington Ave W	Mervin, Joan
Korenwasser, Naftula	May 8, 2004
May 5, 2004	11 Goldfinch Court
Winegust, Sam	Stein, Chana
May 5, 2004	May 7, 2004
Rubin, Sadie	Weinstein, Samuel
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Aba, Ima and Michelle Nizic,

Saba and Savta Michael & Drora Shur-Ami

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Donations may be made to the David Nizic Foundation - Reena 927 Clark Ave. W, Thornhill, ON L4J 8G6

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Coast to Coast

Organic kosher poultry finds its niche

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL – Yehuda Wurm is an osteopath, a practitioner of a treatment that involves gentle manipulation of the tissues to correct mechanical imbalances in the body that cause pain or disability. As a third-degree black belt in the martial arts, he has suffered his share of aches.

Wurm takes a holistic approach to health and is very careful about what he eats. He is a baal tshuvah, having embraced Orthodoxy about eight years ago.

Eating organic foods as much as possible was important to him. But where do you get organic kosher products?

Unable to find what he was looking for, Wurm launched his own business two years ago. Tiferet Organic Poultry, which specializes in certified organic chicken, duck and turkey as well as a recent addition, organic salmon from Scotland, is a first in Canada.

Wurm's products have the hechsher of Montreal's Vaad Ha'ir and the New York-based Orthodox Union. The Central Rabbinical Congress also puts its stamp on chickens sold in cases of eight. All the birds are slaughtered and processed at Marvid Poultry, a long-established kosher facility.

Today, Wurm has a market in Montreal, as well as in Toronto and the United States. His products, he says, occupy a very narrow niche. Organic kosher poultry costs about double what regular kosher poultry does.

Wurm regards what he is doing as a "mission," making the most naturally and humanely raised poultry accessible to the kosher consumer. Among his most loyal customers are chassidic Jews, he said. He supplies live birds to some chassidic communities that perform their own shchitah.

Products labelled organic must also be certified, and the Tiferet line has the stamp of two regulating bodies: Quebec's Garantie Bio, as well as Eco-Cert, which Wurm said is recognized throughout North America. Wurm works in partnership with Frank Andrasi, an organic farmer and food distributor for 30 years.

The birds they sell are raised on Quebec farms without drugs such as antibiotics or growth hormones. If they get sick, they are immediately removed from the flock. They eat only certified organic grains and legumes, grown without pesticides and chemical fertilizers and not genetically modified.

Tiferet Organic Poultry is sold mainly in butcher and specialty shops in Montreal and Toronto, and by order for home delivery through its website (www.tiferetorganic.com). Requests have come from as far as Halifax and Calgary. Recently, IGA began selling the line.

His aim is to reach one to two per cent of the Canadian Jewish population.

"We're looking for the modern Orthodox Jew who is a little more worldly and has a bit of gelt."

Three charged for UTT firebombing in Montreal

Continued from page 1

Police released little information about the suspects before the bail hearing, where evidence was to be read. They would not say where they were arrested, whether they are linked to any group or if police had received any tips that led to the arrests.

Four days before the arrests, police released a picture of a suspicious car parked outside the school that had been taken by a surveillance camera about four hours before the attack in the early morning hours of April 5. It was the first lead they had made public. On the same day, B'nai Brith Canada added $35,000 to a $15,000 reward offered by the Sun Youth Organization for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the perpetrators.

"The initial reaction of the community is one of relief," said Canadian Jewish Congress, Quebec region chair Jeffrey Boro. "When people who have committed a crime are at large, there is serious tension in the community – will they be back, who are they?

"The fact that those charged are reportedly of Middle Eastern origin is of concern but not of surprise after the note that was left. But I don't think they represent mainstream thought in Muslim or Arab thinking in Canada."

Boro pointed out that the group that signed the crime-scene note is not known in these communities.

Boro commended the police for doing an "excellent job" and believes the decision to set up a unit devoted to the investigation of hate crimes allowed the arrests to be made within "a short period of time."

UTT executive director Sidney Benudiz said there is some relief at the school, but with so little known about the motives and why the school was target, the anxiety lingers.

B'nai Brith Canada "applauded the police for their diligence in investigating" the incident, said community outreach co-ordinator Yoni Petel.

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Proverbs 31: Verse I

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Coast to Coast

Jewish studies conference to honour historian

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Author and historian Abe Arnold is being honoured for his work in Canadian Jewish studies at this year's conference of the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies (ACJS).

The conference will be held from May 30 to June 1 at the Asper Jewish Community Campus and the University of Manitoba.

Arnold, who was recently appointed a member of the Order of Canada, will receive the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies Distinguished Service Award in recognition of his lifetime achievement in the study and documentation of the Canadian Jewish experience.

The ACJS began as the Canadian Jewish Historical Society (CJHS) some 30 years ago. With the support of the Canadian Jewish Congress, CJHS published a periodical that featured articles on the history of Jews in Canada. The society began to incorporate other subjects such as Canadian Jewish genealogy, sociology, geography, literature, fine art, religion, architecture and demography and began presenting scholarly papers at annual conferences. Several years ago, the organization changed its name to ACJS.

One of the founding member organizations of CJHS was the Jewish Historical Society of Western Canada, of which Arnold himself was a founding member. Originally from Montreal, Arnold moved to Winnipeg in 1965, where he worked as chief executive of the Western region of the Canadian Jewish Congress. After he retired, he continued working as a freelance journalist and broadcaster and was the founding director of the Jewish Historical Society of Western Canada from 1968 to 1975. He is the author of two books and numerous articles in both scholarly and popular journals and has won awards for his work in journalism and his research in Canadian Jewish history.

ACJS secretary Susan Landau-Clark said the sessions in this year's conference, whose main theme is Jewish dissent, "speak to the breadth and depth of the Jewish experience in Canada. From coast to coast, every aspect of Jewish life and learning from the early 1900s to the 1960s to the issues facing our community today is examined and laid bare for discussion."

Among the papers being delivered are "Jewish Dissent in Canada: The United Jewish Peoples Order" by York University associate professor Ester Reiter and Roz Usiskin, past president of the Jewish Heritage Society of Western Canada; "Mapping Jewish Dissent: Jewish Anti-Occupation Activism in Toronto" by Sheryl Nestel of the University of Toronto; and "Kol Koreh Bamidbar: Jewish Dissent in the Academy" by Michael Benazon of Montreal. Benazon will also be reading a paper by University of Montreal history professor Yakov Rabkin on "Patterns of Jewish Dissent: Canada and Israel."

The keynote session, in the afternoon, will include a presentation by Arnold and Usishkin on "Celebration of the Jewish Historical Society of Western Canada: 36 Years of Accomplishment," a memorial tribute to the late poet Miriam Waddington by researcher Richard Menkis of the University of British Columbia, and a presentation on the architectural history of Winnipeg's Shaarey Zedek Synagogue by Ottawa scholar Hagit Hadaya.

The reception in Arnold's honour and the presentation of the ACJS Distinguished Service Award are scheduled for late in the afternoon. They will be followed by a tribute from the Jewish Historical Society of Western Canada on his recent appointment to the Order of Canada.

The conference will also include presentations on Montreal Jewish history, anti-Semitism in Canada, Canadian Jewish education, social and cultural issues and many others.

For those interested in Yiddish/Jewish literature, Landau-Clark said, Chava Rosenfarb's *Survivors: Seven Short Stories* will be available in English at the conference. Rosenfarb, a Montrealer, is one of the most prominent Yiddish writers living today. This spring, Cormorant Books published the collection of short stories translated from the Yiddish by her daughter Goldie Morgentaler.

This is the first time a book of Rosenfarb's writing has been published in English in Canada. Rosenfarb will read excerpts from her book and will be available for book signing.

SIDDUR CEREMONY: Grade 1 students at USDS Bathurst campus recently celebrated their Siddur Ceremony. The students, together with their parents, personalized their siddur cover that will serve them for many years to come.

Homeless artist inspires creation of mentoring program

By RUTH SCHWEITZER
Special to The CJN

With the support of a local artist and the director of homeless initiatives at Ve'ahavta: The Canadian Jewish Humanitarian and Relief Committee, a Toronto homeless man got off the streets after his artistic talent was discovered.

Ve'ahavta's Darryl Borden says two years ago, Moose, who had been living on the city's streets on and off for some 23 years, gave him a sculpture made out of wire coat hangers. Moose called his sculpture of two hands reaching out *Hands of Hope*.

Borden stashed the sculpture in the Street Help van. The van, operated by Ve'ahavta in co-ordination with the Native Men's Residence, travels through Toronto's back alleys to feed and clothe the homeless one night a week.

One evening, Borden was out helping the homeless with artist Ian Leventhal, who spotted Moose's sculpture in the van. He declared it brilliant and asked to meet Moose.

"Through the admiration of Ian and through my encouragement, Moose blossomed," Borden says. "It was as if he realized he had a place in society as opposed to being outside of society, where many homeless people feel they belong."

Boosted by his new self-esteem, Moose came in off the streets.

"This relationship gave him the strength and courage to jump through hoops and get himself an apartment," Borden says.

Borden realized that more than one Moose lived in Toronto and in homeless populations around the world. That led to the birth of Tiferet Boulevard, a program in which professional artists develop mentoring relationships with artistically talented people living on the street.

Tiferet is a kabbalistic term that means glory and has a connotation of vision and beauty, Borden says, and is found in some Jewish prayers.

"What we've done is taken what is good in humanity and attached it to the street," he says.

Tiferet Boulevard has had a strong start in Toronto thanks to the efforts of Leventhal, who spread the word about the program to Toronto artists.

"Many Jewish artists jumped at the opportunity to give it a try," Borden says.

Ve'ahavta is also planning to bring Tiferet Boulevard to cities around the globe and recently launched the program's first international component in Israel.

"We thought if we could make this bridge between Toronto and Israel and make it work, then that would encourage other communities to participate," Borden says.

In the past year-and-a-half, Borden and Leventhal visited Israel twice and has worked with Elem: The Voice of Troubled Youth in Israel to help Jewish and Arab homeless youth in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Acco and Haifa. The duo showed them some of the artwork made by Toronto's homeless people.

When they returned to Toronto, Borden and Leventhal brought artwork created by Israeli street youth to young people at drop-in centres and shelters here. That art shows Israel and the Jewish people's human face, Borden says.

"Most people still think Israel is a land of milk and honey, with no residual effects from the war."

Today, the artwork produced by Israel's homeless youth is part of an exhibit of works by and about the homeless at the Blue Dot Gallery in Toronto's Distillery District. It continues until May 26.

More than 400 people attended a recent fundraiser at the gallery. Moose was there, too, with a collection of wire-hanger sculptures.

"Many people at the show probably saw, for the first time, homeless people expressing themselves in ways that could be understood," Borden says. "They stood side by side with homeless artists and they were having conversations with people who they previously thought didn't have an opinion they could share."

In the gallery, signs held by the homeless in the streets, such as "If your (sic) happy and you know it… Spare Change," were scattered among the artwork.

Among the works is a sculpture of a yellowish figure on a red sleeping bag called *When I Sleep*, by Rita Rayman.

For more information on the exhibit, visit www.veahavta.org.

Viewers study a wire-coat hanger sculpture called *Hands of Hope* by "Moose," an artist who moved off the streets and inspired Ve'ahavta's Tiferet Boulevard program that co-ordinates the work of 26 artists, 300 homeless youth and more than a dozen social service agencies in Canada, the United States and Israel. The sculpture is on display until May 26 at the Blue Dot Gallery in Toronto's Distillery District.

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Food, Scrumptious Food

Creamy cheesecake pleasures for Shavuot

By JUDY BART KANCIGOR
Special to The CJN

When Rose Levy Beranbaum's Cordon Rose Cream Cheesecake was featured on Shirley Corriher's radio show, the avalanche of mail requesting the recipe was the largest in the history of the station. And no wonder. Does there breathe a human for whom cheesecake is not one of life's guilty pleasures? But why the guilt? Is it not a mitzvah to indulge for Shavuot, the "cheese" holiday?

While scholars may argue as to why we eat dairy – the abundance of milk at this time and the association of the Torah with "milk and honey" are just two of the usual explanations – my immediate concern is turning out the perfect cheesecake, a creamy, crackless wonder as luscious to the eyes as it is to the palate.

Last year, while attending the annual conference of the International Association of Culinary Professionals in Montreal, I had the rare opportunity to network with three of North America's foremost bakers, to learn from their wisdom and forge new friendships.

I can't think of Montreal without remembering the crazy taxi ride I took with Elinor Klivans, author of *Fearless Baking*, to visit Marcy Goldman, who had graciously invited us for breakfast. A 15-minute ride turned into an hour – and I thought that only happens in New York – but we finally arrived, and who should be sitting there, none other than Rose Levy Beranbaum, author of *The Cake Bible*. (Later, when we took a "field trip" to an incredible baking supply store, a star-struck young salesgirl almost fell over when she recognized Levy Beranbaum.)

Goldman's kitchen, while intimate and homey, is set up for business. Tall, commercial bakers' racks await her latest experiments. Flour, sugar, etc. are stored in huge, under-the-counter bins. She's got a six-burner, double-oven gas range, three bread machines, and everything screams, "Major testing happens here!"

When the conversation turned to cheesecake, I was all ears. First the ingredients. "Room temperature ingredients, especially the cream cheese and eggs, always makes for more height," cautioned Goldman, "and use the whisk attachment of the mixer, but mix on *slow* speed. Too much air makes for cracks in cheesecake later on."

The "Cheesecake 101" section of her cookbook, *The best of betterbaking.com* (Ten Speed Press), has more great tips. One I know I need to be more careful about is scraping down the bowl often to incorporate any globs of cream cheese hiding in the batter.

The book contains recipes for many kinds of cheesecake, "but my favourite for Jewish festivals like Shavuot," said Goldman, "is the Halvah Filo Cheesecake [found on her website, www.betterbaking.com]. It is upbeat and contemporary, but uses Old Testament ingredients, so to speak, like honey and sesame. I am sure they would have made it the first Shavuot, but they were out of springform pans!"

All three were emphatic on baking

Rose Levy Beranbaum

cheesecakes in a water bath. "For many years I baked cheesecakes for a local restaurant," recalled Klivans. "I baked hundreds of them and usually baked four at a time in my oven. Some would crack and some not. After much research, I realized that cheesecakes are actually custards, and they like to bake in a warm, moist environment."

"And grease the sides of the pan so it can pull away from the sides rather than cracking from the middle," added Levy Beranbaum. "I wrap the pan in two layers of heavy-duty foil to make sure that no water seeps in. I set the pan in a larger pan and pour in about two inches of hot tap water."

Not for nothing is Levy Beranbaum's cookbook called *The Cake Bible*. From a simple pound cake to crystallized flowers and spun sugar cages, her recipes are easy to follow, beautifully illustrated and so clearly explained they will appeal to the home baker as well as the seasoned professional. I love her favorite implement for cutting cheesecake: unwaxed dental floss. Look for Levy Beranbaum's new-series, *Baking Magic with Rose*, airing soon on PBS.

Perhaps the simplest but best advice came from Klivans, whose cookbook *Fearless Baking* is more than a collection of recipes. It is a step-by-step baking course designed to instil confidence in even the most timid beginner. Two new books, *Big Fat Cookies* and *Cupcakes*, are due for release in 2005.

"Take your time when baking," Klivans told me. "Whenever I try to hurry, I find that I have made some sort of major mistake. That is when I see the cup of sugar on the counter that I forgot to put in my cake. Check to see that you have all of your ingredients on hand before you begin. And, most important, have a good time!"

Judy Bart Kancigor is the author of *Melting Pot Memories*, www.cookingjewish.com

CORDON ROSE CREAM CHEESECAKE

From *The Cake Bible* by Rose Levy Beranbaum (William Morrow).

2 (8-oz.) packages cream cheese
1 cup sugar
1 tbsp. cornstarch (optional)*
3 large eggs
3 tbsp. freshly squeezed lemon juice
1½ tsp. pure vanilla extract
¼ tsp. salt
3 cups sour cream

Preheat oven to 350. In a large mixing bowl beat the cream cheese and sugar until very smooth (about 3 minutes), preferably with a whisk beater. Beat in the cornstarch if desired.* Add the eggs, 1 at a time, beating after each addition until smooth and scraping down the sides. Add the lemon juice, vanilla, and salt and beat until incorporated. Beat in the sour cream just until blended.

Pour the batter into the prepared pan. Set the pan in a larger pan and surround it with 1 inch of very hot water. Bake 45 minutes. Turn off the oven without opening the door and let the cake cool for 1 hour. Remove to a rack and cool to room temperature (about 1 hour). Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate overnight. Serves 8 to 12.

Note: This cheesecake is firm enough to be unmoulded and served without a base if desired. For a cookie crumb crust, Levy Beranbaum says: "As crumb crusts become soggy if placed in the pan before baking, I prefer to pat the crumbs onto the cake after baking and unmoulding." Use ¾ cup crumbs for the top and sides.

Variation: For banana cheesecake, replace 1 cup sour cream with 1 cup mashed bananas. (You will need 2 very ripe bananas.) To keep the banana from discolouring, stir the 3 tablespoons of lemon juice into the mashed banana. Blend into the batter after the sour cream is incorporated.

*If cornstarch is omitted, a small amount of liquid will seep out after unmoulding, which can be absorbed with a paper towel. For a slightly creamier cake, Levy Beranbaum prefers not to use the cornstarch.

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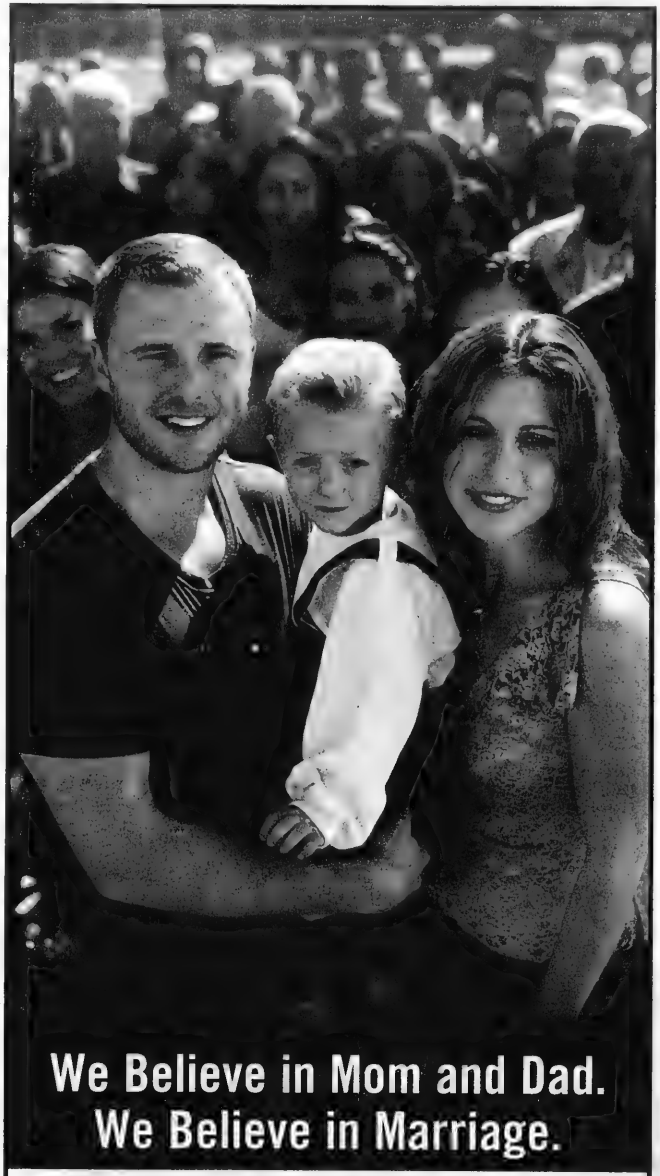

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Seniors Scene

Folk dancing group celebrates 40th year

By JESSICA HELLEN
CJN Intern

When Don Jubas and his wife Gilda started their folk dancing group, they didn't expect to still be dancing 40 years later.

"We're all surprised," he said. "Nobody kept notes of when things happened because we didn't expect this."

Forty years ago, Jubas and his wife attended a convention in New York City. Their hotel brought in a local dance teacher to teach the guests how to dance in the style used in the movie *Zorba the Greek*.

For three days, Don, Gilda and some of their friends danced before lunch.

"On the drive back from New York City, my wife suggested we learn folk dancing," Jubas said.

She knew a couple who did Israeli dancing and she asked them to teach the newly formed group.

"They taught us for three or four years," Jubas said.

The group then decided they wanted to branch out and learn different kinds of dances.

Jubas and the group approached their teachers, who said, "That's fantastic! We'd like to learn more dances too."

The group tried out six or seven different teachers until they finally settled on one.

The folk dancing group now consists of 15 couples in their 70s, about half of them original members.

"It has become a social thing now," Jubas said, "We just like to get together."

The group dances together once a month and has a pool party in the summer.

In celebration of their 40 years of dancing, Jubas organized a party for May 15.

"We invited everyone who is in the group, everyone who has been a member of the group and all of our teachers," Jubas said.

He said he expected about 50 people to attend the party, where there was dancing, refreshments and time to reminisce.

Not all of the group's past members planned to be there, however. "Some couldn't come for health reasons, some died, some couples split up, and some people, I guess, just got tired of dancing," Jubas said.

"I got the best response from the people who aren't in the group anymore," he added.

As for how long he will continue to dance, Jubas said he doesn't know.

"It's hard to believe some of us are still dancing anyway."

Seniors, youth create colorful murals at Wagman Centre

A large art project has brought youth and seniors together at Baycrest's Joseph E. and Minnie Wagman Centre.

For the past two months, youth from the Harbourfront Community Centre Mural Project have been working with a group of Wagman Centre members to create colourful murals on four grey concrete pillars in the basement of the Wagman Centre.

Wagman members have directed the project from the beginning, deciding that each pillar would represent one of the four seasons.

The Harbourfront artists prepared the pillars by painting them in bright seasonal colors, and the seniors, who chose the colours, drew and painted the overlaying images that wrap around each one.

To overcome the difficulties of trying to paint on large ground-to-ceiling pillars, the seniors sat at tables and painted their images onto large puzzle pieces that fit perfectly into designated spots on each pillar.

Ted Rosen, 86, who has little painting experience, painted an outdoor ice hockey scene for the winter pillar. He selected a unique combination of colours in order to create a realistic looking ice surface for his hockey rink.

"It makes me feel ageless when I'm painting," says Rosen, a retired psychiatrist. "It's a great feeling of living and self-expression."

At first many of the seniors were hesitant to participate in the project, says Youth Harbourfront artist Michael Brown.

"They were saying 'I'm not an artist, I can't do it or I can't see very well,'" he recalls.

Youth artist Amelia Morochove-Merhar (right) watches as Wagman member Nancy Gold paints a colourful scene that forms part of the murals that adorn each of four concrete pillars in the Wagman Centre basement. [Mara Swartz photo]

By the third week of the project, they had no fear about creating and were clearly enjoying themselves.

For Baycrest therapeutic recreationist Mara Swartz, watching the seniors' delight in the process of creating art is "simply magical. It's very inspiring. I not only see their artistic ability, but how they are able to overcome physical challenges to create a piece of art."

Harbourfront artist Alisha Zaidi, 19, said, "If you've ever held a brush or drawn a picture in your life, you don't forget it no matter what age you are."

The pillars were celebrated in a ceremony at the Wagman Centre on May 5th.

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Rice urges Qureia to reform Palestinian security forces

By ALUF BENN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd

BERLIN — U.S. National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice urged Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia at their meeting in Berlin on Monday to reform the Palestinian security forces.

She also told Qureia that the United States does not believe that Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat is conducive to the peace process, and that the PA must battle terrorism.

Quoting Palestinian sources, Israel Radio reported Monday that Qureia presented Rice with a cease-fire plan, saying that the truce is needed before the PA can reform security forces. Qureia also once again proposed that foreign observers be posted in the area to uphold the ceasefire.

Israel Radio reported Monday that the plan would offer a full ceasefire, under which Israel will be asked to stop all targeted assassinations of militants and all military operations within Palestinian Authority administrated areas.

Rice's comments echoed remarks made a day early by U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell. He, too, urged the Palestinian leadership to take control of their security forces away from Arafat.

"What they need to do is to wrest control of the security forces from Chairman Arafat ... The Palestinian leaders can do it, and the leaders of the Arab world can do it, by saying to Chairman Arafat that 'your policies have not been successful, your leadership has not been successful in moving this process forward,'" Powell said.

Powell admitted that even opening negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians was only a remote possibility.

"I don't see how we can get there right away," Powell said in Shannon, Ireland, where his Air Force jetliner refueled en route to Washington.

Still, Powell said, U.S. President George W. Bush "has made it clear to me to keep going."

Powell also suggested that Palestinian and other Arab leaders should persuade Arafat, symbol of the Palestinian movement for almost four decades, to quit as head of the PA to make way for a successor willing to end terror against Israel.

"Mr. Arafat continues to take action and make statements that make it exceptionally difficult to move forward," he said.

Qureia appealed to Rice on Monday to stop Israel's mass demolition plan in the southern Gaza Strip town of Rafah.

"He asked Condoleezza Rice to immediately intervene to stop the catastrophe in Rafah," Minister for Negotiations Saeb Erekat told Reuters by telephone from Berlin.

Erekat said that Rice had reassured Qureia that the United States is committed to the establishment of a Palestinian state, alongside Israel.

Rice said Sunday that the United States was ready to be a partner in helping Palestinians build their own state.

"The institutions of statehood need to get started now," Rice said.

The national security adviser said she would tell Qureia that the U.S. offer of partnership depends on the Palestinians' building "accountable political and economic institutions, including security services controlled by an empowered prime minister who can use them to fight terrorism.

"We are ready to be full partners with the Palestinians in doing that," she said. "We need movement from the Palestinians on those elements of the road map."

American and Israeli sources said that they did not expect the meeting to result in any dramatic decisions. The U.S. administration is still very angry at the PA for failing to apprehend the murderers of three American security personnel in Gaza seven months ago, the sources noted.

Thousands march to protest rise in anti-Semitic acts in France

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

PARIS — At least 9,000 people marched in eastern Paris on Sunday to denounce a recent increase in anti-Semitic acts in France.

An array of lawmakers and celebrities took part in the march, triggered mainly by recent cases of vandals spray-painting swastikas and other anti-Semitic graffiti on Jewish sites in eastern France.

"What is awakening in France these days is a poison – it's anti-Semitism," Paris mayor Bertrand Delanoe told reporters at the front of the march organized by human rights groups and political parties.

Organization of the protest was marked with controversy, however. Two anti-racism groups – MRAP and the Human Rights League – initially had sought to broaden the protest to denounce all forms of racism, but SOS Racisme and several Jewish groups opposed that idea.

A street-wide banner at the head of the demonstration read: "A black, white, and Arab France against anti-Semitism."

Organizers urged marchers to avoid waving Israeli flags – only French flags were authorized. The few people who did bring out Israeli flags were delicately asked to leave the parade or tuck them away.

Meanwhile, War Veterans Minister Hamlaoui Mekachera joined Jewish, Muslim and Christian religious leaders at a ceremony in eastern France to condemn vandalism at a monument honouring Jewish soldiers who died in the Battle of Verdun in World War I.

Overnight on May 7, vandals painted swastikas and other neo-Nazi graffiti across the monument, the centrepiece of the Jewish section of a national cemetery honoring the war dead.

"By insulting the remembrance of our soldiers of Jewish faith who gave their lives for our land, they offended the entire nation," President Jacques Chirac wrote in comments read by Mekachera.

One of the other most significant in a string of recent anti-Semitic incidents occurred last month when unknown vandals used red paint to draw swastikas and other anti-Semitic graffiti on more than 120 headstones at a Jewish cemetery in the town of Herrlisheim.

In the last several years, France has suffered a wave of violence against Jewish schools, synagogues and cemeteries that coincided with new fighting in the Middle East. Many of the attacks have been blamed on young Muslims.

The interior ministry has reported 67 anti-Semitic acts in the first quarter of the year in France, a 60 per cent increase from the same time a year earlier. Most have prompted swift condemnation by top government officials.

"The silence must disappear and give way to truth," French filmmaker Elie Chouraqui told marchers, estimated at 9,000 by police and 20,000 by organizers. "France is not an anti-Semitic country. There are anti-Semitic acts that we must react against."

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ISRAELIS RALLY FOR GAZA PULLOUT:
Some 120,000 Israelis called for Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip at a Tel Aviv rally last Saturday night in Rabin Square. Labor party leader Shimon Peres told the crowd that 80 per cent of Israelis want peace, and former Shin Bet security chief Ami Ayalon said withdrawal from Gaza and the West Bank is needed to preserve Zionism, but added that Israel's left wing must show more sensitivity to the feelings of Jewish settlers who would be evacuated. A source in the Prime Minister's Office said Prime Minister Ariel Sharon considered the rally an important gauge of public opinion that could help his efforts to revive his disengagement plan.

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When military necessity outflanks individual rights

By ZE'EV SEGAL
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

Analysis

The High Court of Justice ruling last week on a petition against the demolition of houses near the Philadelphi route in Gaza is based on a general legal principle: house demolitions by the Israel Defence Forces are legitimate only "for an immediate and definitive military need" connected to protecting the lives of soldiers in the field.

The justices rejected the petition in light of the state's announcement that the military operation in question had been halted. But an earlier decision in this case – the temporary injunction issued Saturday night that forbade the IDF from carrying out the planned demolitions – reveals a principled approach that is relevant to other cases liable to arise in the future. This approach holds that someone can be deprived of his right to appeal a planned demolition if the demolition is carried out in the context of actual fighting, or when it derives from "an immediate and definitive military need to prevent a genuine risk to IDF soldiers operating in the region."

This ruling is in accord with the principles laid down in other High Court rulings in 1989 and 1990. In 1989, then-court president Meir Shamgar wrote that a resident must be allowed to appeal the planned demolition of his house before it is carried out, because this is a "fundamental legal right." Nevertheless, he added, there could be military circumstances that would require the demolition to be performed on the spot, such as if "a military operation cannot be delayed," and this would supersede the right of appeal.

The second ruling, written by then-deputy president Menachem Elon in 1990, dealt with a case in which houses in a Gaza refugee camp were demolished without the residents being given a prior right of appeal. The state argued that military necessity required the demolition to be carried out without delay. Elon accepted this argument, given that a soldier had died due to "the narrow, winding conditions of the place, which did not enable the slain [soldier's] life to be protected."

In such circumstances, he said, delaying the demolition would create "a real danger to human life and a genuine fear that execution of the necessary [military] operations would be foiled."

However, Elon continued, even if military necessity justifies an immediate demolition, the army must "take care to minimize the extent of the damage as much as possible… and allow [residents] to voice their objections to authorized parties on the spot."

The court's approach also applies to house demolitions for purposes of deterrence.

The court's rulings must be read in light of the principle of proportionality, a constitutional principle that obligates all government agencies under the 1992 Basic Law on Human Dignity and Liberty. That law states that the IDF or any other agency may violate individual rights only for a "proper purpose" and "to an extent no greater than is required."

And the court upholds this principle even when it exercises judicial restraint and declines to investigate the actual military necessity of the operation in question.

Battles rage in Gaza

More than 30 Palestinians and 13 Israeli soldiers were killed in Gaza last week. Israeli soldiers killed at least 12 Palestinians in Rafah on Thursday.

Heavy fighting was reported Friday between IDF troops on the Philadelphi Route in the southern Gaza Strip and Palestinian gunmen in the adjacent Rafah refugee camp. Earlier, IDF armoured bulldozers began demolishing buildings in the Rafah refugee camp, adjacent to the Philadelphi Route where five soldiers were killed.

Thirteen soldiers killed

The 13 soldiers killed in Gaza were: Yaakov Marvizi of Kibbutz Geva; Adaron Amar of Eilat; Eitan Neuman of Jerusalem; Aviad Deri of Moshav Matta; Kobi Mizrahi of Jerusalem; Ofer Jerbi of Moshav Ben Zakai; Avi Hakani of Ashdod; Lior Vishinski of Ramat Gan; Za'ur Smeilev of Ofakim; Aiman Gadir of Bir Makhsur; Elad Cohen of Jerusalem; Rotem Adam of Rishon Letzion and Alexei Chait of Be'er Sheva.

Sharon thanks Mubarak

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon telephoned Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak last week to thank him for Egypt's help in arranging the return of the remains of six Israeli soldiers held by Palestinian terrorist organizations. He also thanked Mubarak for allowing Israeli army rabbis to search Egyptian territory near Rafah for the remains of five other soldiers killed a day later. In particular, he asked Mubarak to pass on thanks to Omar Suleiman, the head of Egyptian intelligence who did most of the actual mediation to retrieve the body parts from the Palestinians.

UNRWA reacts

The UN Relief and Works Agency, known as UNRWA, urged Palestinian gunmen not to threaten the lives of UNRWA ambulance teams in Gaza after armed Palestinians forced a team to transport three gunmen fighting Israeli forces to a hospital in the city. "UNRWA condemns this action," a statement by the group said. "While its ambulances do not make any distinction between the injured," it said, "at no time and under no circumstances should armed men enter any UNRWA vehicle." Israel, which has been criticized for stopping and searching ambulances, has long charged that Palestinians have been using ambulances to transport terrorists, bombs and weapons.

Grossmann, Elon win prizes

Israeli writers David Grossmann and Amos Elon have won prestigious British literary prizes. Grossmann won the 2004 Jewish Quarterly Wingate award for fiction for his novel *Someone to Run With*. Elon won the non-fiction award for *The Pity of it All: A Portrait of Jews in Germany, 1743-1933*.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

Was Berg targeted as a Jew?

By JOE BERKOFSKY
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

NEW YORK — The world may never know for sure if Nicholas Berg's religion played a role in his grisly execution at the hand of terrorists in Iraq.

But many, including his family, are speculating it was a factor in the terrorists' decision to kill the American Jewish civilian who had gone to the wartorn country in search of business.

A video that surfaced on the Internet last Tuesday showed the decapitation by masked Iraqis of Berg, 26, of West Chester, Pa.

The scene echoed the 2002 murder in Pakistan of *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl, who was forced to admit his Jewishness on tape just before his captors cut off his head.

The killing raises questions about whether a Jewish person – civilian or military – is in any graver danger than anyone else in such a volatile region.

Shoshana Bryen, director of special projects for the Washington-based Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs, said it figures Jews would be targeted in Iraq.

"There are people in these countries who are looking to kill people who are members of certain groups," Bryen said. "The two at the top of the list are Americans and Jews."

Though Berg's religion wasn't mentioned on the video, posted on a website linked to Al Qaeda, Berg cites his family members, similar to the way Pearl did.

Berg is seen saying, "My name is Nick Berg, my father's name is Michael, my mother's name is Susan… I have a brother and sister, David and Sarah."

His father, Michael, who was inundated by reporters Tuesday as his family was still grieving, said his son's religion may have made him a target.

"There's a better chance than not that they knew he was Jewish," his father was quoted saying. "If there was any doubt that they were going to kill him, that probably clinched it, I'm guessing."

His father also told reporters that his son routinely wore a tallit, although he didn't wear it in public.

Joseph Kashnow, an army cavalry scout from Baltimore who has returned from Baghdad, felt strains of anti-Semitism before coming home after a severe injury.

Kashnow, an Orthodox Jew who wore a kippah but usually hid it under his helmet, said that while most of the time his religion wasn't an issue, he did encounter problems.

"It's certainly possible there are people" in Iraq "who would feel it was a 'two-mints-in-one' to get an American and a Jew," Kashnow told JTA.

But not everyone agrees.

Rabbi Mitchell Ackerson, an Orthodox rabbi and senior Jewish chaplain for Operation Iraqi Freedom, just returned to his native Maryland from Iraq after nearly one year there. Despite the killing of a Jewish civilian, he said he believed American soldiers remained the prime target for Iraqis insurgents.

While in Iraq, Rabbi Ackerson never told Jewish soldiers to hide their identities, but neither did he counsel them to "flaunt" their Judaism.

"I'm not sure what happened with Berg, but my gut inclination is he was not killed because he was Jewish. Instead, it was, 'We captured an American, we're going to prove we're the tough guys and we're going to kill him.'"

Rabbi Ackerson said if Berg's murder was religiously motivated, his captors or the Al Qaeda-linked group that claimed responsibility "would've highlighted it," just as they did with Pearl.

Kashnow's right leg was nearly blown off by a homemade land mine last September. He has spent months undergoing operations and therapy, yet he says he's as sure as ever the war is just.

He says Berg's murder should only deepen American and Jewish faith in the war on terrorism. "Berg was fighting to rebuild the country and make it safe for freedom. It's still a tragedy."

Kashnow is not alone.

"Should people think twice or should we continue this?" said Judy Ledger, whose son and daughter and their spouses all served with the U.S. army in Iraq. "You do have to realize there's a danger, but the danger is no more if you're in the military than if there is a hate crime" in the United States.

But Ledger told JTA in an earlier interview that as a mother, her children's Jewishness was always in her mind.

Ledger recalled how when her son, Matt, first went to Iraq before the conflict began, she urged him to remove the word "Jewish" from his military dog tags. But he refused, saying, "I don't want a priest praying over me if I get killed."

Some Jewish officials echoed Kashnow's view that Berg's murder, combined with last Tuesday's videotaped killing of six Israeli soldiers by Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, should deepen the commitment of Jews and other Americans to the war on terrorism.

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Southern Sudan doctor joins local doctor in fight to save Sudan

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Dr. Achol Dor wonders at the hypocrisy of a world outraged over human rights abuses in Arab countries but silent over the murder, rape and abduction into slavery of millions of South Sudanese Africans.

Three years ago, in her efforts to raise awareness about the region, she joined B'nai Brith's Black Jewish Dialogue group, where she met Dr. Norman Epstein, who was also enraged by the world's silence over the plight of the South Sudanese.

Their discussions led to the creation of a new grassroots group, Canadians Against Slavery and Torture in Sudan (www.geocities.com/castsudan).

Today, Dor says, Israelis and the southern Sudanese are the only ones who understand the real dangers of Arab nationalism.

Dor, 42, moved to Canada in 1995. She spent her early years growing up in Bor, a small village on the banks of the White Nile in southern Sudan, which was wracked by a revolt against the Muslim north in its early years of independence.

As a child, Dor recalls seeing people burning to death inside their homes, afraid to venture outside where soldiers waited to kill them with their guns. The Sudanese army paid regular visits to her family. At six years old, she watched the soldiers rape her older sister and kill her father, who was the chief of her village.

"They tortured him before stabbing him to death," Dor said. "We weren't allowed to bury my father and he lay outside. We had to watch his body being eaten by birds.

"My father could have escaped because he knew the army was coming. But he was afraid the soldiers would burn our village if he ran away," said Dor, who is Dinka, a southern Sudanese tribe regularly victimized by government soldiers and the Arab Janjaweed militia from the north.

South Sudanese villagers, who are mainly Christian animists, have been accused of hiding members of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), a rebel militia fighting for greater independence from the Arabic speaking Islamic government in Khartoum. Conflict has existed between the two groups since Sudan's independence in 1956, despite an agreement they signed in 1972.

Dr. Achol Dor

"My father didn't know the army would come back later and burn the village anyway," Dor said dryly.

Before he died, Dor's father made her mother promise to send Achol to school.

"My mother did everything she could to help me pursue an education," said Dor, who was encouraged to finish high school and go to medical school at the University of Cairo in Egypt.

From there she got a job at the Khartoum University Hospital, where she was ostracized for being a black African from the south and for helping south Sudanese refugees. After being warned of her imminent arrest, she fled to Owar, a refugee camp at the Sudanese-Kenyan border before making her way to Greece and then Canada.

During those years, Dor volunteered as a doctor to help Sudanese victims of hostilities that broke out again in 1983, leaving an estimated two million people dead and five million homeless.

Upon her arrival in Canada, she began speaking out in order to overcome the international community's ignorance and indifference to the plight of her people.

"This is a war based on ethnicity, not religion," Dor said. "Otherwise, the Arab government would accept the African Muslims that live in Darfur, but they are also being victimized."

Dor is convinced western politicians are silent over the atrocities committed in southern Sudan because the Arab world has oil and money.

"And the other Arab countries rally around northern Sudan because they protect themselves," she said.

Today, Epstein said, Canadians Against Slavery and Torture in Sudan is pursuing a three-pronged approach to increase public knowledge of the struggles of the south Sudanese community. It advocates on behalf of slaves in Sudan as well as raises awareness of the civil war. The group also gives lectures at schools and writes members of parliament.

Norman Epstein

However, despite the fact that current peace talks in Khartoum indicate that the Sudanese government is open to to international pressure, Epstein believes his efforts to convince the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the urgency of the situation have been dismissed.

Epstein, who is an emergency medical doctor, believes more needs to be done to force the Sudanese government to allow humanitarian aid into the country.

Reports from Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch indicate that abuses continue around Darfur. Accounts filed by these organizations and UN foot soldiers are being suppressed by the United Nations Human Rights Commission, where Sudan is a member, Epstein said.

Over the past few years, Epstein warned that the rising level of human rights abuses, the growth of the slave trade and the number of refugees languishing in camps, would result in a devastating humanitarian crisis.

"In the meantime, peace talks in the south are silencing the world while the war continues to kill and enslave people on the other front."

"If we don't act now, in 10 years we will regret the opportunity that we had to intervene," Epstein said.

Toronto teen places second in International Bible Competition

By JENNY HAZAN
CJN Israel Bureau

JERUSALEM — Yoni Halpern, 17, was among four Canadian teens to participate in this year's International Bible Competition (Chidon Ha'Tanach Ha'Olami) on Israel's Independence Day at the Jerusalem Theatre.

The other Canadian teens were Daniel Gutenberg from Toronto, Sigal Samuel from Montreal and Paeir Barzilai from Vancouver.

Halpern, a former student at Toronto's Bnei Akiva school Yeshivat Or Chaim, has been a student at Yeshivat Chorev in Jerusalem since September.

He placed second among 55 students aged 14 to 18 from 27 different countries around the world who participated in the final round of the quiz.

The quiz was overseen by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, Minister of Education Limor Livnat and Jewish Agency chair Sallai Meridor, and was televised live on Israeli Channel 1.

"It was quite an incredible experience," says Halpern, whose family moved to the Bacca neighbourhood in Jerusalem last year to enable his parents, both doctors, to volunteer at hospitals in Jerusalem.

"I was proud to represent Canada," says Halpern, although he said he felt slightly torn between representing his Canadian alma mater and his Israeli school, where the international champion, 16-year-old David Tsuru, is a student.

"It was strange for me because I have spent the last year living in Israel," says Halpern. "Half the time I felt like I was representing Canada and half the time I felt like I was representing Israel."

"I am going back to Canada in June and I'm not so happy about it," he says, adding that he intends to make aliyah once he has finished his studies in Canada.

"I feel like less of a minority in Israel," he says. "This is my homeland and I feel that Israel is where I belong."

Amos Hermon, chair of the Jewish Agency's education department, says the primary purpose of holding the two-week Bible camp preceding the competition is to promote Zionist values.

"It is an amazing meeting between Jewish youth from around the world," he says.

For Halpern, this was the most rewarding part of the whole experience. "Meeting Jews from around the world was both the most challenging and most worthwhile aspect of the event. I met friends that I will definitely keep," he says.

"Although we each came from a different area of the world, we all had something in common and that made me realize that I am truly part of a Jewish nation."

The competition's other primary objective is to interest Jewish students around the world in the study of the Bible.

"For us, the competition is the best tool to increase the love of the Bible among Jewish students around the world," says Hermon.

He says that through the Jewish Agency's 500 permanent and 2,500 short-term shlichim who are sent around the world to organize the event's regional and national level competitions, the Jewish Agency succeeds in bringing a total of 9,000 to 10,000 Jewish students to try out for the big event, which includes questions on all 24 books.

Each year, the top scorers from Montreal, Vancouver and Toronto, plus the national second-placer get to participate in the international level contest.

"It has become really popular in Canada," says Halpern, who says at least 10 to 15 students from Yeshivat Or Chaim and sister school Ulpanat Orot try to qualify.

"I think I have encouraged a lot more of my friends in Toronto to enter next year," says Halpern, who has placed seventh in the nationals since Grade 6.

"It used to be impossible for someone from outside of Israel to get as far as I did," he says.

In the last few years, the Jewish Agency has tried to expand the competition's mandate to include non-religious schoolchildren.

"We are doing our best to encourage community and Reform schools to participate" says Hermon, who intends to provide secular school principals with the materials and assistance necessary to prepare their students for next year's competition.

"Our most important objective is to encourage studies among non-religious schools, too.

"There is not enough emphasis put on the Bible in a lot of Jewish circles, and as a result, there are a large number of Jews who don't know our history. But the history of our people is something I think every Jew should know."

Finance for Thought

Two Powerful Strategies for Seniors (part 1)

S. Jonathan Kirshblum,
B.A., CFP, FMA, FCSI
Financial Planner
Investment & Insurance
Advisor

What is the likelihood of finding a guaranteed investment that could potentially pay the equivalent of 10% income yearly? What about the likelihood of finding a way to participate in all of the potential upside of the stock market while still enjoying a principle guarantee? For many seniors, there are two strategies that can achieve these goals. One strategy focuses on providing investors high levels of guaranteed income, while the second is tailored for individuals interested in growth potential. Part one of this column reviews the income strategy.

Strategy 1 - "The Insured Annuity"

The insured annuity is a strategy that involves two insurance products: a prescribed life annuity and permanent life insurance. Both products are purchased in equal amounts and using non-registered monies (i.e. money held outside of an RRSP or RRIF). For some people, the result of such a coordinated effort may be a healthy stream of lifetime income as well as capital preservation for the benefit of loved ones.

Permanent life insurance provides coverage for a person's entire life; it never expires nor does it ever require renewal. Individuals pay premiums for a policy, and the amount for which one is insured, known as the death benefit, is paid to named beneficiaries when the insured dies. Premiums for life insurance are determined by a combination of factors including a person's age, gender, smoking habits and health, as determined by a required medical examination.

With a life annuity an individual provides a lump sum of money up front to an insurance company, and in return, receives a lifetime of guaranteed income. A "prescribed" annuity is a type of life annuity that receives favourable tax treatment, a valuable benefit to people in a higher tax bracket.

How does it Work?

The insured annuity concept combines the benefits of permanent life insurance with those of a prescribed life annuity. During an individual's lifetime, he or she receives a guaranteed income from the annuity. A portion of the annuity income is used to pay the insurance premiums and income tax, and, when the individual dies, the death benefit is paid out to named heirs.

For example, let's consider the case of Mr. Jones. He is 75 years old, in reasonably good health and in the top marginal tax bracket. He has $500,000 to invest and would like to maximize his income without risking any of his capital. Seeking higher returns than the 3 or 4% currently offered by GICs, Mr. Jones finds the ideal solution in an insured annuity.

Mr. Jones purchases a permanent life insurance policy for $500,000, which costs $26,000 per year in premiums. He then buys a $500,000 prescribed life annuity using non-registered funds; in return, he is guaranteed a lifetime income of $61,000 per year. The tax owing on this income is $8,000 per year, given the favourable tax treatment prescribed annuities offer. He pays the insurance premiums and taxes from the annuity income and nets $27,000 per year for the rest of his life. This is a substantial increase in yearly after-tax income compared to the 4% GIC alternative; in fact, he would need to find a GIC paying 10% in order to generate a similar return. Upon Mr. Jones' passing, $500,000 is paid to his named beneficiaries tax-free and likely avoiding probate.

Who can Benefit?

There are three considerations when determining the income potential of this strategy: the cost of insurance, the amount of income offered by the annuity and an individual's marginal tax rate. With these issues in mind, the insured annuity strategy may provide the best financial value to people above age 70, who are in good health and are in the highest tax bracket.

As set out above, the insured annuity can be a powerful income strategy with added estate benefits. It is available to individuals, or couples on a joint-last-to-die basis. In some situations, corporate monies can be used to fund the arrangement. An investor who wishes to generate lifetime income while preserving an estate for beneficiaries should consult an insurance-licensed advisor on whether insured annuities should be included in their overall financial plan.

"Finance for Thought" is a 4-column educational series sponsored by BMO Nesbitt Burns. Mr. Kirshblum's final column, part 2 of "Two Powerful Strategies for Seniors," will appear in the CJN on June 24, 2004.

Previous columns in this series and other articles written by Jonathan Kirshblum can be viewed at BMO Nesbitt Burns' website: www.jkirshblum.com.

Organizations interested in inviting Mr. Kirshblum as a guest speaker should contact his office at (416) 359-8151.

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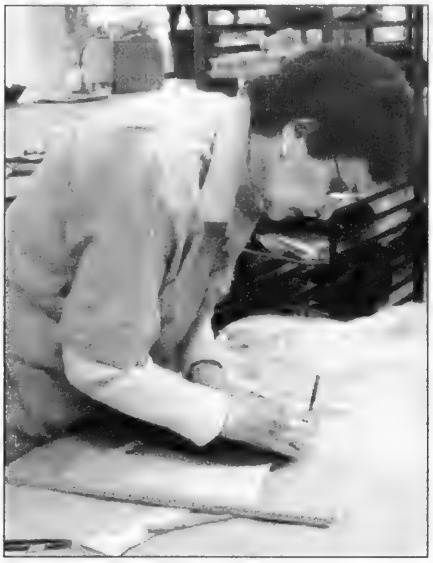

IN CLASS: Beverly Goldberg prepares ...

... Beverley Zarnett designs ...

... Elly Friedman adds the finishing touches

Pottery power

Seniors mold talents at the Betel Centre

What's the difference between pottery and ceramics? After two years of pottery classes at the Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, Judy Schneiderman says there's a world of difference.

In ceramics you decorate finished "greenware" pieces, Judy says, but pottery is a do-it-yourself art, starting with blank clay and ending with a rainbow of creative and functional vases, bowls, candle holders and other pieces.

"It's really enticing," she says of her class, leaning over a handmade vase she is decorating in a butterfly motif. "You don't realize it, but you really make a lot of progress."

Ruth Sonenberg took a ceramics class in Florida years ago, but wasn't interested. Then, with the help of patient instructors in Florida and at the Betel Centre, she discovered pottery and clay sculpture.

"When I started, instead of Ruth, I signed Rivka, because I wasn't proud of what was coming out," she says. Now, 14 years later, Ruth's free-flowing, earthy, multi-hued sculptures appear prominently in a display case at the front entrance of the Betel Centre. She also donates pieces for fundraising raffles.

"It makes me feel good that it's benefiting the Centre ... it has been a godsend ...within walking distance, and lets me mingle with people I like."

Elly Friedman also loves the ambience of pottery classes at the Betel Centre. "We're like one big happy family," she says; there is always an instructor present and experienced students help those who are newer to the class.

She was hooked two years ago after seeing a few classes, and has now made two Seder plates and a menorah, and is working on an elegant three-piece strawberry bowl set in summery tones. "I look forward to it every week," she says. "I can't wait to get here."

Jennie Berke is an experienced hand, with 20 years of pottery under her belt, eight of them at Betel Centre. Though Jennie has created many whimsical and artistic pieces, her pottery lately has tended toward the practical. Today she is rolling the rough rectangles and strips of clay that will become a set of sink organizers for a daughter-in-law.

Jennie originally joined the Betel Centre following eye surgery and was looking for classes closer to home so she wouldn't have to drive. And pottery was just the beginning. One thing that surprised Jennie was Tuesday-afternoon Line Dancing classes, which are free to Betel Centre members.

"I didn't go for a long time. I thought, 'yuck.' " She's still amazed by how much she enjoys it. "It's the best form of exercise," she says. Between art, exercise and computer classes, Jennie says she's at the Centre every day. But pottery is still her highlight.

Beverly Goldberg, a five-year pottery student, enjoys the meditative aspects of working with clay. "It's like therapy," she says. "Whatever I have on my mind, I forget for the time I'm in here."

That's what Ruth Sonenberg has also observed in her years at the Betel Centre.

"I've seen people who are sick, and the time they spend (in pottery) just forgetting about themselves is so important," she says. Though her own hands are painfully arthritic, she believes in "working with the clay ... you don't give in to the pain, you let the pain work for you."

Whether creating functional pieces or free-flowing sculpture, there's something powerful about pottery. "Once you get the bug you can't stop," Ruth says. "The moment our hands touch that clay, something happens ... I never know what I'm going to make until my hands hit the clay."

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A fireplace in the lobby is your first indication that the residences here are beyond the ordinary. Featuring 9' high ceilings, coffered foyers with cornice mouldings and oversize layouts, the suites at One Glen Park are simply extraordinary. As well, you'll enjoy an abundance of marble, limestone and hardwood flooring and other top-of-the-line features and finishes.

If the suites at One Glen Park are spectacular, then the penthouses are beyond description. Created by Gluckstein Design, they are quintessential city mansions-in-the-sky, featuring 10' ceilings, sumptuous Bellini kitchens and a plethora of delicious "extras" that only a designer of Mr. Gluckstein's stature and sensitivity could bring to life.

All residences at One Glen Park have generous balconies that make life outdoors enjoyable the minute spring arrives. As well, One Glen Park has a long list of amenities, including a health facility, wave pool, fitness area, sauna and reception/entertaining room. There are two elevators, one of which is designed as a Sabbath elevator.

Often a grand porte cochere entrance, such as the one at One Glen Park, is the high point of a building's design; here it is just the beginning of a wonderful luxurious lifestyle.

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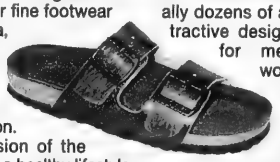
Enter **Naots**. In a healthy body, every part counts — none more so than your feet, which bear the weight of your entire body as you move through the day. Happy, comfortable feet are one of the keys to overall well-being. This is particularly true in the camp environment, with its exposure to varying terrain. If their footwear isn't up to the task, they can't very well run out to a shoe store to rectify the problem.

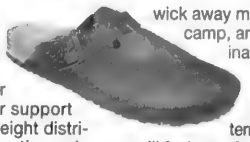
Since 1990 **Solemates** has graced Canadian feet of all ages with exquisitely fashionable, ruggedly-constructed, hand-sewn NAOT sandals, shoes and boots — all made with pride on Kibbutz Naot Mordechai in Israel. At Solemates' flagship **Prairie Dog** store on Eglinton Avenue West and at other fine footwear retailers across Canada, the Naot line has soared in popularity to the point where it is now synonymous with foot comfort and fashion.



As a natural extension of the ever-growing interest in a healthy lifestyle "from the ground up", the newly expanded Prairie Dog now houses **FitSpirit**, a fitness centre equipped with free weights and exercise machines. Personal training is offered in a variety of exercise techniques, including osteoporosis prevention and therapy through general body and back strengthening. The centre is run by Corinne's daughter Natasha, a kinesiologist.

Quality and styling. Naots are rugged and long-wearing, with multi-layered cork and latex insoles and durable Eva rubber soles. The selection of styles, colours and patterns has grown each year, and now includes literally dozens of attractive designs for men, women and children. Fashion mavenism has become increasingly prevalent among the young set, and the *Flexy* line of sandals, shoes and clogs will address all of your children's gourmet fashion tastes.

A perfect match of form and function, Naot footwear is designed on the principle of a "footprint in the sand". For proper support and weight distribution, the sole molds itself to your foot in much the same way sand does when you stand barefoot on a warm summer beach.



Naots' removable cork footbed allows you to insert orthotics, but for many people, the footbed itself is adequate support. Moreover, you can replace the footbed without replacing the shoe, further extending the life of what is already an enduring product.

Leaving no element of foot comfort overlooked, Naot has a brand new offering that's both funky and functional: socks with dedicated left and right feet! Reinforced heels and soles give metatarsal and arch support, and foot-friendly fibres wick away moisture. Just perfect for camp, and an easy way to eliminate sock woes once and for all. Naot shoes and sandals are pure heaven for walking on any terrain; on the beach or off, you'll feel your footprint in the sand.

Solemates and Naot have grown by creating products that earn long-term customer loyalty, of a kind that goes far beyond traditional brand loyalty. MADE IN ISRAEL, always symbolic of quality and cleverness, now means hip as well, and resonates with people everywhere who revere and respect the "little country that could."

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Weizmann and Sick Kids studying genetic disease

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

New research being carried out at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot and at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children aims to understand and prevent genetic diseases and the suffering they cause.

At a recent program held at the Ontario Science Centre, researchers and doctors from Weizmann and the Hospital for Sick Children came together to discuss some of this new research. The evening was sponsored by The Canadian Society for the Weizmann Institute of Science, in conjunction with the Robinson Family Institute of Jewish Learning, the Hospital for Sick Children and the National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, as well as by a donation from the estate of the late Louis Ugar.

Taking part in the program were Anthony Futerman of Weizmann's department of biological chemistry; Joe Clarke, the director of the genetic metabolic diseases program at the Hospital for Sick Children; Annette Feigenbaum, a researcher in the division of clinical and metabolic genetics at the Hospital for Sick Children; and Don Mahuran, senior scientist at the Hospital for Sick Children's research institute.

Moderator was Rabbi Mendel Kaplan, spiritual leader of Chabad@Flamingo.

Futerman said one of the main problems with the current research being carried out by Weizmann and Sick Kids is that while we may know what happens when a gene malfunctions, we don't know how it occurs.

Some therapeutic options being studied, he said, include replacing affected genes and defective enzymes.

Mahuran said Weizmann and Sick Kids are studying chemical chaperone therapy, drug therapy that blocks or changes how biochemical processes work.

They are also researching the adult version of Tay-Sachs disease, which is very rare. While the therapy appears promising, Mahuran said, it is necessary to determine what the most effective dose is, as well as the lifelong effects of a particular drug. If the researchers find that chemical chaperone therapy works for adult onset Tay-Sachs, they believe it may work with other similar disorders.

While most genetic diseases can strike any ethnic group, diseases such as Tay-Sachs, Gaucher and Niemann-Pick Type A tend to appear in Jews, especially among Ashkenazim.

All of these diseases leave the body unable to metabolize certain enzymes. Niemann-Pick is a severe neurological disease in which there is progressive loss of early motor skills, mental retardation and abdominal enlargement. Death usually occurs by three years of age. With Tay-Sachs, there is also loss of motor skills. The child becomes blind, paralyzed and is unaware of his or her surroundings. Death occurs by age five.

Gaucher disease can begin at any age and is characterized by anemia, easy bruising, bone pain, bleeding and fractures.

These illnesses are caused by recessive genes, meaning that both parents must carry them. One in four of their children will have the disease, and two will be carriers. If only one parent has the gene, each child has a 50-50 chance of being a carrier.

Feigenbaum said there are screening programs for some of these conditions, as well as for others such as familial dysautonomia, cystic fibrosis and Canavan disease. Screening for Tay-Sachs has been available in Ontario for more than 25 years, and as a result, she said, the incidence of Tay-Sachs in the Ashkenazi Jewish population has been reduced by 90 per cent.

Testing is not available for Gaucher disease in Toronto, she said, because the majority of adults who have it show no symptoms, and the infantile form is very rare.

Feigenbaum said in order for a mass screening program to be established, there must be a high frequency of carriers in a particular population, the effects of the disease must be clinically significant and predictable, and the test must be available, reasonably priced and simple to give.

Screening is used not only to prevent the disease from occurring, she said. It can reassure couples who fear giving birth to an affected child. It also allows for family planning as well as early treatment if it is available, and it helps the research process.

If there is a family history of the disease, OHIP will pay for the tests, Feigenbaum said. They are also available at American labs, but "without proper genetic counselling, the couple won't know what to do with the results."

Dental fraternity honours director of CDA Pulver

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Dr. Wayne Pulver, the director of the Canadian Dental Association, was recently presented with the highest award of the Alpha Omega Toronto Alumni Chapter in recognition of his years of service to the chapter, to the dentistry profession and to the Jewish community.

Dr. Wayne Pulver

Pulver is the ninth recipient of the dental fraternal organization's Achievement Award. In his acceptance speech, he talked of his work in dentistry, saying, "Interestingly enough, it never seemed to be a hardship – rather a labour of love."

A 1973 graduate of the University of Toronto's Faculty of Dentistry, Pulver, 55, maintains a private endodontic practice. He is the head of the endodontic section of Mount Sinai Hospital.

He is the holder of numerous fellowships, and has served in many posts, including as president of Alpha Omega Undergraduate PI Chapter, as president of the Toronto Alumni Chapter of Alpha Omega, the Canadian Academy of Endodontics and the Ontario Dental Association, as governor of the Canadian Dental Association and as regent of Alpha Omega International.

In 2003, he received a service award from the Ontario Dental Association. He has also received honours from the American Association of Endodontists, Omicrom Kappa Upsilon and U of T's Faculty of Dentistry, which cited him as an alumnus of distinction in 2001.

Pulver is also active in a number of Jewish charitable organizations including the Jewish National Fund and the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

He and his wife Marlene are members of Holy Blossom Temple. They have three children: Elise, a lawyer at Goodman and Carr; Shawn, who just graduated in law at the University of Western Ontario; and Steven, who just completed his first year at Western.

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Arts & Travel

Israeli documentary filmmaker tackles topical and historical themes

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Although Benny Brunner has lived in Amsterdam, Holland, as "a Diaspora Israeli" for the past 18 years, Israel's political scene still engages and inspires him as a filmmaker.

Three of Brunner's documentaries – *The Children of Abraham & Sophie*, *The Wall* and *It is No Dream* – were screened at the recent Toronto Jewish Film Festival.

Broadcast by television stations in Israel and throughout Europe, they are both topical and historical.

The Children of Abraham & Sophie, an intriguing film about the power of memory, is about an unusual Israeli family, the Brauns. Its deceased patriarch, Abraham-Braun, immigrated to Palestine from Germany in 1924 with his wife, Sophie Schopf, a Catholic convert to Judaism.

The Brauns had three sons and the youngest, Mordechai Bar-On, was Moshe Dayan's chief of staff in the 1950s and, subsequently, the Israeli army's chief education officer.

Bar-On's daughter married an Israeli Arab, Daher Zedeini, whose ancestors were high Ottoman officials in the Galilee. Zedeini's anti-Zionist beliefs clash with those of Bar-On's, but the pair, nevertheless, are on civil terms. Zedeini's children are torn between their Jewish and Arab identities.

In *The Wall*, Brunner explores the controversial security fence Israel is currently building through the West Bank and around Jerusalem.

Israel's biggest civil engineering project in its history, the barrier is an affront to Palestinians and some Israelis, but a necessity to the Israeli official in charge of its construction.

It Is No Dream, whose title is an ironic play on words by Zionist ideologue Theodor Herzl, is a critical examination of Israel's 37-year occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Through the eyes of left-wing Israeli writers, human rights workers, artists and intellectuals, Israel's policies in the territories come under sharp scrutinty.

Brunner, 49, was born in Romania. He was brought to Israel at the age of five and raised in Be'er Sheva. He served in the army for three years, participating in the 1973 Yom Kippur War. Then he studied film and television at Tel Aviv University.

Benny Brunner

He left Israel in 1986 to "kick-start" his career and take a break from the intensity of Israeli politics. He intended to return after a year, but stayed after he fell in love with a woman and his career took off.

He made *The Children of Abraham & Sophie* after meeting Bar-On, who had appeared in one of his earlier films, *Al Nakba: The Palestinian Catastrophe 1948*, a documentary about the Palestinian refugee problem.

"I was mesmerized by Bar-On's story," Brunner explained.

He spent three weeks filming *The Wall*, which documents the detrimental impact of the fence on ordinary Palestinians. "It's not a temporary measure," he claimed. "It's a political border, and there to stay."

Brunner plans to make a sequel that will focus on the lives of half a dozen Palestinians in eastern Jerusalem affected by the route of the fence.

To him, the barrier is a metaphor for Israel's "walled mentality" since the 1967 Six Day War.

It Is No Dream was "born out of necessity." He regards it as "a protest" against Israeli settlements in the territories and Israel's occupation apparatus – the check points, the curfews and so on.

"Israel has a master-slave relationship with the Palestinians," he said.

Brunner, who has no faith whatsoever in Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's policies, fears the occupation is destroying Israel's moral fibre.

On the other hand, he is not sure whether Yasser Arafat, the president of the Palestinian Authority, is a sincere interlocutor and can be trusted.

Brunner, who began moving to the left when he was a soldier, is pessimistic about the prospects for peace.

"There is nothing on the horizon to support optimism that an Arab-Israeli accommodation is possible," said Brunner, who backs Yossi Beilin's two-state Geneva Accord and Ami Ayalon's and Sari Nusseibeh's The People's Voice initiative.

"I can't see a political solution. International intervention is the only hope."

Currently, Brunner is working on a ground-breaking documentary dealing with Arab attitudes toward the Holocaust.

The Arabs generally perceive the Holocaust as a fairy tale and as a tool Israel uses against them in their mutual propaganda war, said Brunner, who plans to interview Arab decision-makers in Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon.

He is saddened by the fact that fervent anti-Semitism is sweeping through the Arab world. But he thinks this anti-Semitic wave is mainly the noxious fallout of the Arab-Israeli dispute.

"Take the conflict away and these attitudes will largely disappear."

Brunner, who nine years ago made a two-part movie about Israelis and the Holocaust, is planning to direct his first feature film.

An "existential thriller," it would be a sequel to *The Avengers*, a 1996 10-minute short turning on Jewish partisans who tried to kill six million Germans in retribution for the Holocaust.

Taking off from where *The Avengers* ended, Brunner's film revolves around a plot by two of their overzealous descendants to close the circle and wreak apocalyptic revenge on Germany.

Contact 2004

A unique exhibition combining music and photography continues until May 23 at the Mill St. Brewery, Toronto.

Part of Toronto's Contact 2004 Photography Festival, the exhibition features the works of the "Group of Six" Joanne de Boehmler, Fabio Dorigato, Aurora Galluzzo, Geoff Gilmore, Josefina Nadurata and Susanne Schlomer.

Music and photography come together to reveal contrasting aspects of life and bring out the highs and lows of each musical note and each person's life.

Dorigato, an Italian diplomat currently living in Berlin, served in Toronto between 1997 and 2002. His photographs are part of a series of over 400 images shot between October 2003 and February 2004 in Auschwitz, Buchenwald and other concentration camps.

"My personal effort is aimed to raise awareness, especially among young generatiions that haven't experienced the Holocaust, of the fact that the more our memories of past tragic events fade, the higher the risk becomes that history repeats itself," Dorigato said. "Unfortunately the theme of my contribution to the show seems to have been confirmed by recent events in Montreal and Toronto.

"Through the combination of photographs shot in several concentration camps and the music of Polish composer Henryk Gorecki, I have tried to go beyond simple historical documents and find a format in order to reach the interest and the conscience of a wider and younger public," he says.

Mill St. Brewery, Distillery District, 55 Mill St., Building 63, Toronto. Until May 23. Call 416-681-0338.

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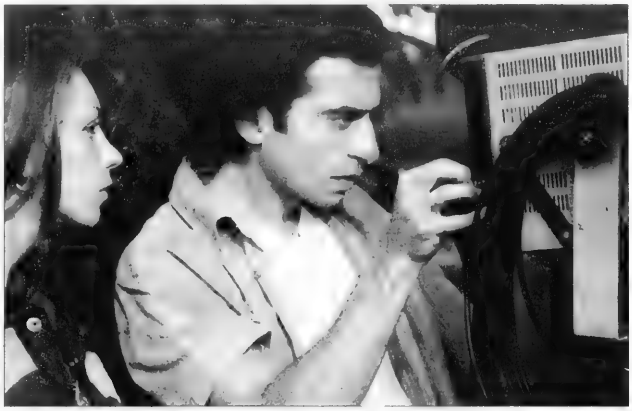
Filmmaker's works are an 'assault to the senses'

By CARRIE BRODI
Special to The CJN



Richard Yagutilov on the set of one of his films.

While studying film in Toronto, Richard Yagutilov was asked to change a sequence in *Numb*, an experimental drama he made about the silent interactions that take place between passengers on a city bus.

At one point in the film, a black character hits a white character. His teacher thought the scene might be viewed as being racially biased.

Yagutilov refused and the film went on to win the grand prize at the Niagara Independent Film Festival in 2001.

"I just figure if I'm already affecting people, than I'm probably on the right track," he says.

Only 27, he has already completed five short films and won three awards at film festivals in Ontario and the United States.

He received his latest award, the Gold Remi Award for Directing, at WorldFest-Houston International Film Festival, for *Park Pleasures*, a five-minute short about a lovers' quarrel. Another film, *I Hate*, a short monologue about a man dealing with loss, love and hate, won the Best Achievement Award from the International Television Association in 2000.

Recently back from festivals in Houston and Palm Beach, Yagutilov is broke but happy, having made valuable connections in the industry. There he faced his fear of public speaking at an audience Q&A.

Not a natural born schmoozer, he is slowly learning the art of self-promotion.

"I don't like to hype things before they exist," Yagutilov says, "But I realize that this industry is all about getting people excited about what you're doing before you do it, so that they get behind your project."

His phone rings at the beginning of our interview. The film union he works for is calling him in for a night of rigging lights and laying cable. He declines.

"It's OK," he says. "They will call again. I'm not ready to work tonight anyway."

Instead he wants to talk about his work and the ideas he has that keep him awake at night. Like the vision he had the other day for a feature film about a spiritually despondent man who goes to the desert to find God, or a comedy about the fights and flirtations that take place amongst a disparate group of diners in a restaurant.

"One of my biggest challenges is crystallizing and developing the many disassociated images I have," he says. "Because writing doesn't come easy to me, I try to communicate these visions through the camera and through sound."

He describes his films as "an assault to the senses" akin to the work of directors he admires like Ridley Scott (*Blade Runner*) and Oliver Stone (*Natural Born Killers*). Stone, he says, was the first to explore a character's internal monologue through quick flashcuts and over-laid dialogue.

"Movies like *Natural Born Killers* leave you no choice but to be in the movie and inside the character's head," he says. "The hallucinogenic, dreamlike sequences in Oliver Stone's *The Doors*, showed me what you could do with film. Getting a glimpse into other people's creativity in that way is a spiritual experience for me."

Yagutilov knew early what he wanted to do. Born in the southern Caucasus region of Russia, his family moved to Israel and then New York by the time he was 11. Living in Brooklyn near Coney Island in the late '80s was a dangerous time, he says.

"I remember being mugged at knife point at 11 or 12. All I did in New York was stay at home and watch movies or go to the movie theatre. That's when I knew that this is what I wanted to do," he says.

He boasts that his films are made out of nothing: donated film and equipment (even a donated bus from the TTC for *Numb*), the expertise of friends, and his father's knowledge of steel and plastics to concoct innovative camera apparatuses to achieve his vision of a given scene.

But he's always on the lookout for people to fund his work.

"Mastercard is financing my stuff right now," he says. "But in my experience, that old adage, ask and you shall receive, knock, and the door will be opened, has been so true."

You can read more about Richard Yagutilov by visiting his website: www.yougottalove.com

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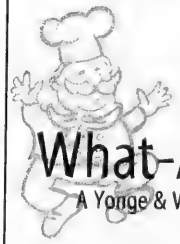

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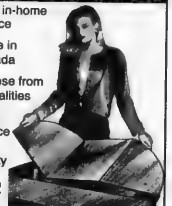

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Arts & Travel

Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

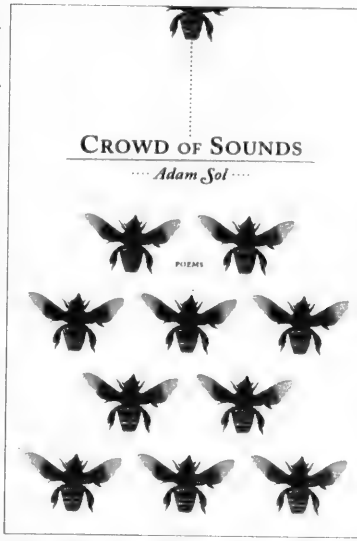
TORONTO POET ADAM SOL WINS $10,000 TRILLIUM PRIZE

Toronto Jewish poet **Adam Sol**, whose poetry volume *Crowd of Sounds* has been called "a breathtaking insight into the ragged and beautiful condition of the world," has won the province's $10,000 Trillium Award for poetry. His publisher, the House of Anansi Press, also receives $2,000.

Sol was one of five Trillium winners named earlier this month by Ontario Minister of Culture Madeleine Meilleur and the chair of the Ontario Media Development Corporation, Marcelle Lean. Prizes are awarded for books and poetry in both French and English.

* * *

More Award Winners: Winnipeg historian **Abraham J. Arnold** has won the 2004 Distinguished Service Award from the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies for his lifetime contributions to the study and documentation of the Canadian Jewish experience. Born in Montreal in 1922, Arnold was the founding director of the Jewish Historical Society of Western Canada, a founding member of the Canadian Jewish Historical Society, and an editor, journalist and community service representative by profession. A recipient of an honorary degree from the University of Winnipeg in 2001, Arnold was also appointed to the Order of Canada earlier this year. The award is to be given out at the organization's conference in Winnipeg beginning May 30.



The Association of Jewish Libraries has named Avotaynu Publishers, Inc. of New Jersey the winner of its Judaica Bibliography and Reference Book Award in the category of One-Time Body of Work. Avotaynu founders **Dr. Sallyann Sack** and **Gary Mokotoff** were honoured for their efforts in helping "to grow Jewish genealogy" by publishing excellent reference tools for people interested in researching their Jewish roots.

Cheryl Landy, who has worn various hats as theatrical stage manager, production manager, producer and fundraiser since 1977, was awarded a Harold Award last week to celebrate her "outstanding contribution to the arts, either on or off stage." Named in memory of the late theatre lover **Harold Kandel**, the Harolds honour 13 people each year who have made outstanding contributions to the theatre. Landy, who received an individualized pin, was a labour relations specialist for the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres for nearly a decade, and set up a technical theatre training program for Theatre Ontario; she also works part time as cultural services co-ordinator for the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto. To what does she attribute her love of theatre? "Probably my mother, who took me to the theatre as a child in South Africa," she replied, adding that she felt "thrilled and absolutely honoured" to be a Harold recipient.

* * *

Names in the News: Here's an illuminating anecdote concerning the legendary **Bob Dylan** and his mother, courtesy of *Howling At the Moon*, a recent memoir by **Walter Yetnikoff**, the 71-year-old retired American record industry mogul.

Yetnikoff recalls meeting Bob Dylan and various of his relatives for a late dinner in the '70s, during which the poet's mother, **Mrs. Zimmerman**, tried to get her son to eat more because he was just "skin and bones." After Dylan told his mother to stop fussing over him, Yetnikoff asked Mrs. Zimmerman if he was always so much trouble. "Bobby? God forbid," she replied. "Bobby gives me such *naches*. He's a good boy, a regular mensch. He calls, he writes, he listens to his mother. Every mother should have such a son."

Howling At the Moon also offers many colourful glimpses of **Jackie Onassis**, **Barbra Streisand**, **Mick Jagger**, **Billy Joel** and other celebs.

* * *

Arts in Brief

• The Dorshei Emet Judaica Arts Festival (JAF) is seeking submissions of high-quality art and Judaica for juried competition and exhibit in Montreal Nov. 20 and 21. Deadline, July 1. Applications and information, JAF, Congregation Dorshei Emet, 18 Cleve Rd., Montreal, Que., H3X 1A6. 514-933-3335. E-mail, cs2@videotron.ca

• An Israeli movie recently shared the Best Documentary award at the third annual Tribeca Film Festival in New York. *Arna's Children*, co-written by **Juliano Mer Khamis** and Israeli filmmaker **Danniel Danniel**, tells the story of **Mer Khamis'** mother, **Arna Mer**, who led a theatre group for Palestinian children in the West Bank city of Jenin. It was one of some 250 films from 42 countries featured at the festival.

* * *

At the Galleries

• "Soul to Sole" is an exhibit of works by photographer **Beverley Abramson** and artist **Ian Leventhal** on the theme of ballroom dancing. Presented as part of the Toronto Photography Festival. Blue Dot Gallery, The Distillery, 55 Mill St., Building 47, Suite 101. May 21 to June 11. Reception, May 27, 6 to 9 p.m. 416-487-1500.

• "No Guru No Method No Teacher," an exhibition of woodblock prints on silk by **Rochelle Rubinstein**, is on view at the George Gilmour Gallery, 401 Richmond St. W., Suite 104. May 27 to June 19. Opening May 27, 6 to 8 p.m.

• Sotheby's, in association with Ritchies, presents a show and auction sale of Important Canadian Art, including **Lawren Harris'** *Winter in the Northern Woods*, valued at $1 to $1.5 million. On view at Ritchies, 288 King St. E., May 27 to 30. Auction May 31, 10:30 a.m. Catalogue available. 416-926-1774.

Travel Talk

By BILL GLADSTONE

FAIRMONT HOTELS AND RESORTS OFFERS LUXURY MOUNTAIN TOUR THROUGH ICEFIELDS PARKWAY

Cruisin' the Canadian Rockies, a drive-it-yourself road trip offered by Fairmont Hotels and Resorts, Mountain Properties, takes in Banff, Lake Louise, Jasper and some of the world's best mountain scenery along Alberta's famed Icefields Parkway (Highway 93).

The six-night, all-inclusive package includes luxurious accommodation and two-night stays at the Fairmont Banff Springs, Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise, and Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge. It also features three gourmet meals a day plus various activities en route that encourage travellers to enjoy their surroundings.

The Icefields Parkway in Banff and Jasper National Parks is the only route between Lake Louise and Jasper. It lies about 45 minutes west of Banff, 2½ hours west of Calgary. Majestic mountains, spectacular valleys, ice-age-old glaciers and wildlife such as elk, bears and moose may be seen along the way.

The package starts at $450 per person per night, not including car rental. It is available from June 15 through Sept. 15. Reservations, 800-441-1414. Website, www fairmont.com.

Anyone visiting this glorious part of Canada may want to bring along a copy of the newly revised 4th edition of *Ulysses Travel Guide Western Canada* ($29.95), available in many bookstores.

Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel. **[Bill Gladstone photo]**

* * *

Adventure Travel, Israeli Style: For travellers seeking adventure abroad, Israel is a wonderland of diverse geographical zones that provide terrain for activities ranging from mountain biking to rafting, tubing and kayaking. The Israel Government Tourist Office in Canada recommends these adventure activities:

• Rappel, rock climb and zip line on Israel's mountain ranges, dramatic cliff faces and rocky ravines. Experience a cool weather climb on the slopes of Mt. Hermon, rappel from the great walls of the Ramon Crater under the Negev sun, or zip line down the Manara Cliffs for breathtaking views of Israel's Hula Valley, Golan Heights and the Sea of Galilee.

• Israel offers spectacular diving. Explore submerged ancient Roman streets at underwater archeological sites in the Mediterranean, or stunning coral castles populated with rainbows of tropical sea life off the Red Sea port of Eilat.

• Hiking and trekking destinations include the Banias waterfall, the magnificent Ein Gedi area in the Judean desert and the Israel Trail that spans the country from north to south.

• The most popular spots for horseback riding are the Golan Heights and the Upper Galilee, which offer rolling green hills, ferny forests and water-washed wadis. In the Negev, visitors may go by camel to experience the rugged terrain, multi-coloured canyons and rare wildlife.

• Highly popular jeep tours offer relaxed sightseeing or fast-paced off-road adventure and wild dune buggy excursions. Whether up in the mountains and hills of the Galilee and Golan, or down in the Judean and Negev wadis and ravines, these four-wheel drive tours rarely disappoint.

• With its natural beauty, diverse culture and rich history, Israel is a great place to enjoy by bicycle, and many biking trails have been established throughout the country.

• The Jordan River is not large but it offers many options for inner-tubing, rafting and kayaking, particularly in its northern sections where it flows from the foothills of Mt. Hermon and south into the Galilee.

• In Israel, one of the premier spots in the world for archeology, there are always a variety of digs seeking volunteers to help uncover pieces of the past.

For details, contact the IGTO at 416-964-3784, ext. 22.

* * *

Irma Stern Exhibition: Thirty-four works, oils and pastels, on loan from the Irma Stern Museum and the South African National Gallery form the basis of the exhibition Portraits by Irma Stern, on view at the South African Jewish Museum in Johannesburg. The show also features biographical displays and audio interviews.

One of South Africa's most prodigious artists, Stern's reputation as a major artist has grown since her death nearly 40 years ago. She painted portraits of people whose faces intrigued her and who were enticed to pose for her. She did not accept commissions. Her subjects were friends and family, famous personalities and strangers. The exhibition continues until June 30.

Portrait by Irma Stern

* * *

Toronto & Ontario Briefs

• The Royal Ontario Museum is offering a series of free guided walking tours of various areas of Toronto from May to September. The ROM walks take place on Sundays at 2 p.m. and Wednesdays at 6 p.m. and last for one to two hours. A complete schedule is listed on the ROM website. 416-586-8097.

• Black Creek Pioneer Village celebrates the Victoria Day weekend with a 19th-century style Spring Fair with Victorian charm, and a Fiddlers Contest on May 24.

• More than 100 buildings of architectural and historic significance open their doors to the public for free during Doors Open Toronto, May 29 and 30. This year's event puts a special focus on post-1945 contemporary Canadian architecture and architects. See the official program guide in the *Toronto Star* on May 20.

• Newly revised editions of *Cycling In Ontario* ($24.95) and *Ontario's Bike Paths and Rail Trails* ($19.95) arrived in bookstores this month. Both are published by Ulysses.

• Egan Houseboats offers houseboat rentals on Ontario's Trent-Severn waterway. 800-720-3426. Website, www.houseboat.on.ca.

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New book recounts Bush's decision to topple Hussein

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Bob Woodward's bold, new book, *Plan of Attack* (Simon & Schuster), is an insider's view of how the United States planned last year's momentous invasion of Iraq.

Woodward, the celebrated *Washington Post* reporter and editor whose Capitol Hill contacts are unrivalled, was given unprecedented access to 75 of the key players.

He interviewed President George W. Bush, Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of State Colin Powell and officials in the White House and the Central Intelligence Agency.

Plan of Attack, which focuses on the 16 months preceding the second Gulf war, is thorough and fresh, brimming with heretofore unreported facts.

Bob Woodward

Woodward, however, focuses all his attention on the evolution of U.S. policy and rarely ventures outside the constricted confines of Washington, D.C.

He pays little or no attention to the manner in which the Bush administration cobbled together the "coalition of the willing" – the constellation of nations that supported and/or took part in the war. And he has virtually nothing to say about pivotal U.S. consultations with Israel, the Arab states, Turkey, the European Union, Russia or China.

This glaring failing notwithstanding, *Plan of Attack* is a crackerjack of a book, filled with revelations small and large.

Above all else, we learn that Bush first broached the idea of an invasion on Nov. 21, 2001, just 72 days after the Sept. 11 Arab terrorist attacks in the United States.

"What kind of a war plan do you have for Iraq?" Bush asked Rumsfeld. When he replied that the drafting of war plans was a complex and time-consuming process, Bush said, "Let's get started on this."

Rumsfeld did not have to be prodded. Within literally hours of Sept. 11, he had raised the possibility of attacking Iraq, being convinced that Saddam Hussein was somehow in cahoots with Al Qaeda's Osama bin Laden – a connection more imagined than real.

Bush's absorption with unseating the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, bin Laden's host and sponsor, precluded an immediate U.S. strike against Iraq. But after Nov. 21, 2001, the die was cast, though Iraq was not then considered a major strategic threat to American interests.

Bush's resolve to topple Hussein was hardly new, as it will be recalled that the Clinton administration introduced the concept of "regime change" in Baghdad.

It will come as no secret to knowlegeable readers that Paul Wolfowitz – the U.S. deputy secretary of defence – was the "intellectual godfather and fiercest advocate" of unseating Hussein.

Nor will they be surprised that Powell, a former general with somewhat dovish inclinations, harboured grave reservations about the strategy.

Having discovered that the existing plan to invade Iraq was cumbersome, Rumsfeld ordered Gen. Tommy Franks, the commander of U.S. forces in the Middle East, to draft a new one.

Within the Bush administration, the general assumption was that an invading U.S. force would be welcomed with open arms. "People will greet troops with flowers and sweets," Woodward quotes one unnamed effusive official as predicting.

In April 2002, Bush told a British television interviewer," I made up my mind that Hussein needs to go." But at a press conference in Europe a month later, he claimed disengenuously he had no war plans on his desk.

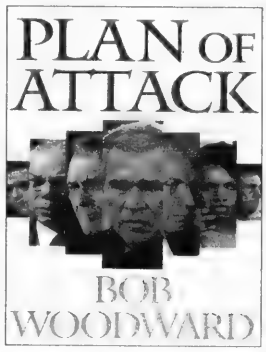
Powell, the commander of the coalition force that ejected Iraq from Kuwait in the 1991 Gulf War, was concerned that an invasion would destabilize pro-American Arab regimes, divert energy away from the war on terrorism and dramatically affect the supply and price of oil. He was also worried that the U.S. project to impose democracy on a country without democratic traditions would be problematic, to say the least.

Bush, having been influenced by his hawkish vice-president, Dick Cheney, disagreed with Powell's sombre assessment. "Saddam Hussein is a terrible guy who is teaming up with Al Qaeda. He tortures people and he hates Israel."

Moreover, Bush sincerely thought that regime change would help Israel resolve its historic conflict with the Palestinians.

Condoleezza Rice, the president's national security advisor, persuaded Bush that exhaustive United Nations inspections of Iraq's arsenal of weapons of mass destruction might avert war. She was convinced that his chemical and biological arms would be found.

It did not occur to her that a postwar search for such weapons would turn up zilch. Cheney brusquely dismissed weapons inspections as futile, not then knowing that Hussein's arsenal had already been destroyed by UN monitors.



In any case, Rumsfeld and Cheney were none too eager to take the issue to the UN, arguing that Hussein would exploit the opportunity for his own ends and embroil the United States in an endless round of useless talks.

Powell convinced Bush that the problem should be addressed by the UN through Resolution 1441, which warned Iraq of "serious consequences" should it continue to violate its disarmament obligations.

As the months passed, Bush concluded that arms inspections were not working and that Hussein, the ultimate prevaricator, was up to his old tricks.

In an interesting disclosure, Woodward writes that the Saudi ambassador in Washington, Prince Bandar, reminded Bush that Iraq was unfinished business – business his father had left uncompleted in 1991.

It was therefore incumbent on the United States to rid the region of Hussein, Prince Bandar said. But Saudi Arabia, being hostage to a rigidly anti-western and Islamic fundamentalist Wahhabi religious establishment, was prepared to help the United States only to a point.

On Jan. 13, 2003, Bush made the fateful decision to wage war.

"You understand the consequences?" Powell asked.

"Yeah, I do," Bush replied.

Eleven days later, Franks delivered his final war plan.

Elie Wiesel, the novelist, Nobel Peace Prize winner and Holocaust survivor, conferred with Rice at the White House on Feb. 27. When Bush dropped in, Wiesel told him that Iraq was a terrorist state and that American intervention was required.

The words were music to Bush's ears. "If we don't disarm Saddam Hussein, he will put a weapon of mass destruction on Israel," said Bush, who emerged from his chat with Wiesel in an exuberant mood. "This was a meaningful moment for me because it was a confirming moment," Bush told the author.

Three days before launching Operation Iraqi Freedom, Bush phoned Israel's Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

"Ariel, I told you in the Oval Office I would give you 72 hours' notice. I'm giving it to you now."

"We got it," Sharon said.

Woodward discloses that Rice gave her counterpart in Ottawa advance notice of the invasion. He assured Rice that Canada would keep its anti-war rhetoric to a minimum, satisfying Canadian public opinion without being belligerent or provocative.

On the night of March 19, Bush informed the world the invasion had begun.

U.S. Special Operations teams had already crossed the border from Jordan into western Iraq to try to find Scud missiles, which had wreaked havoc on Israel and Saudi Arabia 12 years earlier.

For better or worse, the United States had committed itself to toppling Hussein and exporting democracy to Iraq.

In *Plan of Attack*, the inestimable Woodward tells the story leading up to the invasion with verve and authority.

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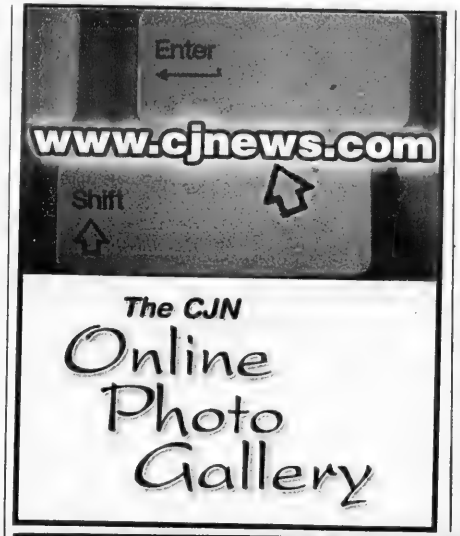

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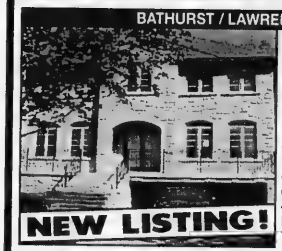

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Architectural gem! Stunning custom luxury home, 5 + 2 bedrooms, upgrades throughout. Stone front, extensive use of limestone, marble & granite, main flr. 9' ceilings and custom library w/ built-in bookcases, dream kit., w/o to deck. **ONLY $1,195,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / GLENCAIRN — NEW LISTING!
Spacious executive home, approx. 3,600 sq. ft. of finished living space, modern open concept, 4 + 3 bedrooms, 5 baths, hardwood floors on main floor and 2nd level, double garage. **ONLY $649,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

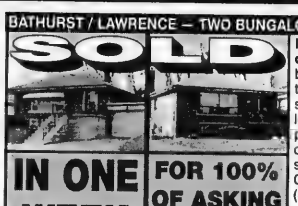
* * *

BATHURST / YORK DOWNS — NEW LISTING!
RARE OPPORTUNITY ON SPECTACULAR 67 X 432 FT. LOT! Build your dream home on this magnificent property backing onto Timberlane Ravine and surrounded by multimillion $ homes. **PRICED FOR IMMEDIATE SALE AT ONLY $1,159,000 — ACT FAST!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / GLENCAIRN
Gorgeous custom luxury home, 5 + 2 bedrooms, 5 baths, limestone hallway, dream kitchen, main floor library, large principal rooms ideal for entertaining, separate entry to in-law suite, upgrades throughout. **ONLY $1,095,000 — ACT FAST!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

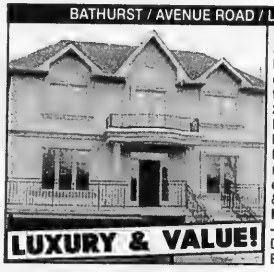
BATHURST / LAWRENCE
Magnificent Chateau-style luxurious custom home by upscale builder in prestigious location! Architectural gem with impressive front elevation, stone exterior, granite & limestone, 5 + 1 bdrms., 7 baths, dream maple kit., main floor library + fam. room ++. $1,149,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

*BROKER



BATHURST / LAWRENCE — TWO BUNGALOWS ON RANEE
First time buyer's delight! 3 + 2 bdrms., sep. entry to possible in-law suite, 40 x 132 ft. lot, eat-in kitchen, prime location close to TTC, shops, schools ++. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.
SOLD

BATHURST / GLENCAIRN
Spacious custom family home, 4,400 sq. ft. + 1,900 sq. ft. in basement. 6 + 2 bedrooms, 6 baths, granite hallways, dream maple kitchen. Loaded with extras! Asking $1,195,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.



BATHURST / AVENUE ROAD / LAWRENCE
Best value in area! Spacious custom built luxury home, fin. bsmt., open concept, upgrades throughout! Approx. 2,900 sq. ft. + fin. bsmt. Dream French Country kit., gleaming hardwood floors, main floor fam. rm. & 9 ft. ceilings, extensive use of marble & slate, **INCREDIBLY PRICED AT $869,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* or Mark Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

AVENUE ROAD / LAWRENCE
PRESTIGIOUS AREA! Magnificent new custom luxury home by upscale builder. Quality craftsmanship and materials throughout. 10 ft. ceilings, gleaming hrdwd. floors, dream kit., granite & limestone +++. For the most discriminating buyer! Asking $1.59 million. Call Mark or David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

* * *

BATHURST / LAWRENCE
Exquisite custom-built home, 5,000 sq. ft. (approx.), 5 + 1 bdrms., 4 baths, quality materials & superior finishes throughout. Limestone & 3/4" plank hardwood floors, granite counters, crown mouldings, 2 heating zones, jacuzzis. **INCREDIBLY PRICED AT $998,000.** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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CENTRAL PROPERTIES

BATHURST/GLENCAIRN-VIEWMOUNT AVE - $1,360,000
Exec 6 bdrm, 3 stry, contempary–soaring skylite, foyer, grmt kit, hrd-wd, marble, pool & spa. 3 car gar. Carolyn Feldman** 416-488-2875

BEAUTIFUL LUXURY FAMILY HOME
4 bedrooms, 4½ baths, family room, rec room, 2 kitchens, 2 stone fireplace, ravine setting. Ruth Bass* 416-226-1987

18 YORK DOWNS DRIVE - RARE FIND $1,249,000
Spectacular 5,000 sq. ft. Bright, open & elegant. 5 bedrooms, 6 baths. Ravine setting. Patti Pollock* 416-226-1987

33 VERWOOD AVENUE! JUST COMPLETED!
$859K! Bathurst N/Sheppard! Lux 5+2 bdrm, 5 bath! Mn fam+lib+2 pce! Fab 59x102'! Stunning! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

ARMOUR HEIGHTS - TOTAL RENO $749,000
Spacious, spotless & very unique. Fabulous master suite + family room. Double attached garage. Patti Pollock* 416-226-1987

BATHURST/WILSON - 4 BEDROOM - 2 STOREY $675,000
Great reno - fabulous main floor breakfast room + family room - master suite. Pool + 50 ft. lot. Gary Pollock*/Patti Pollock* 416-226-1987

FABULOUS CEDARVALE DUPLEX
Two-2 bedroom apartments plus basement. Parking garage. Lovely garden. Leslie Dennis* 416-785-1500

315 CHURCHILL AVE! 3+1 BDRM, 2 BATH!
$419,000. Yonge N/Sheppard! Updated bungalow with nanny ste! 40x132'! Vendor says sell! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

1ST AD! 12 LISTER DRIVE! $399K!
Yonge N/Finch! Spacious+updated 3+1 bdrm, 2 bath bung! Nanny ste! Rare 67x113'! Move in! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

BATHURST/SHEPPARD EXCLUSIVE $395,000
Beautiful reno'd 3 bedroom bungalow. 2 bedroom bsmnt apt with great income. Fabulous deep lot. Patti Pollock* 416-226-1987

NORTH PROPERTIES

JUST LISTED! PRIME THORNHILL $479K
Immaculate 4 bedroom home, 3 baths. Main floor family, den & laundry rooms. 2,875 sq. ft. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

THE PRINCE ARTHUR - RARE S/W CORNER SUITE $819K
Sun-filled 1,580 sq. ft. 2 bdrms, 2½ baths, balcony, eat-in kitchen, 9' ceilings, concierge & value. Carolyn Feldman** 416-488-2875

NEW YORK PENTHOUSE IN FOREST HILL
Panoramic city views. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths. Recent custom reno designer fin. Near Village. M. Merrick* 416-488-2875

1 GLEN PARK AVE-NEW! REGISTERED! $292,000-$1,200,000
Prime locale-2 & 3 bedroom suites + penthouses w/terraces, 910'-2,730' upgraded 9' ceilings, hrdwd, granite, prkng & locker. Just move in! C. Feldman** 416-488-2875

CHARMING 1 BDRM + DEN LOWER VILLAGE GATE
$389,000. South facing balcony, 2 baths. Eat-in kitchen. 24 hr gate security. Parking. Saul Merrick* 416-488-2875

LOCATE IN FOREST HILL FOR $259,000
Charming 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Low rise co-ownership. Parking. Near village shops & subway. Saul Merrick* 416-488-2875

BATHURST-DREWRY BEST VALUE! 3 BDRMS
2 baths. Over 1,500 sq. ft. Wrap around balcony! Spacious, bright. Move in! A. Eidlitz* 416-226-1987

150 NEPTUNE DRIVE LOW FLOOR
1,400 sq. ft. Hardwood floors, cac, pool. Bright and spacious unit. Rose Simon* 416-226-1987

BUSINESS (I.C. & D.)

5,185 SQ. FT. INDUSTRIAL SPACE FOR LEASE
Finch/400, 2 drive in doors, lots of parking. Low rent! Richard Collis* 416-226-1987

**Associate Broker * Sales Representative

Paul Slavens
REAL ESTATE INC. REALTOR

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FINE PROPERTIES

STATELY LOWER VILLAGE
Gracious residence boasts 7 bdrms, main fl. library. Gourmet kitchen. Grand principal rms. His & hers ensuites. Indoor pool w/sauna, showers & change rms. A rare opportunity! ***Marlene Federman**

BAYVIEW / YORK MILLS - $1,125,000.
Well appointed Georgian residence. Centre hall plan. Generous principal rms. + 5 bdrms. Main fl. panelled library; family rm. Finished lower level. Harrison Public School. ***Elaine Pike**

BATHURST /EGLINTON - $959,000.
Spectacular home backs onto park. 4 bdrms., 4 baths. Main fl. den. Kitchen + breakfast rm. Fin. lower level. Double garage. ***Edith Weiss**

UPPER FOREST HILL - $729,000.
Handsome centre hall, 4 bdrm. Spacious principal rms. Main fl. family rm. + powder rm. Fin. lower level. CAC. Attached gar. ***Bernard Pike**

AVENUE RD. / LAWRENCE - $699,000.
Spacious 4 level backsplit in highly desirable neighbourhood. 45' x 130' lot. Finished lower level. Double garage. ****Richard Sherman**

CLARK / HENDERSON - $649,000.
Truly unique property on exceptional lot. 3 bdrms., 4 baths. Cathedral ceilings. Marble fireplace. CAC. Dble. garage. ***Janice Sackichand**

YONGE / YORKHILLS CONDO
$649,000. Luxurious residence features family rm., powder rm., 2 bdrms. & 2 baths, ensuite laundry. ****Don Wagman**

BAYVIEW / EGLINTON PENTHOUSE - $549,000.
New, luxurious 2 bdrm., 3 bath loft style condo. Superb finishes. Family rm. Den. Balcony. Locker. Parking. Steps to TTC, DVP, trendy shops & restaurants. ***Kathie Wood**

FOREST HILL PENTHOUSE - $495,000.
Lower Village Gate. Beautiful 2 bath suite features skylight, fireplace, huge terrace. Walk to Village shops. ***Carol Cotton**

FINCH / WILMINGTON - $419,900.
Renovated bungalow on 50' x 145' lot. 3+ bdrms. Spacious principal rms. Stunning kitchen. Finished lower level. Garage. ***Ron Chichora**

ST. CLAIR / ALCINA - $389,000.
Contemporary townhome with 3 bdrms. & 2 baths. A hidden gem in unique midtown complex. CAC. Private patio. Parking. ****Don Wagman**

HEATH ST. W. - $349,000.
Lower Village condo residence. 2 bdrm., 2 bath south facing unit. Large principal rms. Open balcony. 2 parking spots. ***Elaine Pike**

YONGE / YORK MILLS - $345,900.
Beautiful condo suite. 2 bdrms. + den. Granite countertop in kitchen. Ensuite laundry. Walk-out to balcony. Faces east. Locker. Parking. ****Gloria Paisley / *Edie Winberg**

BAYVIEW / SHEPPARD - $313,513.
Gorgeous, extensively upgraded 2 sty. townhome. 3 bdrms. 2 baths. High ceilings. Private terrace. Locker. Parking. ****Veronica Key**

NEPTUNE DRIVE - $289,000.
Corner suite in Baycrest Properties Seniors' Residence. 2 bdrms. Eat-in kitchen. Parking. Rarely available. **For details, call *Betty Cohen.**

YONGE / EGLINTON - $289,900.
Spacious 2 bdrm. condo offers both comfort & affordability. Ensuite laundry. Locker. Balc. Parking. Steps to TTC & shops. ***Malcolm Neely**

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* Sales Representative **Associate Broker

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EAST OF BATHURST / SOUTH OF WILSON
$579,900. 3 bedroom + main floor family room bungalow. There are 2 large rooms, washroom and garden walkout downstairs. Jeffrey Joseph** ext. 519

RENOVATED BEAUTY!!! $569,000
What a delight! Hardwood floors. Main floor family room & powder room. 4 bedrooms. Master ensuite. Just move in & enjoy!! Diane Litchen* ext. 249

***RIDLEY BLVD* NEWEST LISTING**
Crnr 2 bdrm/2bath suite on lower flr/1200+ sq. ft., strg lkr, 2 prkng, dark stained floor (LR & DR), stove, dishwasher, (new '03), o/l gardens & kitchen window. Perry Steinberg** ext. 334

REDUCED!! COURTLAND CONDO!
Space 1 bedroom ste (approx. 1400 sq. ft.), solarium, family room, balcony with west exposure. Located w/i steps to everything! A steal @ $137 per sq. ft.!! Perry Steinberg** ext. 334

LUXURY FAMILY HOME!
$688K. Rosedale Heights beauty! 4 BR, 4 baths, hrdwd in fam rm+LR. Parquet in DR. Fin'd bsmnt w/nanny quarters, passover kit, prof. lndscpd! M. Noik-Schipper** & D. Zaikin** ext. 289/545

1ST AD – INCREDIBLE BUILDING LOT 54' x 184' $429,000
Nestled between two impressive homes, 8 Kainona Avenue sits on a lovely 54' x 184' pool sized lot on a very quiet north/south street - Clanton Park neighbourhood. Current house is 3 bedrooms needing t.l.c. but could be fixed up and/or added to. Jack & Marla Samuel* ext. 345

NEW LISTING PALM DR. 3 BEDROOMS
Beautiful corner property on Palm Drive. 3 bedrooms, 3 baths! New windows, furnace, CAC, hardwood floors, large deck off LR, alarm system & more. Jack & Marla Samuel* ext. 345

*Sales Representative **Associate Broker

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5 HOUSES FOR SALE

Great Neighbourhood!
Thornhill – Franklin Ave.
Updated, bright, approx. 3400 sq. ft., 4 bed, 4 bth., lux. home, lrg. fam. rm., main flr. den, hrdwd. flrs., lrg. deck, fin. w/o bsmt., on greenbelt. near relig. schools and shuls.

Best Condo Buy!
120 Promenade Circle
1425 sq. ft., 2 bed., 2 bth., south exp., 5 appl., very lrg. master, lots of closets, 8x9' balc. Priced right!

Eva Ungar
Associate Broker
Sutton Group Central Realty Inc.
416-229-1010

THORNHILL WOODS BEAUTY
Architectural gem just steps to Yeshiva. 5 months new, 5 bdrms., computer niche, main flr. fam. rm., dream kit., dramatic granite foyer, 9 ft. ceilings & much more!

BONNIE LASS, Assoc. Broker
Sutton Group Admiral Realty
416-739-7200

10 PRIVATE HOUSES FOR SALE

Bathurst/Flamingo Rd., new custom built bungalow, designer finishings, 3 car gar., close to Shul, $815,000. 905-731-0202.

Thornhill, 4+1 bdrms., 4 baths, fin. bsmt., steps to Lubavitch, BAYT, the best neighbours, a great home to grow in. Call for app't. 905-764-6305, Chani.

15 HOUSES FOR RENT

Bathurst/Lawrence, lrg. bung. 1750 sf, 2 bdrm. + panelled den, 3 baths, alarm, sprinkler $2600+ *or* $1800+ for main floor. 416-785-6660.

30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

Yonge/Sheppard, private sale. Lux. condo. 2 bed., 2 full bath, 800 sq. ft. high flr., overlkng park, 2 pkng., 6 upgrd. appl., hrdwd. & balc. 416-590-9510.

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WATCH FOR THE CJN PARTY PLANNER COMING JUNE 10

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

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overlooks magnificent park and features 5 bedrooms, high ceilings, s/pool, and 1200 sq ft loft style m/bdrm
Only $699,000.00

210 Arnold Ave - SOLD!
Exceptional mansion on the best part of the street, more than 10,000 sq ft, 6 bdrm, 3 car garage, kosher kitchen - **$1,695 mln**

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• Franmore Circle,
• Franklin Ave.,
• Rodeo Dr.,
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30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

Thornhill - One of the Largest Corner 2 Bd. Units

Fantastic S., city view (on a clear day see CN Tower) huge liv. rm., w/o to balc. Lovingly maintained by owners. Eat-in kit. w/Florida ceiling, master bd. with 3 pce. ensuite, walk-in closet, ceramics in kit. & foyer, upgrades +++! Walk to synagogues, school, Promenade shopping centre, community centre, library, 1 bus (10 min. drive) to Finch subway.
For picture tour visit www.tinaklein.com
Tina Klein R.E., 416-743-3832

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Roommate wanted in Ottawa. Male, kosher, Shomer Shabbos, n/smkr., to share furn. 2 bdrm. apt. in Alta Vista, $550/mo. Call David at 613-731-6735.

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Very lrg. 1, 2, 3 Bedrooms, 2 & 3 Bdrms. w/2 balconies and 2 baths.
Ample closets plus cedar. Roof laundry, ravine setting, pool, pkg. incl.
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75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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Bathurst/Sheppard - Behind BJCC, 34 Carscadden Dr., accepting applications for our beautiful bldg in a ravine setting, 2 bdrm avail imm., 1 bdrm avail June 1. Call 416-398-0566 or 905-474-3600.

Bathurst/Wilson, bach. $665. Immediate. 1 bdrm. $860. Immediate. Call 416-483-8283.

Briar Hill/Bathurst, huge, lux. 1, 2 & 3 bdrms. from $1075, renov'd., a/c. Call James at 416-769-6779.

Bathurst/Wilson. Bsmnt. bach. First/last req'd. All incl. No smkng or pets. 416-633-0570.

Bathurst/Glencairn, lrg. bright newly reno'd. 1 bed. bsmnt. $850/mo all incl. 416-518-5620.

Leslie/Shepp., lrge. bright bsmt. bach. apt., sep. entr., suit 1 female. Call 416-502-3524.

Bathurst/Steeles, Townsgate, 1550 sq. ft. 2 bed., 2 bath, 2 prkng., all amens. $2100/mo. 647-299-0371 / 416-224-2837.

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110 COTTAGE FOR RENT

Lake Simcoe, Belle Ewart, 3 bdrm., lakefront, near shul. Avail. July-Aug. 416-494-1642.

1 hour from Toronto, bright, cozy cottage surrounded by trees, porch overlooking Kempenfelt Bay, Lake Simcoe & beach. Adjacent to Strathallan Woods. Open plan kitchen, dining & living rms., fplc., 3-4 bed., 1 bath. July or Aug. $3700/mo. 416-484-4202.

Lake Couchiching, Orillia, priv. wtrfrnt., 3 bdrm., den, sleeps up to 10, full amen., hot tub, rowboat w/motor, docks. Avail. July and/or August. 416-489-1205.

Exec. lkfrnt. 4 bed., Beaverton, priv. bch., tennis, +, seas./mo. 416-226-0009, 416-749-6600.

BEAVERTON, July/Aug. mthly., lux. 4 bd a/c waterfrnt, home jacuzzi, city water, furn., tropical sunsets, no pets or smkg. Lynn 416-964-1228.

Belle Ewart, 4 bdrms., walk to shul, close to beach, avail. July & Aug. 416-995-9630.

130 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT

Hallandale, on the beach, Hemispheres, 2 bdrm., gorgeous, $650/wk US. 416-736-6052.

135 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT/SALE

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140 FLORIDA ACCOMMODATION WANTED

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160 ISRAEL PROERTY FOR RENT

Jerusalem, central, new 4 bedroom lux. apt., CAC. Short-term rentals. Kosher & Shomer Shabbos only. 416-782-6791.

190 VACATION PROPERTY AVAILABLE

Mt. Tremblant, 5 bed., 2 bath. Sleeps up to 12. Pool, close to village & beach. Shuttle. Very lux. Reas. rates. Also avail. for sale. 1-866-955-9961.

198 SPACE FOR LEASE/RENT

Ideal rental space, Bath./-Wilson area, approx. 650 s.f., exc. for small school/office space (Shomer Shabbat only). Avail. July 1. 416-636-1897.

232 BUSINESS FOR SALE

Well established Printing and Copying Company, producing in English and Hebrew. Located in Downtown Toronto. Ready to help with transition. Reply with confidence to: printing4sale@hotmail.com

BAKERY/DELICATESSEN for sale. 12 yrs. in business, owner retiring. Call after 7 pm. No agents please. 416-497-0338.

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Boys Yeshiva High School seeks teachers for Math, English, History & Science. Hours 5-7 pm. Monday-Thursday. Please fax resume: 416-789-3797.

Counsellors, swim staff needed for day camp, high salary, full/part time, busing. 416-785-4600.

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Coast to Coast

Winnipeg Negev Dinner to honour educator

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — The focus of this year's Jewish National Fund Negev Gala – the local Jewish community's largest annual fundraiser – is on education.

The focus of the gala, to be held June 15, is reflected in the project being supported, the entertainer, and the honoree, Miriam Maltz.

"We are honouring Miriam Maltz out of respect for her 45 years of dedication to the students of Winnipeg in both the public school and Jewish school systems," says Len Podheiser, president of the JNF for Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

"In her teaching and her community work she has always been a strong supporter of the State of Israel."

Maltz said, "I see this honour not so much as a recognition of my work, as it is a recognition of the importance of educators and education.

"The JNF has always been very supportive of our educational institutions in this city."

Maltz retired last June as director of the Winnipeg Board of Jewish Education, capping a career that goes back almost 50 years.

She grew up in Fort William (now Thunder Bay), graduated from Queen's University in Kingston, and the Ontario College of Education in Toronto. She started her teaching career in northwestern Ontario, and shortly afterwards moved to Winnipeg because of the larger Jewish community here. For almost 30 years, she taught high school English and history in north Winnipeg high schools.

"For quite a while, I was the only Jewish high school teacher in the West Kildonan area," she says.

She also earned two degrees from the University of Manitoba – one of which came with a Gold Medal – and taught a course in the faculty of education called "The Methodology of Teaching High School English."

In the late 1950s and early 1960s, she served Manitoba's department of education in two capacities – revising the high school English curriculum followed by in-services for teachers, and setting and marking departmental exams.

Maltz's first brush with the Jewish school system came in 1963. While on a leave of absence from her board she filled in for three months at what was then a very small Joseph Wolinsky Collegiate. She was impressed with the quality of its students, she said.

In 1985, after an early retirement, she became principal of Ramah Hebrew School in south Winnipeg. "Although my first love was the classroom I had wonderful and rewarding years as an administrator. It turned out to be a plum job."

> ***'We are honouring Miriam Maltz out of respect for her 45 years of dedication to the students of Winnipeg'***

She retired a second time in 1997 just before the Jewish school system merged all its programs at the new Asper Jewish Community Campus.

Two years later, she came out of retirement to become the principal of Joseph Wolinsky Collegiate and then the interim director of education.

Through the Jewish school system, she notes, she has been able to develop a lengthy relationship with the JNF. "Our schools are very Israel-centred. At Ramah, we always sold more trees than at any other school in Canada. Also, our older students served as canvassers for the annual JNF community telethons."

To build on the theme of education, the entertainer at the gala is comedian Gabe Kaplan who is best known for his role as a dedicated teacher in the old hit series *Welcome Back, Kotter*. Proceeds for the evening, for the second year in a row, are being directed to the Asper Family Community Action Center in Ofaqim, Israel.

The Action Center provide supplementary educational programs geared towards disadvantaged youth, mainly children of Russian and Ethiopian olim, to help ensure they achieve their optimal level of education through combining technology-oriented education with instruction on leadership skills and heritage.

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NOTICE OF CLAIM AND SUMMONS

This constitutes notice to Dr. Yoav Feiner, Israeli I.D. number 05834068-8 ("the defendant") of The University of Toronto, Faculty of Dentistry, 124 Edward Street, Toronto Ontario, Canada, that Hadassah Medical Organization ("the plaintiff") of Kiryat Hadassah P.O.B. 12000, Jerusalem 91120, Israel, has filed a statement of claim against him, L.A. 1892/03 in the District Labor Court of Jerusalem of 11 Shoafat Road, Jerusalem 91180, Israel, concerning a debt in the amount of NIS 455,500 he owes the plaintiff as detailed in the above re. claim.
According to the District Labor Court's ruling REO. 15405/04, Dr. Feiner is required to file his statement of defense within sixty (60) days of publication of this notice. If Dr. Feiner fails to do so, The Plaintiff shall be entitled to a default ruling in the absence of defense and the District Labor Court of Jerusalem shall have the right to a judgment against the defendant based solely on the statement of claim.
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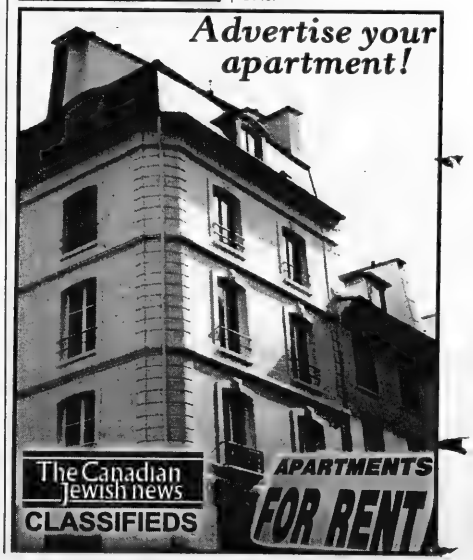

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Flyers' Snider a benefactor of human rights museum

By ELI SHUPAK
Special to The CJN

In the midst of the NHL's Stanley Cup playoffs, Ed Snider was unable to be in Israel alongside keynote speaker Arnold Schwarzenegger for the groundbreaking of a new museum designed to foster human understanding.

The chair of the Philadelphia Flyers was one of the principal benefactors of the new Center for Human Dignity-Museum of Tolerance Jerusalem, and one of the wings is named for him.

The unique project has received a very positive response, said Snider, an advisory board member of the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center, which is building the museum in downtown Jerusalem modeled on the one it developed in L.A.

The $200-million (US) structure, designed by world-renowned architect Frank Gehry, is to be completed by 2007. It will focus on issues of human dignity and responsibility and seek to promote unity and respect among Jews and between people of all faiths.

Elected to Hockey Hall of Fame in 1988

"I'm not a very real pious Jew, but I'm very proud of my Jewish heritage," said Snider in a phone interview from his office inside Philadelphia's Wachovia Center, where the night before, he and some friends watched on TV as the Flyers ended the Maple Leafs' season on Jeremy Roenick's game 6 overtime winner.

"I'm heavily involved in the community with Federation in Philadelphia and Santa Barbara, Ca., and buy ambulances pretty regularly for Israel, because I feel I just want to do whatever I can to help. I'm very concerned about Israel and the Jewish people as a whole with what's going on in the world today," he said.

Snider, who also gave a major gift last December to the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia, was the driving force behind bringing a hockey franchise to the city in 1966.

Since then, the Flyers have won two championships (1974, 1975) and appeared in seven Stanley Cup finals.

In 1974, Snider created Spectacor, a management company to oversee the Flyers and the Spectrum. It became a national force in sports and entertainment, founding or acquiring nearly a dozen businesses, including WIP, the country's first all-sports radio station.

In 1988, the year he was elected to the Hockey Hall of Fame, Snider decided that to remain competitive the team needed a new home. Eight years later, the Wachovia Center stood as a tribute to his perseverance.

The 71-year-old gave up majority ownership of the Flyers in 1996, entering into a merger with Comcast to create Comcast-Spectacor. Comcast acquired 66 per cent of the Flyers, the 76ers, the AHL's Philadelphia Phantoms and the First Union Complex.

Snider chairs the venture and owns 34 per cent of the package while overseeing operations of both the Flyers and 76ers.

A member of the NHL's executive committee, Snider was a co-recipient of the 1980 Lester Patrick Award for outstanding service to hockey in the United States (along with Flyers GM and President Bob Clarke) and in 1997 he was inducted into the Jewish Sports Hall of Fame in Philadelphia.

In the past, the Flyers organization was often portrayed as one that turned its back on Europeans, in particular players hailing from the former Soviet Union. They did so in large part because of the way Jews were treated in that part of the world, Snider said.

"I would not take players from behind the Iron Curtain unless they escaped," said Snider, who was very involved in causes to help free Soviet Jews.

"Some of the teams, prior to the fall of the Iron Curtain, bargained with the various federations and I felt that was like dealing in slavery. I just wouldn't do it.

"Once the Iron Curtain came down and the people were free, we never had any prohibition against any type of foreign players," he said.

Women's team seeks players

Women aged 40 and over are being invited to try out for a masters basketball team that will compete in the Maccabiah Games in Israel in July 2005. Participants should have played high school basketball or been members of an organized league. A team information night will take place at the end of May 2004. For more information, contact Barbara at goldyb52@hotmail.com.

Two for Bridge

By ERIC KOKISH and BEVERLEY KRAFT

Eric: Back in the days when all North American bridge players were created equal, it was not uncommon for Canadian experts to compete in the major championship events with American teammates. These were qualifying events for the North American Trials, conducted on a Pairs basis, the top three finishers forming the international team. This format produced some strange bedfellows but none stranger than Toronto's Eric Rutherford Murray and New York's Al Roth, who would emerge as team-mates from the US Trials to select the 1967 team for the Bermuda Bowl in Miami Beach.

During the Trials, Roth, known worldwide for his conservative initial actions, found himself in an elevator with Murray, known Canada-wide as a free spirit in this domain. Murray, a mischievous fellow by nature, decided to stir up the pot with the dogmatic Roth by initiating a discussion about this deal:

No one vulnerable, North deals:

North
♠ AQ93
♥ 10873
♦ AJ86
♣ 4

West
♠ KJ85
♥ J954
♦ 7
♣ QJ52

East
♠ 1072
♥ A62
♦ Q42
♣ K983

South
♠ 64
♥ KQ
♦ K10953
♣ A1076

West	North	East	South
	Murray		Kehela
	1♥	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

Opening Lead: ♠5

"I guess you'd open a diamond with the North hand, playing five-card majors," he began. "You have nothing, you can't open," snapped Roth, as Murray knew he would. "Well, I opened 1♥," continued Murray, "we play four-card majors, you know. We missed our slam, though. We played in only 5♦, making six. I thought my partner played it pretty well." At the mention of the word "slam" Roth raised an eyebrow.

Murray's partner, Sami Kehela, finessed the ♠Q at trick one, crossed to the ♣A, ruffed a club, and played a heart. East ducked so the king won and another club was ruffed. East won the second heart and played a spade. Declarer won the ace, ruffed a spade, ruffed his last club, and played dummy's last spade. East discarded, so declarer ruffed low and played a trump to the ace. Dummy had two hearts remaining, East held the ♦Q4 and declarer the ♦K10. With the contract guaranteed and the lead in dummy, Kehela was in a position to over-ruff East for an overtrick.

Roth's reaction was entirely in character: "I don't know how anyone can play bridge with someone who bid that hand as badly as you."

"Well, perhaps," countered Murray, "but what was your result on that one?"

"We played in two diamonds, making six," muttered Roth, as he got off on the wrong floor.

Beverly: Well, standard bidding in North America has progressed since those golden days. Today most players, like the legendary Roth, would recognize the dangers inherent in the 4=4=4=1 distribution (what will North rebid over a 1♠ response, for example) but open 1♦ nonetheless. Some would rebid 1NT over 1♠, others 2♣, neither entirely satisfactory. We could live with a mildly conservative pass because it will often be easy to show this hand later if the opponents bid spades (we can double for takeout) and it might well be better to defend without revealing where the strength lies.

Try your hand at responding to partner's 1♦ opening with each of the following hands. Assume no one is vulnerable.

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	?

(a) ♠9 ♥K74 ♦AQJ95 ♣A762
(b) ♠K6 ♥97 ♦AJ1062 ♣Q1093
(c) ♠94 ♥85 ♦AJ105 ♣KQJ106
(d) ♠AKJ105 ♠6 ♦KJ92 ♣A105

Solutions:
(a) Three spades. This "splinter" raise shows shortness in the jump-suit, controls in the unbid suits, strong support and strength appropriate to relinquish captaincy without discomfort. If partner tries 3NT, you'd be content to pass, having shown your hand.
(b) Three diamonds. This is a limit raise that invites game and denies a four-card major. Opener may pass, bid 3NT, show a major-suit stopper, or move towards 5♦ or a slam.
(c) Two clubs. Then, over 2♦, a non-forcing 3♦. If opener rebids 2NT, however, 3♦ would be forcing. Thus responder could stop short of game by passing, but would probably risk 3♦ to improve his chances of reaching the best strain.
(d) Two spades. Responder has obvious slam potential, yet can't take control. His best move is to start with a strong bid, show support, and leave the rest to opener, who will appreciate strong diamonds, aces, kings, and the ♠Q. A popular plan would be to bid hearts next, by agreement showing shortage with primary diamond support. Opener will devalue the ♥K but appreciate the ♣K on that sequence.

Transition time

As I write this column, there are three months left to my year in AVODAH: The Jewish Service Corps program. I have spent three-quarters of a year living with a group of other AVODAH participants in New York City, working full-time as a legal advocate for homeless and poor people and exploring social, economic and ethical issues that affect me as a Jew, a woman and a human being.

By ELISHEVA GOULD

Last month, four of my fellow AVODAHniks and I rented a car and drove to Washington, D.C., to participate in the March for Women's Lives in support of abortion and women's rights to control their bodies and keep their reproductive choices personal and private. I stood and rallied with what seemed to be at least one million people and listened to speakers Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, actress Susan Sarandon and writer Gloria Steinem.

It was exhilarating to be a part of such a monumental event, to have made the trip from New York to Washington with my like-minded friends, and to be waving our program's banner proudly alongside the D.C. AVODAH group with whom we reunited that day. So far this year, I have learned and experienced things I never imagined I would and have gained political knowledge and a newfound sense of self-empowerment.

However, as the end of my year here approaches, my peers and I face many difficult decisions. Do we try to stay in New York City or return to our homes? Do we live on the Upper West Side or remain in Brooklyn? Do we stay at our current workplaces or search for new work? Do we go to the graduate schools we got accepted to, spend another year in the workforce or travel the world for awhile?

It is transition time in the AVODAH household and our stress levels are running high. Every day, we receive good news about someone winning a scholarship for medical school or being accepted into the foreign teaching exchange program of his or her choice. But every day we also discuss what we want to do with our lives: Should we stay or should we go? Should I begin to fundraise for my position so that I can continue to work at my small non-profit organization or should I apply for another job?

Many of us are currently applying for jobs in New York and our home cities and we'll make our "big move" decisions based on the offers we receive. As much as I miss my family and friends in Toronto, I would love to live in New York City for at least one more year before I go to graduate school. But one must have a job that pays the rent, grocery bills and other living expenses in this thrilling but very costly city. So wish me luck as I apply for jobs in my pursuit to live in New York City next year.

It is a nerve-racking time, filled with uncertainties. It is also an exciting time, full of questions as to which of us will remain here next year, who will be roommates with whom and where we will all end up living, studying, travelling and working. Today, we worked together all day in the garden behind our house, planting seeds that will grow within the next few summer months and sowing others that will not grow within our tenure in this house – only part of the legacy we hope to leave for next year's program participants.

CARAMEL APPLE CHEESECAKE FOR SHAVUOT

Crust
1/4 cup sugar
1 1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs
1/4 cup butter or margarine, melted

Filling
1 lb. caramels
1 can evaporated milk
1 cup pecans
1/2 cup sugar
2 eggs
16 oz. softened cream cheese
1 1/2 cups Golden delicious apples, chopped
1 tblsp. flour
1/2 tsp. cinnamon

Preheat oven to 350°F. Combine cracker crumbs, 1/4 cup sugar and butter; press onto sides and bottom of 9" springform pan. Melt caramels in heavy saucepan. Add evaporated milk over low heat, stirring until smooth. Reserve 1/2 cup melted caramel mixture. Pour remaining caramel mixture over crust and sprinkle with 1/2 cup chopped pecans. Beat cream cheese and 1/2 cup sugar until smooth. Add eggs, beating until smooth. Toss together 1 cup chopped apple, flour and cinnamon; fold into cheese mixture. Spoon mixture over crust. Bake 40 min. Combine reserved caramel and remaining chopped apples. Spread over cheesecake; sprinkle with remaining pecans. Continue baking 15 min. Cool. Chill before serving.

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About Life

Dear Ella,

I have been playing the singles game for a long time now and have finally met a kind, wonderful man. Josh is really in tune with my needs, and really listens to me when I speak. We have close to the same life values and just seem to be on the same page, and did I mention that he is not too hard to look at either!

I feel very petty even mentioning this problem, but here goes… He cries often. He cries watching sad or heartfelt movies or TV shows and when confronted with emotional situations.

What is that? Men in general don't cry, and for sure, not in public. I don't even know any women that cry as much as he does.

Do you think I can approach this subject with him or should I just pretend not to notice and stop being so petty?

Crying Game

Dear Crying Game,

Congratulations on finding the man of your dreams. From your description, Josh sounds like a very sensitive person who is attentive to you. It's phenomenal to be able to find a match that fits you this well.

The traits that you mention show just how responsive and perceptive he is towards you. What you are trying to do is draw a line in the sand that he should not step over. Yes, you want him to be sensitive, but to stop when the emotion shows outwardly in the form of tears.

Society has conditioned us to perceive a crying man as weak, and we all know that "big boys don't cry." Right? Wrong. Thank goodness for men like Josh. He has broken through the barriers that society has placed on gender and is not afraid to show real emotion.

In a nutshell, this is not Josh's problem, it is yours. You must step back and take a look at the big picture. Is Josh a wonderful, special partner or not? Instead of seeing his crying as a weakness, see it as a strength, the strength of a man not ashamed or embarrassed to show emotion. There is a lot we could all learn from Josh.

Readers may submit their questions to Ella at The CJN., *email: eb@cjnews.com. But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional.*

So long, Walking Man

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

URBAN WRITER

In our bid to connect ourselves to "community," we establish landmarks or communal signposts of sorts in our head that are generally physical in nature and elicit an personal sense of belonging and connectivity.

Throughout the years, after a trip, I knew I had returned to the Toronto Jewish community when I saw familiar sights such as Richman's bakery or the Jewish Community Centre.

Similarly, there are certain personalities in our community who add a human brushstroke to our neighbourhood map – people who Eli Wiesel suggests are "the keepers of our truth."

They might be obstreperous servers at a Jewish eatery, but each one has a function in the individual script we create as community members.

The Toronto Jewish community lost such a person only a few weeks ago. His name was Naftoli (Neil) Mernick, and he was only 49 years old.

Naftoli was the fellow, you might remember, who walked briskly up and down Bathurst Street and surrounding roads with his kippah perched proudly on his head and his long beard – the one the Lubavitcher Rebbe told him never to touch – flowing adventurously with every step.

Some people called Naftoli "The Walking Man," reflective of a song written by James Taylor, a folksy rock balladeer. In the song, Taylor writes about a man who walked with a "silent desperation" heading toward a "hypothetical destination." It often seemed as if Naftoli's quick pace was like that – hurried, taking him nowhere specific, as if to rediscover something very dear that he had lost.

But his family and friends who knew Naftoli when his gait was calmer and his gaze was in the present recall a bright, savvy man, a gifted musician with an acute empathy and love for the Jewish people.

They remember Naftoli during the Yom Kipper War in 1973 when he played for Israeli soldiers, one day giving eight consecutive concerts. They remember when he received his rabbinical ordination from Or Samayach in Jerusalem. Just like James Taylor's walking man, Neil always seemed to "keep an eye on the holy land."

Naftoli's internal peace began to crumble after his father's death, and he took to walking. I wonder what he saw when he watched us, or the knowledge he had about the Toronto Jewish community as one of its keepers of truth.

Surely there were those who considered stopping Neil on his journey, to reminisce about their days together in Eitz Chaim School and/or Ner Israel Yeshiva. But it's hard to engage a walking man. He often prefers not to slow down, or we ourselves become hesitant facing his distinctive gaze. Sometimes I felt that way.

However, it is clear that Naftoli Mernick will always be remembered as a genuine Jewish soul – one described by a friend as "unable to merge with others like most of us, but [who] instead exuded authenticity."

His legacy will live in the minds of thousands of Israeli soldiers who had a moment of solace listening to Naftoli's sweet voice and buoyant lyrics; in the hearts of his brothers Farley, Shlome and Earl, who harbour reminiscences of a virtuous sibling; in each guitar strum played by his students; and in the effervescence of Jewish youth as they sing the words of *Shifti*, a popular song to this day, produced by Naftoli and brother Shlome.

Goodbye Naftoli – our guileless Walking Man. We will miss the brushstroke you brought to our neighbourhood map and pray you are sitting well rested at the feet of God.

For information on Naftoli's shloshim, call David Plonka at 416 630 1679.

"Well now, would he have wings to fly Golden wings against the sky. Walking man walk on by. So long, walking man, so long."
– James Taylor

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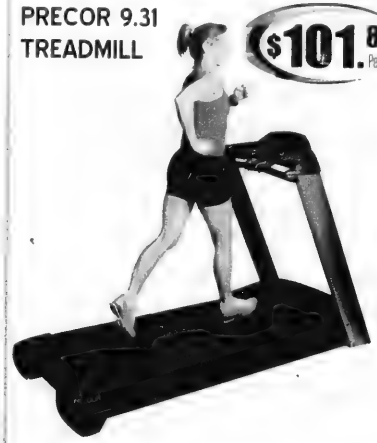

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This Week

National

Aliyah is bouncing back, buoyed by Israeli economic recovery. ***Special Report.*** ***Page 3***

Troupe uses puppets to fight sexism and discrimination. ***Page 19***

Brazilian Jews want to immigrate to Quebec, official says. ***Page 24***

Summer Fashion

Fashion tips to keep you looking young and feeling great. ***Page 36***

Arts & Travel

Comedian walks in the footsteps of the great ones. ***Page 40***

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Ceremony of remembrance

The memory of the thousands of Ethiopian Jews who died in the African desert while trying to reach Israel was honoured for the first time at an official ceremony in Jerusalem last week. President Moshe Katsav, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and leaders of the Ethiopian Jewish community paid tribute to the fallen at a memorial in Jerusalem's Ramat Rachel neighbourhood. In the 1980s, more than 4,000 Jews lost their lives to hunger, disease and bandits, and there are few Ethiopian families in Israel today who have not suffered a loss. *[Isranet photo]*

Egyptian school texts defame Israel and Jews

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Twenty-five years after Egypt entered into a peace treaty with Israel, a survey of textbooks in Egyptian schools paints a disturbing picture.

The books generally portray Israel and Jews in a negative light.

The Center for Monitoring the Impact of Peace, in conjunction with the American Jewish Committee, recently released a report to coincide with the 25th anniversary of the treaty, signed in Washington, D.C. in March 1979.

Compiled, translated and edited by Arnon Groiss, it is entitled *Jews, Christians, War and Peace in Egyptian School Textbooks*.

Based in Jerusalem and established in 1998, The Center for Monitoring the Impact of Peace aims to foster a climate of tolerance and mutual respect between peoples and nations.

Continued on page 34

The CJN wins award

For the seventh time in the last eight years, *The CJN* has been acknowledged as the best overall specialty newspaper by the Quebec Community Newspapers Association (QCNA).

In 2001, the paper finished in second place. The QCNA, an English-language association representing 32 publications, has been in existence since 1980.

Parsha: Naso
Candlelighting: 8:30
Havdallah: 9:35

Greater Toronto Area

New leaders present their case

— *Comment* —

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

With a federal election on its way, Canadians face a fresh slate of three new federal leaders – and something of a question mark.

Stephen Harper

Jack Layton

Paul Martin

For Jewish Canadians, at least, little is known about where Paul Martin, Stephen Harper and Jack Layton, the leaders of the three national, non-regional federal parties, stand on issues of concern to the community, especially Israel and the peace process.

While Layton was the only federal leader to attend the March rally in Toronto against anti-Semitism, it's a safe bet his New Democrats won't be getting too many Jewish votes given the worldwide near-abandonment of Israel by the left, if not its outright hostility to the Jewish state and the Zionist dream.

But there's an added twist: Many of Canada's 580,000 Muslims have found a home in the NDP, and the party's fortunes could be boosted as a result.

Members of Harper's Conservative party, especially MPs such as Jason Kenney and former Alliance leader Stockwell Day,

Continued on page 32

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Israel scales down military operation in Gaza — please see page 33

Canada

Sheikh can't visit

OTTAWA — The Canadian government will not grant a visa to the imam of the grand mosque of Mecca, who has called Jews "rats" and "scum" and called for their destruction. The government earlier had rejected a parliamentary motion by Conservative MP Jason Kenney to bar Sheik Abd al-Rahman Al-Sudais from Canada. But a government spokesperson later said Al-Sudais is on a government watch list and would be prevented from entering the country.

Prize Winner

TORONTO — Abe Levine has won the grand prize for the 2003 Israel Pledge Campaign, co-sponsored by the Israel Ministry of Tourism and the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations. The Israel Pledge campaign is a program implemented by the Israel Ministry of Tourism to promote continued travel to Israel.

Site Shut Down

EDMONTON — Police have shut down a white supremacist website and seized Nazi paraphernalia after raiding an Edmonton home. The police action against the Western Canada for Us site came following a complaint from an anti-racism group.

World

Leaders Meet Annan

NEW YORK — Representatives of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations met last week with UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to voice their concerns about the double standard applied to Israel at the United Nations, and the rise of Islamic and European anti-Semitism. According to the Conference of Presidents, Annan distanced himself from comments made by his special adviser for Iraq, Lakhdar Brahimi, who said Israel's policies were "poison" to the region. Annan also said Brahimi denied saying he had never shaken the hand of an Israeli or a Jew.

Tony Randall Dies

NEW YORK — Tony Randall, the fastidious half of "the Odd Couple," died last week at age 84. Randall was born Leonard Rosenberg and was raised in Tulsa, Okla. An award-winning actor, he is best known as the neat-freak Felix in the 1970s TV version of the Neil Simon play, opposite Jack Klugman. While in his mid-70s, Randall fathered two children for the first time.

Celebrating Israel

MOSCOW — An estimated 7,000 Moscow Jews attended a street festival outside the Choral Synagogue to celebrate Israel's 56th anniversary. The seven-hour event, sponsored by the Jewish Agency, the Jewish Community of Moscow and the Russian Jewish Congress, included music and dance performances as well as a video link with Jerusalem.

Gere to Israel

NEW YORK — Actor Richard Gere will be a guest of honour at Tel Aviv University's student film festival. The visit to the festival, which begins June 5, will be Gere's third trip to Israel in the past three years. The previous two were to promote Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

Plot Down Under

SYDNEY — A convert to Islam is trial for planning to blow up the Israeli Embassy in Australia. Prosecutors in Perth allege Jack Roche, 50, met with Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan in March 2000 and was told to form an Al-Qaeda cell in Australia. After receiving explosives training in Afghanistan, Roche planned to use a truck bomb to blow up the embassy in Canberra, the charges say.

JVS Receives Funding

TORONTO — Joe Volpe, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, last week announced Government of Canada funding of $1,231,844 for three projects of the Jewish Vocational Service of Metropolitan Toronto (JVS) and COSTI, an organization that supports new immigrants. These three HRDC projects will provide employment services for 1,430 individuals.

Under Project Job Search, JVS Toronto will receive $300,223 to help 350 individuals who face barriers to employment. Participants will include individuals with communication and language issues, learning disabilities, addictions, depression or other psychological difficulties, and sporadic and long-term unemployment.

Under the second project, Employment Assistance Services, JVS Toronto will receive $443,621 to help 300 unemployed foreign-trained professionals and tradespeople to gain employment within their fields. Participants will receive work search strategy training and pre-employment workshops.

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Aliyah: 'Start process when emotionally ready'

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Special Report

It all starts with a visit to Gadi Anavi's cluttered office in a gleaming building at the corner of Dufferin and Finch in north Toronto.

Anavi, the director of the Israel Aliyah Center, facilitates the immigration of Torontonians to the Jewish state.

After three years on the job, he has some definite advice for prospective olim.

"You should start the process when you're emotionally ready," said Anavi, who plans to return to Israel in August. "Some people prepare a few years in advance. Others begin several months before. I recommend a lead time of at least six months."

Three of the prospective immigrants he is sending to Israel are Amalia Wolf – a single woman soon to be wed – and Alex and Tanya Pomson, a married couple with four school-aged children.

Wolf and the Pomsons plan to leave Canada in the summer.

They are among a small band of Canadian Jews, most of whom are observant, who have decided to immigrate to Israel – the tense, uncertain security situation and the prospect of a lower standard of living notwithstanding.

Since 1948, a grand total of 11,920 Canadians have immigrated to Israel, according to Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics.

In 1971, the peak year, 758 Canadians made aliyah. In 1956, the low point, Israel attracted only 22 Canadian immigrants. On average, 216 Canadian olim immigrate to Israel per annum.

Last year, Anavi – a 49-year-old sabra from Haifa and a seasoned employee of the Jewish Agency who works in tandem with a fellow shaliach in Montreal – processed 134 olim (six of whom were from Vancouver). In 2002 and 2001, he settled 106 and 82 Canadians in Israel.

This year's figures should be better. "We're expecting a 30 percent increase," said Anavi.

Although global aliyah declined by approximately one-third last year, with some 25,000 immigrants from around the world having gone to Israel, North American immigration has picked up lately.

Alex Pomson and his family, on holiday in Cape Breton, are moving to Israel this summer.

Since the late 1980s, upwards of one million immigrants, the bulk from the former Soviet Union, have made aliyah.

During the same period, 270,000 Israelis reportedly left the country. Recently, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon talked of attracting one million immigrants over the next number of years.

Anavi is also upbeat. "The numbers are increasing and more and more people are applying for aliyah. We're optimistic about the future."

The second Palestinian uprising – which has claimed the lives of almost 1,000 Israelis since September 2000 – and the resulting economic downturn have generally dampened aliyah.

But aliyah is bouncing back, buoyed by the first glimmerings of an Israeli economic recovery and the sinking realization that the intifadah may last for years. "Sad to say, people have got used to the war," said Anavi in a reference to the Palestinian rebellion.

Continued on page 25

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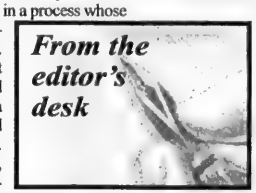
Living in a surreal world



Though the responsibility is great and the importance of the work undisputed, one of the most difficult and probably unpleasant jobs on earth is that of Israel's ambassador to the United Nations.

Imagine, if you can, what it must be like to sit, mostly friendless, at a table with 15 others, or occasionally at a table with 190 others, always singled out, always under attack, always maligned, always vilified and having to take part in a process whose outcome is always predetermined and hostile.

The job requires great strength of character and the ability to live in a Salvador Dalian world of the bizarre and surreal.

Dan Gillerman, Israel's current ambassador, has that strength. His protective suit of armour is the sense of purpose and historic mission he feels about his work – being the UN spokesperson for the Jewish state.

Last Wednesday, he once again donned his armour to do futile battle with Israel's accusers.

Merely hours after the first news of Palestinian civilian deaths in Rafah, and without full knowledge of the facts surrounding the deaths, the United Nations Security Council condemned Israel by a vote of 14-0. The United States abstained.

The deaths of the civilians were indeed deplorable. But Israel was convicted for them and sentenced before all the facts were brought to light.

In contrast, one week earlier, a pregnant Israeli and her four daughters were shot to death at point-blank range by cowardly, murderous Palestinian terrorists. No one was put into the defendants' dock.

Nor have they ever been. The lights at the Security Council were not even turned on. The chamber, much like the hearts and consciences of the majority members, remained dark.

Last week's Security Council resolution condemned "all acts of violence, terror and destruction," but failed to point out the reason for Israel's incursion into Rafah in the first place: to locate and destroy arms-smuggling tunnels that wind through civilian homes and are used by terrorists to bring in rocket-propelled grenades and missiles to Israel.

Israel's Minister of Justice, Yosef Lapid, pointed out that terrorists in Rafah are trying to smuggle Strela anti-aircraft missiles into their precincts to be used against civilian airliners.

"If this happens, God forbid, and airplanes are shot down, people will ask us why we didn't act to stop it," Lapid said.

According to the Israel Defence Forces Chief of Staff Moshe Ya'alon, large caches of Katyusha rockets are hidden along the Egyptian side of the border awaiting distribution through the Rafah tunnels.

The resolution also made reference to Israel's "obligation not to undertake demolition of homes contrary to [international humanitarian] law" and relied upon outrageously falsified data to justify acceptance of the vote.

But the houses bulldozed or otherwise destroyed by Israel were military installations. They had long ago been appropriated by terrorists and gunmen. For the most part, they were unoccupied and used for sniper attacks against Israelis or they concealed tunnels for arms smuggling. These houses, therefore, were legitimate military targets.

Gillerman eloquently stated Israel's case.

"We convene here as usual," he began, "at the urgent behest of the Palestinian observer, under a barrage of information, misinformation and disinformation. In the interests of truth and objectivity, let us first get the facts straight. I wish to state emphatically that the numbers distributed by the Palestinians are exaggerated and totally false. I can only express my disappointment that some members of the international community, including in the statement attributed to the Secretary-General, have been misled by the Palestinian propaganda machine to false conclusions which do not reflect the facts on the ground…"

Gillerman was quite blunt and straightforward about Israel's predicament. "Today Israel stands at the gates of hell in the Gaza Strip."

But he explicitly outlined Israel's hope for the future. "We have no war with the Palestinian aspiration for statehood. The prime minister has stated clearly that Israel believes in the vision of two states, side by side, in peace and security. We have a war with terror, and with those who are determined not to create the Palestinian state, but to destroy the Jewish one…

"A genuine and responsible Palestinian leadership must be called finally and in clear terms – not in the faltering language of this typically one-sided resolution – to fight a war with terror too. It is time that we should ask the Palestinian leadership whether inciting terror, smuggling weapons and celebrating by dancing with the limbs of the dead are helping the cause of their people. It is time to make it clear that terrorism, even in the Palestinian cities of Gaza, is always unacceptable," said Gillerman.

* * *

Adieu and welcome.

In this issue, we officially bid adieu to monthly columnist Stuart Slayen. His low-key, witty mid-life musings about Jewish life were an important contribution to the paper and a delight to his large following of readers.

We also say welcome to David Matas, who will succeed Stuart as a columnist. Matas has acquired a reputation for being a no-nonsense teller of the truth. He is a renowned activist, lawyer, scholar and writer, We look forward to his monthly contributions to the paper.

—MBD

SeeJN

MITZVAH DAY: Families and Friends of The Toronto Heschel School come together at the second annual Toronto Heschel School Mitzvah Day. Among the projects, participants helped clean up the environment, worked at the North York Harvest Food Bank, and prepared backpacks for the homeless.

Israeli, Palestinian unite in calling for peace

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

An Israeli ex-admiral and a Palestinian educator told a synagogue audience last week how Israelis and Palestinians can break the cycle of violence and move toward coexistence within the framework of a permanent peace agreement.

Speaking at Holy Blossom Temple on a day when fighting raged in the Gaza Strip, Ami Ayalon and Sari Nusseibeh, the co-founders of The People's Voice initiative, fleshed out their six-point plan for creating public support and momentum for a two-state solution based, more or less, on the pre-1967 lines.

In separate presentations, they agreed that peace is possible only if both sides forego their historic dreams and clearly define the objectives of a comprehensive accord at the start of negotiations.

The pair concurred that the step-by-step interim approach of the now-defunct Oslo peace process had been a failure largely because the thorniest issues, from final borders to Palestinian refugees, had been deferred.

Officially launched last June after a year of preparation, The People's Voice has collected 180,000 Israeli signatures and 140,000 Palestinian signatures supporting its aims.

The Ayalon/Nusseibeh proposal calls for an end-of-conflict agreement and "two states for two peoples," with borders roughly based on the June 4, 1967, lines and the possibility of mutually agreed territorial exchanges.

Jerusalem will be the capital of both states, with Israeli neighbourhoods under Israel's control and Arab districts under Palestinian administration. The holy places will be under neither Israeli nor Palestinian sovereignty, and Palestinian refugees will return to a demilitarized Palestinian state.

Ayalon, the former commander of the Israeli navy and the one-time director of Israel's domestic intelligence agency, the Shin Bet, said Israelis must give up their messianic claim to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip so that Israel can flourish as a democratic Jewish state within secure boundaries.

Claiming his vision is shared by some two-thirds of Israelis, he declared, "We want to see Israel as a democracy and a safe home for the Jewish people. If this is what we want, there must be a Palestinian state. Otherwise, we can't be what we want to be."

Ayalon said Israelis and Palestinians are awakening from their respective dreams of preserving a greater Israel and forming a Palestinian state stretching from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea.

Nusseibeh, the president of Al Quds University in eastern Jerusalem and the Palestinian Authority's former representative there, implored his fellow Palestinians to be practical.

He urged them to abandon their dream of returning to their homes in what is now Israel and to focus all their energies on achieving statehood in the West Bank and Gaza.

The "right of return," he suggested, is a just cause in theory, but unfulfillable in practice.

He warned his people that if they cling to the right of return, which he described as "a kind of yearning to return in space and time," they will achieve neither independence nor freedom.

It is better to establish a state, even on a small part of historic Palestine, than to leave refugees in squalid refugee camps without dignity or a future.

Acknowledging that Palestinians will have to pay a hefty price for statehood, Nusseibeh said, "We recognize that the refugees will be absorbed in a Palestinian state and not in Israel."

Saying the past cannot be resurrected, he called on Palestinians to face their responsibility to the future.

In a tough appraisal of the Oslo process, Nusseibeh said it was undermined by two fundamental misconceptions. Instead of addressing key permanent-status issues at the beginning of talks, negotiators left them for last and focused on signing interim accords.

"This method turned out to be a mistake," he observed, saying it had destroyed mutual trust and confidence.

Olso, though reflecting far-sightedness and ingenuity, was a "top-down" process conceived and implemented by an elite of leaders. Ordinary people were left out of the loop and "kept in the dark." As a result, Nusseibeh claimed, they felt disengaged from the process and fell back into familiar modes of mutual hatred and recrimination.

"Our initiative addresses these faults," he explained. Difficult issues are addressed head-on and transparency is the name of the game.

Calling the present Israeli-Palestinian impasse "tragic and painful," Nusseibeh asserted that both sides must be clear and upfront about their intentions.

"I can't negotiate with Israelis unless I know it will lead to my independence and freedom. I don't want to be conned. We can work together if I know, at the end of the day, I can set up my independent state."

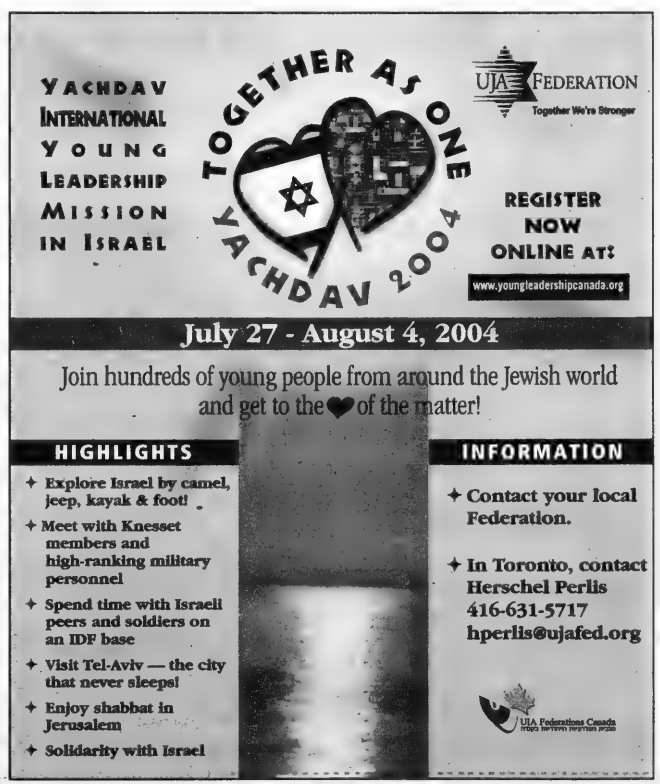
Offering a similar analysis, Ayalon speculated that a lack of clarity had killed Oslo. "The founders were, in a way, afraid to touch the final issues… and their constructive ambiguity was destructive. Our initiative is as clear as possible and hides nothing."

Ayalon said that increasing numbers of Israelis understand that military force will not bring them security. "We will have security only when the Palestinians have hope and feel secure."

In his view, Palestinians will not fight homegrown terrorism unless they know in advance that negotiations will yield an independent Palestinian state. Palestinians have no such hope today, and that is the "real reason for the violence around us."

Elias Hazineh, the president of Palestine House, a Toronto cultural and advocacy organization, kicked off the evening by saying he did not necessarily agree with the goals of The People's Voice.

"We have great reservations about giving up the right of return," he said, adding that "dialogue is better than shooting."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Ruling on wigs from India causes uproar

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Orthodox women around the world are reacting with consternation at a recent ruling that they should not wear human hair wigs because they may have been used in idolatrous ceremonies in India.

The situation is compounded by the fact that the ruling is not final, with many rabbis telling their congregants to put the human hair wigs aside until a final ruling is made and others instructing that they be burned immediately, and also by a growing sense of panic caused by rumour, innuendo and hysteria since the news broke two weeks ago.

A committee of scholars is currently investigating in India and a final decision on the matter is expected shortly from Rabbi Yosef Shalom Elyashiv, the halachic expert who made the recent ruling in Israel.

According to Rabbi Elyashiv, much of the human hair used to make wigs comes from Venkateswara Temple in Tirupati, where Hindu women cut off their hair as a sacrifice to their gods and goddesses.

In Jewish theological thought, this is considered *avodah zarah* or idol worship, and Jews are forbidden to get any benefit of any kind from it. Something used for *avodah zarah* cannot be simply thrown out or even given to someone else, such as a non-Jewish cancer patient who has lost her hair as a result of chemotherapy. It must be burned.

Recent articles in the *New York Times* and *Ha'aretz* newspapers have reported bonfires in Brooklyn; in Kiryas Joel, a Satmar village in Orange County, N.Y.; and in Israel. So heated did things become in Brooklyn that one woman there was arrested for disorderly conduct.

There have also been reports of bonfires in the Bathurst and Wilson neighbourhood of Toronto.

When the news broke, many women panicked. Human hair wigs, even blends of human and synthetic hair, are expensive, with some costing thousands of dollars. There was further upset when it was found that so-called cyberhair, one of the latest innovations thought by most to be synthetic, incorporated actual human hair, usually from India.

Hair from Europe or Korea is generally considered acceptable, although it's frequently more expensive.

Barbara Benmordecai sells, styles and cares for wigs at her Thornhill salon, Barbara's Wig and Hair. She said she has received "hundreds" of phone calls from women, many hysterical and crying.

"It was devastating. Some had four non-kosher wigs, which couldn't be used anymore."

Like all "sheitl machers," as they are called in the community, Benmordechai has a list of wigs from companies that are acceptable – that is, those that do not use Indian hair – and others that are not.

Cyberhair, she said, is one of the most popular kind of sheitl for young women, because "it looks good, feels good and is a good price."

Benmordecai is now stocking as many entirely synthetic wigs as she can. Many are made of kanekalon, a man-made fibre that is "soft, light, easy to care for and pretty much wash and wear."

Rabbi Benjamin Hecht, executive director of Nishma, an educational organization in Toronto, said the injunction for married women to cover their hair comes from a passage in the Torah describing the procedure when a woman was suspected of committing adultery. The kohen, the priest, uncovers her hair, indicating, the sages say, that modest women covered their hair at that time, and should also do so now.

While some feel the hair should be covered with a hat, a scarf or a covering called a snood, Rabbi Hecht said the use of wigs is generally accepted by large numbers in the Orthodox community. This is especially true for women employed in the secular world.

In addition, wigs are simply more attractive. While some sages have said the purpose of covering hair is to make a woman less attractive to men other than their husbands, most say that one's own hair is the most beautiful thing, and must be reserved for one's spouse. According to this view, then, there is nothing wrong with looking as good as you can.

Rabbi Gedalia Schwartz, head of the rabbinical court of Chicago and the Rabbinical Council of America, has issued a statement saying, "There is not enough direct and factual information available to us at this time to issue a general ban on using such wigs." Accordingly, while "human hair wigs known to come from India should not be used until the matter is clarified further, … such wigs should not be destroyed."

Most Toronto rabbis are telling their congregants the same. Rabbi David Schochet, president of the Vaad Harabonim of Greater Toronto, said that while he has made individual rulings on the subject and spoke about it at his shul, the Chabad Lubavitch Community Centre, he preferred not to issue a statement at this time.

Before performing certain religious rites, Hindu women cut off their hair in the temple. The hair is put on the altar during the rite, and afterward, the priest removes the hair (some of which has been burnt) and sells it for use in the wig- making industry.

The point, Rabbi Hecht explained, is to see "what was in the mind of the people who gave their hair. Was it genuine idol- worshipping or not?"

Classical Jewish thought, he said, prohibits the use of anything used "in the service of Baal." As a result, he said, the nature of Hindu theology must be examined: is there a concept of a single God, with the gods and goddesses subservient to him and representing different concepts of God, or is there more than one god?

He said the question is also whether the cutting of the hair is the act of worship or merely preparation for worship.

The situation is extremely serious to most Jews, particularly observant Jews. Jewish writings, including such basic works as the Shulchan Aruch, have an absolute horror of the very idea of *avodah zarah*. The idea that one might come into contact, however unknowingly, with something used in *avodah zarah* is abhorrent.

This is not the first time the issue has come up. Rabbi Yisroel Belsky, an authority on Jewish law for the Orthodox Union in the United States, is quoted in the *New York Times* as saying a similar incident about 30 years ago "was resolved without a ban."

However, he said, "it appears that practices in the Hindu temples where the hair of Indian women is cut might have changed, prompting [Rabbi Elyashiv's recent] ruling."

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Dry Bones

In defence of Israel

There is never a justification for the killing of innocents. There are, however, explanations. Innocent Palestinians died last week in Rafah, and for that the government and the army of Israel apologized and conveyed their deep apologies. "I would like to express sorrow over the harming of Palestinian civilians," Minister of Defence Shaul Mofaz told the world shortly after the news of the deaths became known.

But as of this writing, the circumstances of the deaths are still unclear and are being investigated. What is known for certain is that the Palestinian Authority (PA) organized a march of hundreds of Palestinians on the main road of Rafah toward a position of Israeli soldiers in Tel Sultan. Armed gunmen were among the marchers, and shot at the Israeli positions from the crowd. The gunmen, as is their code of conduct, were using civilians as their shields. Moreover, various places along the road had been booby-trapped by the gunmen.

Four IDF tank shells and a helicopter missile were fired at an empty building and at a vacant area ahead of the surging Palestinians to deter their progress forward. The soldiers did not shoot at or into the oncoming crowd.

Explosions ensued within and near the mass of marchers. Seven people were killed, five of whom were carrying weapons. Two unarmed civilians were killed, a number more wounded. But the innocent victims were not targeted by Israeli soldiers. "No soldier or commander gave or received orders to fire directly at civilians," Israel's Chief of General Staff, Lt.-Gen. Moshe Ya'alon said.

It is possible that the casualties may have been caused when one or more of the exploding tank shells, fired as a warning to the marchers at the abandoned building, may have detonated an explosive set along the route by the Palestinian fighters.

The true facts will emerge in due course.

As if it were a rewinding of the tape of the Jenin "massacre" of March 2002, the rush to judgment and condemnation of Israel was predictable. From every corridor in the United Nations and foreign affairs ministry in Europe, the excoriation of the Jewish state followed its familiar pattern of aping the strident, unchallenged dissembling and wild incitement of the Palestinian Authority spokespersons. Yasser Arafat described the incident as a "brutal massacre of civilians." Saeb Erekat described the incident as a war crime.

Israel's purpose in Rafah is legitimate and justified. It is striking at the warehousing of terror there. Since 2002, some 85 tunnels used by Iran, Hezbollah, Hamas and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine for the smuggling of weapons have been discovered in Rafah. And the cargo travelling within those tunnels is no longer small arms ammunition but missiles and rockets to be used against the Israeli heartland.

There is no justification, ever, for the killing of innocent civilians. But sometimes there are explanations. And the explanation in the case of Rafah exculpates Israel of any deliberate act of wrongdoing among the reasonable and the fair-minded.

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Kudos to Baycrest

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Lily Kutner
Toronto

* * *

Anti-Semites right or wrong

Anti-Semites have accused the Jews of wanting to take over or control the world.

Let's examine the facts:

From a sect within Judaism 2,000 years ago, from no more than a few hundred believers and followers at the time of Jesus' death, believers in the Jewish born Jesus have grown to almost two billion people world- wide out of a world population of 5½ to six billion.

On the other side, the descendants of the Judeans have barely survived the last 2,000 years, so that today they number about 13 or 14 million people. We are not a sect of any other religion, but a sect nevertheless, surviving within the cultures of other peoples and other countries.

So who is taking over the world? The followers of Jesus or the descendants of Abraham and Moses?

Gordon Clarfield
Toronto

* * *

Zerbisias and the facts

After reading the May 20 column "According to Reports" ("Note to Zerbisias: facts matter," *CJN*, May 20), I wish to relate an anecdote concerning the *Toronto Star*'s Antonia Zerbisias.

In January 2003, while he was in Israel, the CBC's Neil Macdonald attempted to organize a boycott of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's annual cocktail reception for the foreign press working in Israel (about 300 strong). Macdonald wrote to them, suggesting they "find other work to do that day." The attempt was a colossal flop. All 300 journalists (with the possible exception of Macdonald) turned out for the reception. But Zerbisias wrote a piece on the Macdonald fiasco, suggesting it was not true.

She never did come right out and say that, she only implied it. I read the article three times to be sure. I e-mailed her and asked: "Since you know Neil Macdonald so well [she had said that he is a friend], tell me – did he or did he not try to organize a boycott of Ariel Sharon's annual cocktail party for the foreign press?"

Her response was a moan and groan about what a minefield it is to report on the Middle East. I asked the question again. It took three exchanges of e-mails, with Zerbisias dodging and ducking the question, before she finally admitted that the story was true.

E. Joan O'Callaghan
Toronto

* * *

Zundel is so predictable

As I read your article about Zundel requesting that Jewish leaders testify at his hearing ("Zundel calls Jewish leaders to testify at deportation hearing," *CJN*, May 13), I was taken back to the Keegstra trial in Calgary years ago. High school teacher Jim Keegstra taught his students that the Holocaust was a lie invented by the Jews.

Before the trial began, my Jewish friends (I am a gentile) and I were already sitting together along a single row of seats in what at that time of the day was an almost empty courtroom. When Keegstra's cronies came in and saw us sitting there, and knowing full well by the yarmulkas that my friends were Jewish, they chose to walk between our row of seats and the one ahead of us, even though the rest of the courtroom was virtually empty. They did this – and it seemed so blatant to me at the time – for the sole purpose of discomforting and harrassing them.

Now Zundel, who is of similar ilk to Keegstra, is also attempting to harrass Jews with his ridiculous request that Keith Landy and Frank Dimant testify at his deportation hearing. Everyone who knows how Zundel operates can already see that if the subpoenas are quashed and consequently Landy and Dimant do not have to testify at his deportation hearing, Zundel will accuse them of a cover-up. He is so predictable.

Michael Devolin
Tweed, Ont.

* * *

Is greeting a secret code?

The festival of Shavuot is one of several Jewish commemorative days in the year when friends and family shake my hand and implore me to "Hug Sam Ayech."

Who is Sammy Ayech and why must I hug him? And if I were able find Sam, what would happen after I'd hugged him? Or is there something more sinister afoot?

Could it be that the imperative is actually a password or code used by a secret worldwide Jewish organizaion and I've been idenitified mistakenly as a member?

Sid Midgen
Thornhill, Ont.

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The grandeur of Judaism versus the provinciality of Jewish education

The holiday of Shavuot, when we celebrate receiving the Torah, is an appropriate occasion to reflect on the nature of Jewish education. The CJN invited Daniel Marom, a dynamic and engaging Jewish educator, to do just that. This is the first of Marom's two-part essay.

By DANIEL MAROM

I remember Judaism coming alive for me during my teenage years in Toronto. It was not on Yom Kippur in the ostentatious stained glass-windowed synagogue we attended, when the honour of opening the ark was given to some of the well-to-do members, congregants rose at the command of the rabbi and the chazzan delivered his sanctimonious rendition of the central Mussaf *Kedushah* prayer. Nor was it when nostalgic family stories and heirlooms going back to eastern Europe were shared with me.

Judaism emerged for me once I actually understood the words in the biblical, rabbinic and prayer book texts and realized their implications for the choices I made.

After I learned the verse, "Thou shalt not put a stumbling block before the blind," you may have seen me on the streets of Toronto carefully removing any object I found in the middle of the sidewalk. These words seemed to come from a world beyond the Jewish environment in which I grew up, one that my sensibilities identified as being much more profound than what was transmitted to me by my day school teachers and shul functionaries.

The more I took in the transcendental truths and ultimate concerns posited by prophets, rabbis and other spiritual heroes in our tradition, the more I became critical of everyday life in Jewish Toronto, feeling that it was missing the crux of the Jewish matter. The rhetoric and patina were there, but the substance was not. Bathurst Street did not lead me closer to the Temple.

Today I am grateful for those years. However critical I was of my Jewish educators, I somehow was able to encounter the richness of Judaism, and this encounter launched me on an infinite quest through the majesty and mystery of Jewish civilization. Paradoxically, my critique of Jewish Toronto had a galvanizing effect on my Jewish identity. I attribute my decision to live in Israel and make my career in Jewish education to what I discovered back then.

Now, as I work as a Jewish educator, I am concerned that my experience was idiosyncratic. I do not assume because I was fortunate enough to connect with things Jewish that others who are educated in the same kind of problematic educational environment will necessarily connect as well. Indeed, difficult questions arise constantly when I see what transpires in kindergartens, classrooms, sanctuaries, camps, community centres, adult education programs, travel experiences, publications and public events.

Are Jewish communities successful in transmitting the rich content and profound relevance of being Jewish? Is there a gap between the meaning of the words on the page and what is internalized by Jewish learners? Do Jewish learners take the teachings of Judaism with them as they decide how to treat their bodies, their souls, their siblings and spouses, their fellow Jews, other human beings? Does Judaism affect what careers they choose, how they run their businesses, what they do with their leisure time?

There are too few educational frameworks in the Jewish community where such questions are discussed, let alone addressed. In institutions such as schools, synagogues and camps, everyday demands are so pressing they smother opportunities for deeper inquiry about the purpose and meaning of Jewish education.

Students take in a lesson on a synagogue bimah.

Instead, the most urgent questions are operational. How can resources be found to keep programs alive and running smoothly? What can be done in light of the lack of qualified personnel and creative curricula? How can our programs compete with (or co-opt?) the stimuli of North American leisure culture and still accommodate the dictates of the job market?

Such questions are so pressing, they seem to render the consideration of larger issues impractical. But as fires get put out and business is kept running as usual, the relevance of the larger questions does not recede.

We may not be asking the questions, but our programs are projecting answers nevertheless. Whether we intend it or not, learners receive our community's image of what constitutes a worthy life. To the degree that our conception of Jewish life is trivial or narrow, lacking in depth or scope, tepid or less than compelling, we ourselves unintentionally predispose students to develop a corresponding relationship to things Jewish.

Paradoxically, the concern with the organizational efficiency of our institutions might have a lulling effect on our engagement with Jewish education. Even growing day school enrolments do not necessarily point to deeper identification with Judaism. They might be attributed equally, if not more, to dissatisfaction with public education or fears about the lure of drug culture among suburban youth.

Nor does it help to point to those few charismatic educators and outstanding learners in our programs who are deeply engaged by Judaism. Through their achievements, we often allow ourselves to believe that "the system is working," but do we really evaluate the impact of our educational programs on a broader constituency of Jewish learners in our communities?

For each successful learner, how many have received a version of Jewish education that taught them that being Jewish is something that constantly limits their desire to explore worlds beyond the comfort zone of Jewish middle-class suburban life, or that it introduces constrictions upon their freedom to independently pick and choose the values and lifestyles of their everyday lives? How many of these learners become estranged from Jewish life after they graduate from our programs, or grant it an accordingly limited role in their lives?

We have not yet built a system of indicators that can genuinely gauge the level of impact our programs of Jewish education make on the personal lives of learners. Research shows higher institutional affiliations and lower rates of intermarriage among day school graduates, but even these external markers do not necessarily point to the internalization of a deeper Jewish message.

Nor do we need to rely on data about the demographic crisis or the decline of widespread, individual financial support for Jewish life, to be persuaded about the problematic state of affairs. The perennial ills of Jewish education provide sufficient evidence.

If we constantly lack resources, personnel, curricula and other basic components of a decent Jewish education, these deficiencies must be seen as symptoms of a deeper problem. However successful Jewish education might appear to be, this success is obviously not strong enough to produce a viable and vital basis for its own continuity. Having served a limited role in the lives of its learners, Jewish education receives limited support and status among them when they become adults, parents and citizens.

By making this argument, I do not mean to say what we need in Jewish education is simply more Judaism. Rather, we must admit that prevalent conceptions and practices of Jewish education are neither sufficiently reflective nor thorough enough to meet the challenges the world poses to a compelling and long-lasting Jewish existence. In other words, we have not satisfactorily defined the foundational meaning and substance of Judaism in our lives and have not given this definition genuine expression in our educational programs.

Viewed at this level, we might see the problem of Jewish education as one of the articulation of its fundamental purposes and means. It is hard to overestimate the practical significance of basing our efforts in Jewish education on a clear and compelling answer to the question, "What kind of person do we see as the ideal graduate of our efforts in Jewish education?" What is our image of "the educated Jew?"

It is critical to distinguish here between the pronounced rhetoric of Jewish education and the message its practice actually transmits to learners.

I often heard educators in the Jewish community speaking at celebratory events and ceremonies about the importance of being a mensch in the world, doing what is humane and morally right with no attention to what others will say or do.

Yet, many of us believed the clearer message we were being given was that our worth would be determined primarily according to the level of our social status and economic success.

Our frustration with the hypocrisy of this double message led us to nominate as our valedictorian a student who proudly flaunted the high grades he received through sophisticated and cunning means of cheating on exams.

The case for the articulation of a clearer, more coherent and more compelling guiding philosophy of Jewish education has been made before by educational leaders in the community. Its major proponent has been Seymour Fox, who, in various capacities over the past decades, has argued for serious reconsideration of the guiding ideas of Jewish education. In 1973, he said, "The most urgent problem facing Jewish education today is its lack of purpose, and consequently, its blandness… Until we engage in serious deliberation aimed at rectifying this state of affairs, we cannot even hope to deal with all the other issues that demand solution."

Over the last decade, I have had the great fortune to work with Fox on a Jewish educational endeavour that has put the larger questions of Jewish existence at the centre of its practical concerns. This effort was undertaken by the Mandel Foundation in Jerusalem as part of its larger program of activities aimed at improving Jewish education worldwide.

Alongside initiatives aimed at training a new cadre of Jewish educational leaders and at raising the status of Jewish education among community leaders in the Diaspora and Israel, the Mandel Foundation also focused on a fundamental rethinking of the ideas that can govern Jewish educational practice.

In part 2 of this article, I will describe this initiative and suggest how it might inspire new articulations of Jewish education.

Daniel Marom is director of Visions of Jewish Education at the Mandel Foundation in Jerusalem. He is a graduate of the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto and the York University program in Jewish education.

What is religion for?

Recently someone remarked to me that religion is needed in the "trenches." In order to survive the difficult and even tragic events of our lives, he claimed, people need religion for answers and comfort. We are familiar with the popular notion that one cannot find an atheist in a foxhole.

Norma Baumel Joseph in Montreal

Well, I understand, but I beg to differ.

It is true that many of us find reassurance and sustenance in our religious beliefs in times of crisis. But crises challenge those very beliefs. They do not automatically comfort: they make us face difficult issues in our own thinking and practice. There are certainly no easy answers!

So while I find religions of the world do attend to the tragic and frightening aspects of our lives, they do not solve *everything*! Au contraire, I think we need religion to help us celebrate and experience the joy of living.

Too many of us accept the good times as coming to us. We are shocked by tragedy but complacent about happiness. I am not saying that we do not experience joy and gladness at the good times; rather that we take it for granted, as our due. This sense of entitlement bewilders and distracts. It also sets us up for failure when coping with disaster.

Each moment of happiness should be seen as special, as a gift, as an incredible miracle even. Hence, the need for religion. Religion, in my case Judaism, not only instructs me to accept my life as a gift from God, it also instructs me how to celebrate. In fact it obligates me to do so. And I like that.

At one time, Jewish weddings consisted of four people – the marrying couple and two witnesses. We can imagine that many more people attended, but four is still the basic legal necessity. However, our sages understood the need for public ceremonial and confirmation. They instituted a requirement for a minyan at a wedding so that the community would be represented and, in a sense, present. (I will not now delve into the problematic masculine nature of that tradition.)

Rituals such as weddings and bar or bat mitzvah celebrations are essential because they make us "stop and smell the roses." They enable us to realize the "specialness" of the moment and force us to announce our gratitude. When we celebrate in a group, we make public these experiences and promote a sense of awe and privilege. We also concretize the event, creating hopeful memories and demonstrable communal support. These milestones, in turn, produce communal cohesion and confidence.

As people celebrate, rather than taking things for granted, they can engage in religious commitment, which in turn sanctifies their personal experience. In all humility, we are graced by the good times and should act accordingly.

Alone in the universe?

Reading the *Jerusalem Report* can be a real downer. It can instil a feeling of total helplessness, since most of what it reports (hence the name) is news – sometimes really bad news. Then there are days when it lifts you up, connecting things that have happened to you or around you in a way that challenges and refreshes.

Jean M. Gerber in Vancouver

A riddle: what do the Dalai Lama, playwright Tony Kushner (*Angels in America*), and the Emperor Julian the Apostate have in common? Well, they are all in the May 3 *Report*, some in person, some in spirit. The riddle has a lot to do with a recent book by Robert Kirsch, *God Against the Gods: the History of the War Between Monotheism and Polytheism*, which is also reviewed in this issue.

The recent visit of the Dalai Lama to Vancouver and his encounters with Desmond Tutu, Shirin Ebadi and Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi were intense. They brought together three western monotheistic faiths and a very eastern, well, not monotheistic faith.

The Dalai Lama stressed compassion, the rabbi, the spiritual quest. The startling thing about the encounter was not the details of each participant's theology, but the fact that it happened at all.

Who could have foreseen this meeting 50 years ago? Or 25? In fact, when Rabbi Yitz and Blu Greenberg visited the Dalai Lama some years ago, it was considered revolutionary. Two respected Orthodox people consorting with – non-monotheists? Pretty heavy stuff. You can read about that encounter is Rodger Kamenetz's book *The Jew in the Lotus*.

Kirsch's book considers the chasm that separates monotheism from polytheism. Unlike Yehezkiel Kaufman in *The Religion of Israel*, Kirsch does not believe that monotheism was a slam-dunk for the ancient Israelites, but one that crept up on them very slowly. In fact, one gets the impression that Kirsch has a quiet fondness for polytheism, where the believer has a pretty wide choice in terms of to whom one should sacrifice or pray.

There is irony upon irony in his book. Under the Romans, Judaism was a despised but legal religion that flourished until the Jewish uprisings. Roman legions destroyed the Temple and its sacrificial service, a destruction that – more irony – led to the flourishing of rabbinic Judaism. Jews battled the polytheistic Roman Empire and lost, yet it was monotheism that triumphed just a few centuries later. The Emperor Constantine chose Christianity as the way to solidify his empire in the east, and his monotheism put Jews in jeopardy once again.

More irony: it was the Emperor Julian the Apostate – the name says it all – who for one brief moment slowed the drive towards state-mandated Christianity and under whose rule the Jews of the Byzantine Empire had a brief respite. So polytheism was once more a blessing to Judaism.

In other words, the dichotomy of monotheism versus polytheism is more complicated and needs more examination than we may have given it.

Here, Kirsch lays down a challenge. If the three monotheistic faiths fail to answer the deepest longings of the human spirit for contact with the Other, we will see more and more alternatives take hold. Kirsch cites Wicca and other neo-pagan beliefs that compete in the marketplace of religious ideas for people today. On the side of monotheism, fundamentalist groups in all three camps are having a very visible, and in many cases terrifying, resurgence.

This brings me to Tony Kushner. Gay, Jewish, agnostic and a genius of a playwright, he represents the very Jewish struggle with ideas that is vital to Judaism. You can't argue with 1,000 Buddhas, he says. There will always be one to take your point of view. Jews need someone to argue with. The final irony: Kushner may be more of a staunch monotheist – although a self-proclaimed agnostic – than many believers.

"Know before Whom you stand" is inscribed over many synagogue arks. It is a challenge, a command and a plea. Alas, we don't often know, we only hope someone is listening.

"Know" – reach up into some other dimension, whatever your beliefs. So we return to the dialogue with the Dalai Lama. It seems to be an innate longing of human beings to reach out to some invisible dimension where they will find a god, even a failed one. We can use a little dialogue with those who seek similar goals, whether they pray to one god or many.

No one wants to be alone in the universe.

'Go back where you came from'

I took part in a TV debate on Feb. 10 about the Middle East as senior counsel to B'nai Brith Canada, along with Israeli consul general Ya'acov Brosh and two Palestinian advocates, Jehad Aliweiwi and Hanadi Loubani.

The program, *Michael Coren Live* from 10 p.m. to 11 p.m., was too late for me. I live in Winnipeg and had come to Toronto for a court case. I had been in court all day. The debate was a shouting match, the Palestinians and the Israeli consul general talking over each other with gusto. I am not much of a shouter and I was in no mood for a harangue particularly that evening. So rather than try to be heard over the din of the others, I just waited my turn to speak, which did not come often and never lasted for very long.

David Matas in Winnipeg

What the Palestinian advocates said made little sense to me and I quickly forgot most of it. But one thing Aliweiwi said stuck in my mind, because it was just so peculiar. He said, "Go back where you came from."

What could he possibly have meant?

Why Aliweiwi would want me in Winnipeg rather than Toronto I could not fathom. As well, the remark seemed addressed to Brosh, too.

Did Aliweiwi want me to go back to the land of my ancestors, to Israel? Did he want the Israeli consul general to go back home? That did not make much sense to me, either. Palestinian advocates have a tendency to oppose the settling of Jews in Israel, not to encourage it.

What I suspect Aliweiwi was referring to was the part of anti-Zionist mythology that says Israel is an outpost of the West and that Jewish Holocaust survivors came from Europe to seize Arab lands and colonize Palestine. When he said, "Go back where you came from," he was referring neither to me nor to Brosh in particular, but to Jews in general. The "where you came from" he had in mind was post-Holocaust Europe.

If I am right in my interpretation of this remark, it betrays a number of wrong attitudes. First of all, it equates Jews everywhere to European-born Israelis. For those who wonder what the connection is between anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism, one need go no further than this remark.

Nor was it addressed to the individuals to whom it applied. It was addressed to me, a person living in Winnipeg. In Aliweiwi's eyes, a Jewish person living in Winnipeg is no different from a European Jewish Holocaust survivor who has moved to Israel. We are both "you."

Second, the remark assumes that Israelis came from outside the region. The notion of Israel as a colonial-settler country hangs on the assumption that the population comes from imperial states. But the demographic reality is that most Israeli Jews are people who fled Arab countries since the advent of Israel, and their descendants.

Third, requiring Holocaust survivors to live in the neighbourhood of their devastation is a human rights violation. The UN Refugee Convention states that a person ceases to be a refugee if circumstances have changed and the person is no longer in danger. But where there are compelling reasons arising out of previous persecution why the person should not go back, the person remains a refugee.

This compelling reasons proviso was inserted into the Convention with Holocaust survivors in mind. The drafters of the document realized it would be inhumane to force survivors to live among the murderers of their family, their friends and their community. So they stipulated that Holocaust survivors did not have to go back to where they came from. For Aliweiwi to say the opposite was cruel.

Well, I was far too tired to shout all that out on Feb. 10, even if I had thought of it at the time. But for those who may have watched the debate and are still wondering what to make of it, I hope this helps.

David Matas is a Winnipeg lawyer and senior counsel to B'nai Brith Canada.

The Kirshner File

Emma Goldman was ahead of her times

I don't know about you, but until quite recently, I must admit, I confused Emma Lazarus with Emma Goldman, who were born two decades apart in the 19th century and lived in the United States. Now that I have seen Mel (Melissa) Bucklin's magnificent biopic, *Emma Goldman: An Exceedingly Dangerous Woman*, which was screened at the recent Toronto Jewish Film Festival, I doubt I will ever conflate the pair again.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Lazarus, who died in 1885, two years after Goldman's arrival in New York City, was a conformist and a poet. Her lyrical sonnet is engraved on the Statue of Liberty and is the acme of American patriotism. Goldman, an outspoken anarchist with revolutionary impulses, was a lecturer, pamphleteer, writer and publisher who pushed the limits of dissent in a free society. She fought for the emancipation of women, crusaded for birth control, sought to close the gap between rich and poor and opposed war. In 1919, along with 247 other foreign-born radicals, she was deported from the United States.

Since Goldman's death, a plethora of filmmakers, playwrights, biographers and scholars have focused on this subversive, uncompromising and romantic woman. Bucklin, a 47-year-old filmmaker on the staff of Nebraska Public Television, approached the topic in the full realization that Goldman's life had been picked apart minutely. Yet she was not deterred. "There is room for different interpretations," she said. "We have to keep the door open."

She first encountered Goldman while majoring in women's studies at the University of Nebraska in the 1970s. Subsequently, she stumbled upon Goldman in Warren Beatty's Hollywood film, *Reds* – in which Maureen Stapleton won an Academy Award for her portrayal of the feisty Goldman – and in the yellowing newspaper columns of Nellie Bly, a crusading journalist who interviewed Goldman in prison in 1893.

Intrigued by Goldman's role as an immigrant rabble rouser, political theorist and victim of America's first red scare, Bucklin began to explore Goldman's persona in archives and libraries, all in the hope of making a comprehensive film about her. "She raised people's consciousness and made them question their assumptions," said Bucklin, who started shooting shortly after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in the United States.

Although Bucklin does not share her politics, she is sympathetic to Goldman's anarchism. "Why should anyone obey anyone else? It's a profound question. Absolute and untrammelled freedom should be part of our thinking. We should question institutions and authorities. We need to pursue universal justice as we see fit. That's part of Goldman's Jewishness, though she was an atheist."

In *Emma Goldman*, there are no direct references to her Jewish origin, and in retrospect, she regrets this glaring omission. "I had only 80 minutes to tell her story, and in the editing room, a film takes on a life of its own," said Bucklin, who is of French, British and Swedish ancestry.

Bucklin, who describes Goldman as a "cultural Jew," has mixed feelings about her subject in the final analysis. "You end up loving her in many ways. She was an inspirational figure. She wanted a better world. But she was exasperating, an intellectual snob, and she used people. She was more lovable than likeable. If you had to spend a week with her, it would have been hard. Her friends said she was the worst bitch."

Goldman, then, was something of a paradox. She was extremely serious about her work, but at the same time, she was a hedonist, enjoying fine food, sex, dancing and fast cars. "She abandoned herself. So she might have been wonderful company."

Demonized by some Americans as an anarchist, Russian and Jew, Goldman was born in Kovno in 1869 and raised in Koenigsberg and St. Petersburg, the daughter of traditional Jews who forced her into an arranged marriage when she was in her teens.

She was 16, with only $20 in her pocket, when she immigrated to the United States – the brave new world of endless opportunities. Casting off her old life like a soiled garment, she dedicated herself to the promotion and dissemination of anarchism. She met Alexander Berkman, a fellow Russian Jew who had landed in the United States in 1888, and they became political soul mates and lovers.

No shrinking flower, Goldman also spoke in favour of other causes – free speech, prison reform, the eight-hour working day – that eventually were recognized as norms in modern American society. "The history of human growth is the history of every new idea heralding the approach of a brighter dawn, and the brighter dawn has always been considered illegal..." she observed in a pithy phrase.

A militant who aroused strong passions, Goldman organized mass meetings and hunger strikes. In theory, she rejected violence, but in practice, she endorsed it as an agent of change. By 24, she was widely regarded by friends and enemies alike as a compelling professional agitator and public speaker.

Goldman always thought the end justified the means. A philosophy that got her into trouble, she spent a year in jail after being charged with inciting violence. Later, much to her grief, she damaged the American anarchist movement by being associated with President William McKinley's assassin. He claimed he had been fired up by her ideas. In the wake of that painful incident, Goldman temporarily withdrew from politics and toiled as a nurse on the Lower East Side.

Mel Bucklin

In 1906, she founded *Mother Earth* – a magazine revered by anarchists – and resumed her special friendship with Berkman. Berkman, having shot and wounded steel magnate Henry Clay Frick in 1892 in a protest over his treatment of workers, had been condemned to hard labour. He languished in prison for 14 years.

Emma Goldman

Two years after Berkman was set free, Goldman entered into a steamy relationship with Ben Reitman, a hobo-turned- doctor who was compulsively unfaithful to her. In 1917, Reitman left her for a younger woman whom he married. She was devastated.

Goldman was a passionate proponent of birth control, which was illegal in the United States, but her persistent advocacy of women's rights across the board won her admirers in both working class and middle class circles.

Denouncing World War I as a clash between the forces of capitalism, Goldman urged the United States to stay out of that raging conflict and railed against conscription. The police raided her apartment and made off with papers and documents and the subscription list of *Mother Earth*, which was banned from the mails.

J. Edgar Hoover, the first director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, described radicals like Goldman as "intellectual perverts." Francis Caffey, the U.S. attorney-general, was more nuanced. He considered Goldman "a woman of great ability and of personal magnetism, and her persuasive powers are such as to make her an exceedingly dangerous woman."

Accused of violating the Draft Act, she was jailed, serving 22 months behind bars. In 1919, during the notorious Palmer raids, she was rearrested and served with a deportation warrant. By then, she had been a resident of the United States for 34 years. Roused from her Ellis Island cell, she was packed off to the fledgling Soviet Union, whose Bolshevik Revolution she had hailed. Her fellow deportees included Berkman, labour union leaders, birth control advocates, socialists, war resisters and anarchists.

She and Berkman reached the Soviet Union in January 1920. The country was wallowing in hunger and disease. They were bitterly disappointed with the Soviet utopia. Lenin, the Soviet leader, granted them an audience. To their unrelieved horror, they learned that he dismissed free speech as a bourgeois notion and luxury. Normally a tough-minded person, Goldman had been incredibly naive.

Toward the close of 1921, she and Berkman left the Soviet Union, utterly disillusioned. "The hopes of the revolution had been traded for a new tyranny," said Bucklin. "It was one of her most crushing moments."

Being a persona non grata, she was unable to go back home. Goldman's dream had been to return to America. Rebuffed, she went to Britain before settling down in St. Tropez, France. She died in 1940, having spent her last months in Toronto and Winnipeg. In an ironical turn, she was buried in Chicago. At her funeral, Goldman's lawyer and friend, Harry Weinberger, delivered a moving eulogy in which he praised her as a progressive and a tireless, fearless dreamer of liberty.

The fundamental issues she elevated into a national discourse, from the right to dissent to the right to oppose autocracy, are as relevant today as they were in Goldman's heyday, Bucklin said. "Her life is so contemporary."

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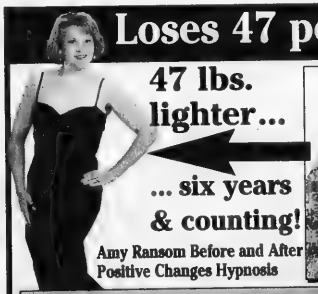

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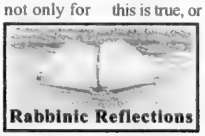
Jewish Life

Our great national pastime

By RABBI YECHIEL M. GOLDREICH



It isn't hockey or making money, watching television sitcoms or even reading Internet news reports about Israel. Our great national pastime is, was and always will be Torah study – and not only for rabbis. They are just the paid professionals of the game.

The definition of "Jew" really should read "Torah learner." (True, a few other technical details could get you a seat at the table, but if you aren't involved in this pastime why bother?)

Torah study has its players, vital statistics, strategies, legends of the game, drama and passion. Parents hope their child will grow up to be the next "great one." Buddies chat about Torah when they get together at a barbecue.

Purists tell us that the golden age of this pastime has passed, that the kids these days don't seem to be as excited about it as the old-timers once were, that money interests are ruining a good thing. Perhaps this is true, or perhaps people have always spoken this way.

Torah study is our great national pastime, but it is also more than that. It is a Divine directive – the first conversation we have in the afterlife will be about Torah study – and it is also good for us.

It makes us wiser, more insightful, more sensitive and arguably more decent – although it can't entirely cure you if you are a jerk. The Talmud itself states that common courtesy comes before Torah. Nor will Torah study make a person wealthy or endow the learner with great physical strength. (Actually, financial gain from Torah study is seen by the Torah as a negative thing, rabbis notwithstanding. When a pastime becomes a job, it's not the same anymore.) But manners, muscles and money aside, it's hard to find a better activity in which to be involved than Torah study.

It guides us, challenges us and gives us something interesting to do to keep us out of mischief.

This Shavuot, pick up a book of the Torah and enjoy the greatest national pastime a person can want. Erev Shavuot is, after all, the time of "tikkun leil Shavuot," when it is our tradition to study all night.

For, as we say in our daily evening prayer, "It [the Torah] is our life and the length of our days and about it we will meditate day and night."

Rabbi Goldreich is assistant rabbi of Shaarei Shomayim Congregation in Toronto.

Guest Voice

A day in the life

By ED MORGAN

Like so many days in Israel, last week, Saturday was one of contrasts. I spent the day in Haifa and the night in Tel Aviv, and in the process, witnessed two demonstrations that are together emblematic of the complexity of Israeli political life.

The morning saw the Arab communities of northern Israel and the Galilee marking the annual return of what is called in Arabic *Al-Naqba*, the day of disaster, exercising their right of free speech by filling the streets of Haifa with the green and white banners of the Islamic movement. The day commemorates the exodus of thousands of Arab residents during the 1948 conflict that accompanied the founding of the state.

While Arab citizens of Israel marched in Haifa, the towns of the West Bank were festooned with Palestinian flags. Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat himself gave the speech that led off the evening news, calling emphatically for implementation of what he dubbed the sacred right of Palestinian return.

Just over an hour down the coast, Rabin Square in downtown Tel Aviv was filled to the brim by what was labelled a Peace Now demonstration. The irony, however, was that the crowd endorsed Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in a way that would have been unthinkable for the Israeli left just a short time ago. Their placards proclaimed, "We're with you, Arik."

The peace demonstrators, reportedly 100,000 strong, called for a withdrawal from Gaza at the end of a week that saw 11 young soldiers killed hunting smugglers' tunnels and munitions factories in the violent strip. Former prime minister Shimon Peres gave the speech that took second place in the evening news, emphatically declaring the peace camp's victory over the 60,000 Likud members who voted a week ago to reject the prime minister's proposal to withdraw from substantial parts of the territories.

Now that Sharon, the former Mr. Not-One-Inch, is in full flight as Peres' peace partner, and Arafat, Peres' fellow Nobel Prize winner, is leading the rejectionist camp, one wonders what surprise will be next.

I have been teaching a course in international criminal law at Haifa University, and after each class, I seem to think that now I've seen it all. The class is about 80 per cent Jews-20 per cent Arabs, 50 per cent right-50 per cent left, and 100 per cent wise beyond their years. The debate over issues ranging from terrorism to war crimes is as feisty and free, if not more so, as any I have encountered on campuses elsewhere.

The study in contrasts continued when I turned on the evening news, deftly flipping back and forth, in my practised North American way, between CNN, Israel's Channel 2 and my fridge, when two parallel interviews caught my eye. The first was with the Givati Brigade commander under whom nine of this week's casualties had served, and then, almost as if the international station knew what the local competition would air, I caught an interview with a military police officer attached to U.S. forces in Iraq.

The difference between the two uniformed characters could not have been more stark. It was not just that the Israeli officer's stoicism was matched by his American counterpart's complaints, or that the former's internal debate about the political and existential quagmire was paired with the latter's lack of a political clue or an ideological care. What was truly remarkable was that throughout the interview, the U.S. soldier was anxious to describe her admittedly bleak situation and ask, "What's in it for me?" while the Israeli constantly questioned his squad's admittedly bleak situation and asked, "What choice is there for us?"

Needless to say, not all Israeli youths are immersed in rabbinic-style debate and many Americans do not ask what their country can do for them. However, there is something about this week's images of soldiers in full combat gear down on all fours searching the sands of Rafiah for the scattered body parts of their comrades that is hard to compare to anything else going on in the world. No amount of imitation hip-hop in Hebrew on the local MTV can disguise the depths of thought and emotion that life or, for that matter, death, in this country embody.

But then, not everyone sticks together in the land of milk and honey. Friday morning, I visited a friend from academic circles who lives at the very hip epicentre of the Shenkin Street artists' district. It is here that the cute and the kitsch mingle with the lurid and the decadent in a way that is prototypically and uniquely Tel Aviv.

As we walked by the craft stands lining Nahalat Binyamin, two black-coated gentlemen from Chabad Lubavitch did what they do everywhere from New York to London to Moscow: they asked us to put on tfillin and recite a few words to our maker.

At that moment, I was more into shopping than davening, so I politely declined. At the same time, my colleague swore under his breath and told me how he felt about "those people" in a way that took me aback. Had he been a Canadian professor in an encounter on Bathurst Street, I would be wondering how to expel my gentle Labor party friend from the university.

As I rode back to my apartment in Haifa late Saturday night, I listened to a translation of Arafat's speech on the radio. I was particularly struck by his double-barrelled quote from the Qur'an, on one hand exhorting his listeners to "find what strength you have to terrorize your enemy," while on the other hand telling them that "if they want peace, then let's have it."

At that moment, I passed by a banner hanging from a balcony that proclaimed in Hebrew, "We're all settlers." This statement, too, had a double meaning. Israelis are currently asking themselves whether they support or oppose a continued presence in Gaza. Either way, however, they are keenly aware that for their harshest enemies, the battle doesn't end at the border, it only begins there.

Ed Morgan is a law professor at the University of Toronto and is the incoming national president of Canadian Jewish Congress.

Jewish Life

Jews of Rembrandt's Amsterdam

***Rembrandt's Jews*, by Steven Nadler, University of Chicago Press $40.**

Jews who lived in 17th-century Amsterdam were fortunate; they faced few restrictions. They could practise Judaism freely, live wherever they chose and dress like their contemporaries. They were able to develop a vigorous civic, cultural and economic exchange with their Christian neighbours.

Books
Bernard Baskin

Vlooienburg, the centre of Amsterdam's art market and lumber trade, was also the heart of Amsterdam's Jewish world. And Rembrandt settled right at its center.

Nadler points out that "every house immediately contiguous with or facing [Rembrandt's] own was owned or occupied by a Jew. And an overwhelming majority of the households on his block, on both sides of the street, were Jewish. From his front stoop he could see into Rabbi Mortera's window; from his top floor he had a view of the community's synagogue. He could not help but hear the sons of Jewish families chattering in Portuguese on their way to school in the morning. On Friday afternoon, he could smell the slow-cooking Iberian foods they prepared for the Sabbath."

In choosing neighbourhood Jewish models, Rembrandt painted, etched and drew a remarkable number and variety of figures from the Torah and other Jewish biblical writings: Abraham, Hagar, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Benjamin, Moses, Samson, Hannah, Samuel, Saul, David, Bathsheba, Mordecai, Esther, Haman, Balaam, Tobit, Daniel – the list goes on and on.

The author writes, "Many of the paintings are moving, deeply felt works. They come across not merely as illustrations of Old Testament scenes, but as highly humanized, even personal portraits drawn from a deep familiarity with Hebrew literature. While other artists painted the Bible, Rembrandt painted Jewish Scripture."

Steven Nadler, a professor of Jewish Studies at the University of Wisconsin, points out that Jews, like many of their neighbours, bought and displayed paintings in their homes and offices. It is astonishing that, by one estimate, there were close to five million paintings produced by thousands of painters in Holland in the 17th century. This is an extraordinary number, especially since the total population of the republic was only around 800,000 individuals.

But what about the second of the Ten Commandments that warned "You shall not make for yourselves a graven image or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, on the earth below or in the water under the earth?" This injunction was interpreted by Amsterdam rabbis to refer to only the worship of idols.

Rabbi Saul Levi Mortera ruled that Jews could own works of art – both two and three-dimensional – since they were not in and of themselves idols. And in a written work on the question titled "On the Use of the Painters," Rabbi Moses d'Aguilar saw no reason to ban painted images in the homes of Amsterdam's Portuguese community. He did, however, recommend restraint and good sense.

Moving beyond Rembrandt and art, the author discusses the complex relationship between Dutch and Jewish cultures and some of the remarkable Jewish personalities of the time. These included Menasseh ben Israel, Rabbis Saul Levi Mortera and Isaac Aboah da Fonseca, the unfortunate Uriel Acosta, and most importantly, Sabbatai Zevi, the false messiah.

Zevi, who announced that the long awaited Redemption would occur June 18, 1666, was venerated in various parts of the Middle East and Europe. Many communities were gripped by a messianic frenzy. Amsterdam Jews fell hard. No community devoted more energy and resources to the Sabbatean movement than the Vlooienburg contingent.

Of course, it all ended in disaster when Zevi was given the choice between death and becoming a Muslim. In September 1666, the Messiah converted to Islam.

This is an enlightening study of Rembrandt and his relationship with the Jews of Amsterdam, as well as the history of an unusual and tolerant community and some of its most significant and colourful figures.

Jewish MP3s, part 1: Torah on the go

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

You see them everywhere. People walk, jog and shop while listening to their portable MP3 players. You assume they're listening to music, but they could be listening to something else, even to a Gemarah lesson. Over the next few weeks, I'll take you to websites with great Jewish MP3s that you can download easily *and* legally – and listen to anytime, even when you're not connected to the Internet. (But before I do, thanks to Marc Friedman of Thornhill, Ont. for suggesting the topic.)

Now the legal part. Although they didn't discuss MP3s in the Talmud, Rabbi Dr. Asher Meir of the Business Ethics Center of Jerusalem says today's copyright issues aren't really new. "Copying a song from the Internet is like making a detour around a toll both. Even if you don't get a ticket, you've taken a free ride on someone else's expense. Our sages viewed paying tolls as a prime example of the citizen's duty to obey the law, and emphasized the importance of avoiding even the appearance of evading this duty" **[http://tinyurl.com/33 ufa]**.

Of course, our legal systems are still grappling with downloading, and some courts have delivered wide-ranging verdicts on its legality **[http://tinyurl. com/244k3]**. So for the purpose of these columns, I am going to stick to websites whose creators *want* you to download their material. Most often they do so because they hope if you like the free song, you'll pay to hear more. Regardless, virtually all sites that allow downloading stipulate that their work can only be used for personal, non-commercial use.

And now a technical note. It is beyond the scope of this column to explain *how* to download the MP3s and get them onto a portable device (or burn them on a CD). However, I will say I have used Apple's free iTunes on both a PC and a Mac and have found it easy to operate **[www.apple.com/itunes/]**. Here's a link for some alternative software MP3 players, mostly free **[www.mp3cafe.net/mp3-players.shtml]**. And one technical tip: when you find an MP3 file you'd like to download, don't click on it. Rather, right-click on it and save it to your hard drive. Find the file on your hard drive and double-click on it. That should launch your MP3 software. As for purchasing a portable player, there are many models to choose from, including Nomad, Rio and the ubiquitous iPod. Many have accessories that also let you listen through your car's stereo **[http://tinyurl.com/3425f]**.

The next time you complain you'd like to attend more Jewish classes but just don't have the time, think again. Hundreds of classes are available online, and you can download them to your computer and burn and listen to them almost anywhere. TeachItToMe offers "Gigs of Audio and Video Torah," ranging from an Introduction to Tehilim (Psalms) to HaRav Moshe Chaim Luzzato's Path of the Just to the fundamentals of Hebrew Grammar **[www.teachittome.com/classes/]**. TorahWeb presents talks on Jewish Parenting, Spirituality and Affluence, and one called Who has Time? **[www.torahweb.org/torah/audio/]**

Try TorahZone.com **[www.torahzone.com/links/Audio.htm]**, the Chabad Daily Study Center **[www.chabad.org /dailystudy]** and "Digital Torah: the Reason for MP3." That's how MP3shiur.com greets you on its home page **[www.mp3shiur.com]**.

People who have decided to learn Daf Yomi, a daily page of Gemarah, can catch up on a day's portion through the Daf Yomi website **[www.dafyomi.org/]**.

Unlike the above sites, Aish HaTorah's AishAudio allows free online listening, but charges for downloads from its extensive searchable database **[www.aishaudio.com/]**. Although I've been focusing on sites with free downloads, I did want to mention AishAudio's press release called, "File Swappers Will *Not* Be Prosecuted" **[http://tinyurl.com/2h4t9]**. AishAudio's Rabbi Aaron Dayan knows unauthorized duplication happens. But rather than taking the legal route, he probably stops more downloads with a few well-chosen words: "Anyone who would steal Torah classes must really need the wisdom and moral understandings."

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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WATCHES · BRIDAL · PEARL and CRYSTAL

Jack Chisvin's passion builds pride and presence for Jewish student life

Wolfond Centre officially opens its doors

By ROCHELLE KAHN
UJA Federation

There are many reasons why the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life, which officially opened earlier this month, is attracting attention. Crowning the historic hub of Jewish Toronto at Harbord and Huron Streets, the centre offers a comfortable home away from home for Jewish students at the University of Toronto, with programming in spacious surroundings. The facility is architecturally outstanding and lays claim to being the first Canadian Hillel headquarters constructed fresh from the ground up.

But the most exceptional aspect of the Wolfond Centre, an important component of the new Tomorrow Campaign initiated by UJA Federation, is the passion behind it – a force as responsible for its creation as the project's capital funding. The heart and soul of that passion is one of our community's most enduring and inspirational leaders, Jack Chisvin – a former UJA Federation of Greater Toronto President.

Jack Chisvin

Chisvin's reputation as an internationally celebrated electrical engineer, combined with his unfailing willingness to support community initiatives, landed him the job of volunteer project manager for the centre, quite to his own surprise. "I had given some professional advice to the organizing committee early on," he explained, "but when David Gotfrid (past chair, Hillel of Greater Toronto) introduced me at the ground-breaking as project manager, I laughed. I thought he was joking."

Gotfrid wasn't, and some five years and thousands of volunteer hours later, Chisvin is still laughing, still enthralled with the centre and what it means for Jewish student life. His own Hillel connections are strong and personal, an early influence on his community activism. Hillel was, in fact, the matchmaker that introduced him to Phyllis, his wife of fifty years.

"There's a real déjà vu in my experience with Wolfond," Chisvin observed. "In the 40's, when I was studying in Winnipeg, Jewish students were marginalized. Establishing Hillel at the university enabled us to find our collective voice and promoted a vital Jewish presence - exactly what the centre will do for some 4,500 Jewish youth on Toronto campuses today and those to follow through the years ahead."

The centre's cornerstone is inscribed with a carefully selected Hillel quote, 'if you come to my house, I will come to yours.' Chisvin explained that, just as the architecture of this campus landmark had to reflect Jewish pride, its atmosphere needed to convey an open door message to all.

The Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life was designed by Toronto architect Susan Friedrich. It will be featured in the upcoming Doors Open Toronto tour of prominent city sites, May 29 and 30.

The Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life recently held its official opening. At the event, the building's cornerstone was unveiled by lead benefactors (l-r) Mel, Pedie, Chad, Greg, and Henry Wolfond.
(Photo by Aaron Harris)

More than 300 community members attended the centre's official opening earlier this month, with a special program that included a celebration to lay the building's cornerstone and the dedication of a special donor wall.

Hillel of Greater Toronto, supported by UJA Federation, is the voice of Jewish students on campus.

Helping Terror victims in Israel

Students at United Synagogue Day School, Bathurst Campus, are learning the true meaning of tzedakah and mitzvot. They recently raised $14,000 for victims of terror and school security in Israel through the USDS *Hakesher* fund, chaired by parents Ellen Chaikoff and Anna Schwartz. Students having a bar or bat mitzvah asked their classmates to make donations to the fund in lieu of gifts. UJA Federation Campaign Director Jeff Springer recently accepted a cheque from the *Hakesher* fund, which will be added to UJA Federation allocations for Israeli terror victims and school security. Pictured (l-r) are: Jeff Springer; USDS Bathurst students Chelsey Schwartz, Erin Yunger, Jordan Tannenbaum, Bryan Flatt, Ben Silverstein and Michael Chaikof.

Computer centre builds skills and confidence

The Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living has a reputation for listening carefully to its community's seniors, working hard to find new ways to serve their needs. So when a survey last year of 700 area seniors pointed out a strong desire for computer training, the response was swift and determined.

Like most of its projects, Betel's Computer Learning and Resource Centre was a cooperative effort, backed by a number of enthusiastic partners. The Ontario Trillium Foundation donated partial funding, augmented by a special grant as well as ongoing annual support for the centre from UJA Federation. Bernard Betel's Board of Directors was so excited about the initiative that members personally contributed a substantial portion of the funds needed to outfit the new computer facility.

Jennifer MacLeod, Betel's coordinator of computer services, is proud of this dynamic resource and how it has affected the lives of centre members. "Time and again, I hear the same story," MacLeod explained. "Participants start off feeling apprehensive and skeptical that we can actually teach 'someone like them.' After the very first success – something as simple as being able to send an e-mail – their self-esteem rockets and they start having fun."

What sets the Betel Centre course apart from similar seniors' offerings is two-fold, according to MacLeod. "Starting with how to turn on the computer, we don't assume any initial knowledge and this lack of expectation really promotes confidence." Additionally, MacLeod noted special features built into the classroom setting, all geared to make the experience as easy and successful as possible.

"The instructor's computer is connected to a large screen, visible to all, which means everyone is literally on the same page at the same time," she said. "Each class of 12 students has three or four centre volunteers available to provide individual attention. Our computers are state-of-the art, including large, LCD flat monitors to prevent eye strain." Even the chairs were selected with the ergonomic needs of the senior student in mind.

Seniors go high-tech at the new Computer Learning and Resource Centre at the Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living.

The Bernard Betel Computer Learning and Resource Centre offers a variety of courses, ranging from its popular Computer Discovery program for beginners to more advanced programs on Word and the Internet. Full and partial scholarships are available to Betel Centre members. For course information and registration details, contact Jennifer MacLeod, coordinator of computer services, at 416-225-2112.

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Walk against hate at the Walk with Israel

By ROCHELLE KAHN
UJA Federation

At a time when Toronto's Jewish community has faced some of the most difficult incidents of antisemitic hatred in recent memory, the UJA Federation Walk with Israel on May 30, our community's popular annual event now in its 34th year, is more meaningful than ever, says Walk Chair Peter Ekstein.

This year's Walk with Israel is expected to draw more than 20,000 participants.

"The world has changed dramatically since the 2003 Walk. It's more important than ever that we stand together as a community, in support of Israel and against hatred and antisemitism," said Ekstein, who is chairing the walk with David Peltz. "The Walk is an opportunity for us to show Israel, our government, and all of Toronto that we care, by being there," he added.

Peltz stressed the importance of participating in the Walk as a show of community solidarity against hatred. "Historically, as Jews, we have always reacted strongly against racism of any kind. We cannot be tolerant of hatred in any form."

Ekstein, Peltz and a burgeoning crew of dedicated volunteers and UJA Federation professionals have devoted hundreds of hours preparing for the Walk, which is expected to attract more than 20,000 participants. Proceeds from the day will assist Israel's victims of terror and other vulnerable Israelis.

For the first time, Toronto Police Chief Julian Fantino will be leading the walk. "Chief Fantino's participation powerfully underscores this year's dual message – come out to walk with Israel and walk against hate," said UJA Federation Campaign Director Jeff Springer.

This year's Walk offers an opportunity to perform an added mitzvah. Dr. Gordon Arbess will be coordinating an on-site bone marrow drive at the RioCan Festival at Ontario Place following the Walk. One simple swab, applied to the inside of your cheek, may be all it takes to give hope to a patient in urgent need of a transplant.

Join the Walk with Israel, Sunday, May 30. The party begins at 9:30 at Coronation Park, across from the CNE's Princes' Gates.

Starting off at 9:30 with a pre-Walk party at Coronation Park, across from the CNE's Princes' Gates, and ending at RioCan Festival at Ontario Place, the Walk with Israel covers much of historic downtown Toronto. The route will include new checkpoints with carnival games, activities and refreshments.

There's something for everyone on Sunday, May 30, with: a *Meet your Match* feature, co-sponsored by JDate; a *Guinness Book of World Records* challenge to create the world's largest hora; lively entertainment; an Israeli-style shuk; exciting raffles and prize draws that will include a trip to Israel courtesy of El Al Israel Airlines; and a kosher barbeque.

For more information, visit www.jewishtoronto.com or call the UJA Federation Walk with Israel Hotline at 416-631-5700.

Terrorism expert Schanzer: fighting a "different kind of war"

By WENDY LAMPERT
UJA Federation

According to terrorism expert Jonathan Schanzer, the situation in Iraq is not a typical war.

"Traditionally, wars are fought against an ideology or a country. We're fighting a different kind of war. We're fighting a tactic – terror."

The former terrorism analyst at The Washington Institute for Near East Policy briefed community members at a lunch sponsored by UJA Federation's Young Lawyers Division following a recent trip to Iraq, where he met with al-Qaeda prisoners and a former intelligence officer for Saddam Hussein's regime. The trench warfare being waged by the U.S. in Iraq, he said, is the wrong way to fight the war on terror.

Schanzer said it is important to distinguish between moderate followers of Islam, and the 15 to 20 percent of Muslims who follow a radical view of their faith. "This is a twisted way of looking at a religion which isn't inherently violent," he said. The problem is that the moderate voices are drowned out by the radicals. "We know the Yassir Arafats, the Saddam Husseins and the Osama bin Ladens, but we don't know the moderates."

Renowned terrorism expert Jonathan Schanzer (second from left) speaks with participants Michael Feldman (far left), David Schlesinger (second from right) and Alan Newman (right) at a recent UJA Federation Young Lawyers Division lunch.

The U.S. also doesn't have a firm enough understanding of the radicals or the structure of their operations, he noted. "You can't win a war until you figure out exactly who you're fighting."

Since the terror attacks of 9/11, the structure of al-Qaeda has changed, and no longer has a top-down configuration, noted Schanzer. "Al-Qaeda was Terrorism Incorporated, Osama bin Laden was the CEO, and the smaller cells were franchises. Since 9/11, the corporate headquarters are gone, but the franchises are still there. This is al-Qaeda 2.0," Schanzer said.

The cells are doing the same work – they have the same training, money and radical view, but are now self-directed. It's what Schanzer calls the "affiliate phenomenon," and it's what's going to make the war on terror even harder to fight.

"We didn't recognize the extent to which al-Qaeda had gone global, or this current shift. There are cells in Yemen, Algeria, Egypt, and northern Iraq. There are even cells in Canada working with affiliate groups," he said.

But Schanzer does hold out hope. He said Iraq "was supposed to be the next al-Quaeda front," but that doesn't seem to have materialized. Based on what he saw during his trip to Iraq, there are only a few thousand radicals fighting the American soldiers – a much smaller number than when al-Qaeda fought the Soviet Union.

The fight against terror is going to get worse before it gets better, Schanzer said. And countries like Canada, which traditionally maintains neutrality, won't be able to do so any longer.

"There is going to be a more extensive battle in the future. In the next few years, countries are going to have to decide where they stand on this issue."

Options in charitable giving

More than 125 lawyers, accountants, financial planning and insurance professionals learned the latest about avenues for charitable giving at a recent breakfast program sponsored by the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto's Professional Advisory Committee (PAC). Participants heard from experts on a variety of charitable giving opportunities, including insurance and annuities, publicly traded securities, private company shares and real estate. During the program, outgoing PAC Chair Barry Corbin (l) received an award from Neil Nisker (r), Chair of the Jewish Foundation's Board of Trustees, in recognition of his outstanding leadership.

Any questions concerning information or photos that appear on these pages should be directed to jewishtorontonews@ujafed.org

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Greater Toronto Area

Author heckled during speaking engagement at Chapters

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

A low-key speaking engagement by an author at a Waterloo Chapters has spun wildly out of control, with threats of a lawsuit, allegations of racism and concerns over an author's personal safety.

Author and lawyer Howard Rotberg said he is consulting with legal counsel about a possible libel suit against Indigo Books & Music Inc., which operates the Chapters chain, over a news release that suggests he made racist comments when confronted with hecklers at a Sunday afternoon lecture.

"I categorically deny I said anything racist," Rotberg told *The CJN*.

Indigo is standing by its news release, said Sorya Ingrid Gaulin, director of public relations and regional marketing for the bookseller. The release states in part, "We are saddened that our customers witnessed inappropriate behaviour and heard racist comments both from the guest author and some of the attendees at this particular event."

'Very traumatic event'

The unlikely series of events began last week as Rotberg, a lawyer and author of a pro-Israel novel, *The Second Catastrophe*, was addressing a small group at an in-store lecture. About 20 minutes into his address, two men who later identified themselves as a Palestinian and a Iraqi Kurd appeared and began to heckle him. They were asked to sit down and keep their comments for a question period at the end of the talk, but soon the lecture disintegrated as the hecklers disrupted the author's talk with claims his book labels all Muslims as terrorists.

Rotberg denies his book does so, saying it was the hecklers who introduced the idea to the afternoon event.

"They wouldn't let me speak," Rotberg said. When one member of the audience told the heckler to let the author continue, the Iraqi heckler said, "He's a fucking Jew."

At that point, Rotberg raised his voice, and "I yelled back and said you can't call me a fucking Jew. The manager said, 'You can't swear in a family store,' and escorted me to a back room."

Rotberg insisted they contact police, and after they hesitated to do so at first, management called 911. An officer arrived, interviewed the two hecklers but rejected Rotberg's request they be charged with causing a disturbance.

When Rotberg insisted the officer charge the men, the officer said, "You don't get any special treatment because you're an author," he recounted.

Rotberg is angry at the response of Chapters and police, "who would not intervene for me… when one of the two guys said words to the effect that [I] have no right to speak if [I am] going to say these things about Israel."

Compounding the incident, Rotberg said, was the Indigo news release with its allegation of racism. "They have attempted to ruin my reputation after Gestapo tactics by Islamist gentlemen who don't believe I have the right to make a speech," he said.

Gaulin said the bookseller stands behind its news release. She said she has five written statements from store employees who will corroborate the statement's allegation, but she declined to specify what comment by Rotberg could be considered racist.

Gaulin said Rotberg, along with store staff and the Indigo home office, had experienced a "very traumatic event," one "we are treating very seriously."

She said the hecklers were escorted from the store and told never to come back. "Staff acted properly and took every measure to ensure it didn't escalate into physical violence," she said.

Dennis Stoutenburg, a professor in the Jewish studies program at the University of Waterloo who attended the lecture, said "I heard everything he [Rotberg] said. I heard no racist comments from him.

"The Palestinian man first charged him with the claim [allegedly in his book] that all Muslims are terrorists. Howard then denied that."

Stoutenburg believes the alleged racist comment "was an unsubstantiated claim from a member of the audience."

When Stoutenburg told the Iraqi that the store was full of books containing divergent views, "he went into a rant that America and Israeli policies were terrorist and the whole sense of democracy was fascist, and he was yelling as loud as he could. And then he turned to Howard and said, 'He's a fucking Jew,'" Stoutenburg said.

Stoutenburg added that it did not appear the book store was prepared to handle that sort of incident.

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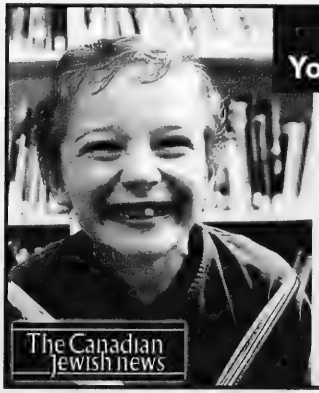

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Ajax shul celebrates its 10th anniversary

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

When Harley Saltzman moved to Ajax in 1984, he thought he had moved "beyond the pale" of Jewish settlement. He was not aware of many other Jewish people living in the vicinity.

In 1993, he was standing in line at the local gardening centre when the owner told him about an informal network called Jewish Families of Durham Region, made up of about 30 local families who come together to celebrate Purim and Chanukah.

At the next Chanukah celebration, Saltzman asked the group members if they wanted to start a synagogue. They expressed interest in establishing a Reform congregation, recalls Saltzman, the founding president of B'nai Shalom V'Tikvah.

Today the shul is a thriving institution with more than 50 member families, a rabbi, cantor, Sunday school, youth group, adult education program and cemetery. The congregation holds regular Shabbat services, holiday celebrations and bar and bat mitzvahs. This weekend, the shul marks its 10th anniversary with a special Shabbat service 9 a.m. on May 29 at St. Paul's United Church and a gala party on May 30.

Saltzman says one of the congregants, a key person who worked closely with Saltzman to get the new shul established, happened to be the former president of Temple Israel in Ottawa.

"Eli Edelson was transferred out here for business. Rabbi Gottlieb – he's now the spiritual leader of Temple Kol Ami – introduced me to Eli. He was the one with all experience and I was the schlep who didn't know what he was getting into."

Rabbi Gottlieb, then executive director of Canadian Council of Reform Judaism (CCRJ) lead the congregation's first official service, held at a local golf and curling club in May 1994, Saltzman says.

"Our MP Dan McTeague attended the inaugural service. He was the second to arrive and I immediate had him help schlep in the food into the hall."

A Reform rabbi from New York led the first High Holy Day services, which were held at Ajax Community Centre. Some 60 people attended.

Saltzman says B'Nai Shalom V'Tikvah was fortunate in finding a Torah recently. It had had one on loan from the CCRJ for about seven years, which came from a synagogue that had closed.

"We went on the Internet to search for one. The U.S. army replaces Torahs with new ones, but we had no success. We looked in Israel, but the prices were out of reach. The army Torahs were cheaper."

When the congregation brought its Torah to a scribe to be repaired, the scribe happened to be repairing another Torah in his possession, Saltzman said.

"There it was on his work table. It was much more affordable. He got it ready for synagogue use… A year ago, we introduced it on Shavuot."

The congregation also has a Torah on permanent loan from Temple Emanu-el until another congregation needs it, Saltzman says.

"Two years ago, we paraded in their Torah. Their rabbi, Debra Landsberg, and their president were part of the ceremonies."

Saltzman says the Durham congregation has also benefited over the years from the support of many spiritual leaders and visiting rabbis, including Cantor Anna Trubashnik, Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, Rabbi Gottlieb, Rabbi Barbara Borts, Rabbi Paul Golomb, Rabbi Jerry Steinberg and Cantor Deborah Staiman.

"We've had some phenomenal people with us for the High Holy days plus the rabbis for monthly services."

Rabbi Steinberg, the current rabbi of B'Nai Shalom V'Tikvah, has led the congregation for the last three years and like its previous spiritual leaders, he runs monthly Shabbat services and is available for special occasions, says Saltzman.

"He is very interactive. We always have a Torah study breakfast before service. We get as many as 30 to 40 people attending services in the winter."

The congregation has also been lucky in finding an education director from the area for its Sunday school, says Saltzman, noting that Ron King is a certified teacher and an experienced religious educator.

"He had taught at Holy Blossom for years. He's been the architect of our course curriculum.

"He is probably one of our greatest unsung heroes in the entire congregation. He's been a mover and shaker. He was instrumental in starting the youth group."

Saltzman says the shul's Hebrew teachers live in the area as well.

B'Nai Shalom V'Tikvah generally holds services at St. Paul's United Church in Ajax and has a close relationship with its congregation, he says, adding they hold interfaith programs during Holocaust Education Week and invite the church congregation to events, which include the second communal seder on alternate years.

Indeed, the synagogue will recognize the church for its support at its upcoming anniversary celebration, Saltzman says.

The Saturday morning service, which takes place at the church, will be followed by a catered lunch. Saltzman expects 120 people to attend the Sunday gala, which will include dinner and live music.

Saltzman, who is now the shul's ritual director, has held many volunteer positions at the shul.

"Everyone pitches in. That's the nature of our congregation and it makes for a much more closely-knit congregational family."

For more information about B'Nai Shalom V'Tikvah and its 10th anniversary celebrations, call Saltzman at 416-446-0925 or e-mail him at harleysaltzman@bellnet.ca.

Greater Toronto Area

Troupe uses puppets to fight sexism, discrimination

By ELYSSE ZAREK
Special to The CJN

Sitting in the gym in the Kingsview Village Public School in Etobicoke, Joanne is upset that she can't sew a patch onto her soccer jersey for the first out-of-town competition.

Nam offers to help her out. "I'll sew the patch on for you, Joanne," says Nam.

Joanne sighs. She looks dejected.

Members of The Concerned Kids and their puppets

"Thanks for the offer Nam, but you can't. It's a girl thing. Some things are boy things and some things are girl things," she says.

Joanne and Nam are waist-high talking puppets manipulated by members of The Concerned Kids, a non-profit social-action puppet troupe that tackles serious issues like sexism and discrimination through the multicultural, three-foot dolls.

Fidgeting on the gym floor are nearly 100 elementary school children who came with their teachers to learn a few things about diversity, tolerance, and why both boys and girls can sew patches or play soccer if they want to.

The puppet show is a pilot project started six months ago by the Black and Jewish Dialogue, one of the sub-groups of B'nai Brith's League for Human Rights, and The Concerned Kids. It is designed to teach kids aged six to 12 about diversity, and how to deal with classmates' differences while still being friends.

Because of increases in immigration and shifts in the city's demographics, Toronto's classrooms are more diverse than ever before, and the need for these types of programs is becoming apparent, says Heather deSilva, managing director of The Concerned Kids.

"We've had schools call us and say that we need to come to their school because it's so multicultural, but every school is like this now," says deSilva.

"People in the city are very aware that multiculturalism is here. If we don't learn how to deal with it then there will be problems. In light of the anti-Semitism, this is really needed."

Lorne Foster, director of the Black and Jewish Dialogue, is optimistic that the program will help kids understand how to accept and respect differences.

"We have never been able to reach the younger generation. This is our first foray into that arena," says Lorne Foster, director of Black and Jewish Dialogue. "Puppets that are Muslim and Jewish further promote the ideas of fighting intolerance and prejudice."

Two of the puppeteers are black Muslims, and three are Jews. One of the five is an understudy.

"But it's not about Muslims and Jews," says deSilva. "It's all very generic so it can apply to any school, anywhere."

The bright colours and friendly style also make it easier for kids to relate to the puppets' stories and talk about issues such as what it's like to celebrate different religious holidays or have a name that's hard to pronounce.

"It's cool. I liked the puppets," said 10-year-old Hanad Abdi, whose favourite was Nam, the Vietnamese-Canadian puppet with slicked-back hair.

"They like it because it's multicultural," says teacher Robin Waxer, who brought her Grade 4 and 5 class to see the skit. "There are people here who are from Somalia, who are Jamaican, Jewish. We've talked a lot about this."

Teachers are given material to prepare students for the skit and continue the discussion afterwards.

The pilot project is currently funded by Access and Equality Toronto and the National Crime Prevention Strategy. The Concerned Kids has 15 puppet troupes presenting on different social action issues. It costs about $8,000 to outfit each troupe with puppets, costumes and scripts. The organizers hope to take the tolerance skits beyond the Greater Toronto Area if the pilot project is successful.

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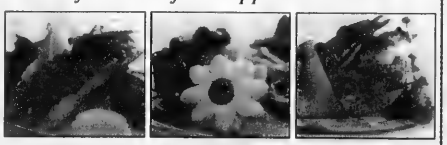

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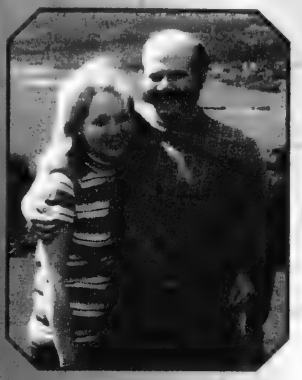

Mazel tov to Mark & Marsha Turner on their 35th wedding anniversary, from your loving children.

Bryan & Susin Sloss announce the birth of Madelyn Alberta, named in honour of grandmother Alberta Sloss. Proud sister is Shayna and grandparents are Anna & Alex Garber and Ken Sloss.

Nathan & Noah Wolgelerenter welcome their new cousin Eden Cohen, born March 24.

Congratulations to parents Sherry & Jerry, and brother Jordan on Shawn's Bar Mitzvah, from grandparents Ella & Sam Rozencwajg and the rest of the family.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!
Label the back of all photos and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Send all your photos to: The CJN, Family Moments, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, ON, M3B 3K4.

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What's New Deadlines: Monday, June 7 is the deadline for the June 17 issue and Monday, June 14 is the deadline for the June 24 issue. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

PHAT PHRIDAYS SERVICE

Generation Hutzpa presents "Phat Phridays: Not Yer Average Kabbalat Shabbat" led by **Rabbi Aubrey Glazer**. Experience a blend of Jewish music from Israeli folk and devotional to Latin sounds with fusion musicians **Ernie Tollar**, **Aaron Lightston** and **Debashish Sinha**. 6 p.m. in the Beth Tzedec Youth Chapel. 416-781-3514 ext. 47.

TOT SHABBAT SERVICE

Temple Kol Ami presents a tot Shabbat service for children under age 5 and their families, 6:30 p.m. at the Leo Baeck School, 36 Atkinson Ave. For information call 905-709-2620.

KABBALAT SHABBAT

Rabbi David Bauman and **Cantor Aaron Bensoussan** will lead Kabbalat Shabbat services, 7 p.m. at Beth Emeth Synagogue, 100 Elder St. 416-633-3838.

Saturday, May 29

PARSHAH DISCUSSION

Henry Atkin will lead a discussion of the weekly portion, Naso, at Beth Tikvah Synagogue, 3080 Bayview Ave., at 9:45 a.m.

RISE OF ANTI-SEMITISM

Bernie Farber, executive director of Canadian Jewish Congress, will address "The Rise of Anti-Semitism: How It is Being Handled," during services at Adath Shalom Synagogue. Followed by a special kiddush. 864 Sheppard Ave. W. 416-635-0131.

Sunday, May 30

UJA WALK, MARROW DRIVE

Join the community for the UJA Federation Walk for Israel and tell Israel you care! Registration kick-off party 9:30 a.m. at Coronation Park. Walk begins at 10:30 a.m. Festival including kosher BBQ, Israel mini mall, arts and crafts and more under the events tent at Ontario Place, 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Don't miss the Gift of Life Bone Marrow Drive at the festival. If you are between the ages of 18-60, in generally good health, have yourself tested. The test involves a quick and painless swab test inside your cheek and you may be able to save a life.

Monday, May 31

DISCUSSION GROUP

Beth Tikvah Synagogue invites families facing the challenges of interdating and intermarriage to the discussion group "Married Out But Not Opted Out." The discussion ranges the gamut of challenges faced in individual situations. 8 p.m. No charge. All are welcome. For information contact **Moe Horenfeldt** at 905-508-0135 or mhorenf@idirect.com.

CELEBRATING ISRAEL

"Evangelical Love for Israel: Hard Questions and Answers" an interfaith evening celebrating Israel and the Canadian Jewish Community with **Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl** and guest speaker, **Rev. Malcolm Hedding**, executive director, International Christian Embassy Jerusalem. Musical guests are **Chuck King**, music director, International Christian Embassy Jerusalem; **Ruth Fazal**, composer and violinist; **Jackie Young**, vocalist. 7:30 p.m. at Beth Tzedec Congregation. No charge. 416-781-3511.

Tuesday, June 1

CHUG TANACH

The Tanach group will study and discuss Psalms chapters 15, 16 and 17. Beth David Congregation at 8 p.m. All welcome.

Wednesday, June 2

TORONTO HEALING PROJECT

Dr. Racheal Turkienicz will be the keynote speaker at the Toronto Jewish Healing Project's conference. Her topic will be "They Have Heard That I Sigh." For information and registration call **Etta**, 416-944-3359.

Continued on page 21

IF ANTISEMITISM CONCERNS YOU

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Continued from page 20

ISRAEL IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Adath Israel Congregation presents **David Goldberg**, director, research and education Canada Israel Committee, discussing "Israel in the 21st Century: Confronting Old and New Challenges." 8 p.m. 416-635-5340.

JUDAISM-WHY?

Rabbi Mitch Mandel will give a series of lectures on "Judaism, Why? The What, How and Why of Jewish Life," Wednesdays, beginning tonight through June 16, 8 p.m. at Aish HaTorah, 949 Clark Ave. W.

Other news

BOOK LAUNCH

Beth Tzedec Congregation and Library will launch the book *The Question of Anti-Semitism: Those Who Forget the Past* edited by **Ron Rosenbaum**, writer and journalist for *the New York Observer*, Thursday, June 3, 7:30 p.m. 416-781-3511.

EMUNAH SHABBAT

Emunah Women of Toronto's annual City Wide Seudah Shlishit program will take place Saturday, June 5, at six locations: BAYT with **Idit Zehavi** at 5 p.m.; B'nai Torah with **Naomi Arram** at 6:15 p.m.; Beth Jacob with **Rifka Sonnenberg** at 5 p.m.; Yeshivat Or Chaim with **Shoshana Helfenbaum** and **Michal Lixenberg** at 5:30 p.m.; Shaarei Tefillah with **Sarah Stern** at 5:45 p.m.; and Shaarei Shomayim with **Atarah Grysman** at 5 p.m. Couvert $18. Sponsorships $36 or $54. For information call the Emunah office 416-636-0036.

ISRAEL DAY FESTIVAL

Canadian Zionist Federation's 9th annual Israel Day Festival, Sunday, June 6, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Mel Lastman Square, 5100 Yonge St. The festival includes live stage shows, an Israeli marketplace, food, activities for kids and a live auction at 12:30 p.m. For information or to volunteer call 416-633-3988 or email czf@bellnet.ca.

SUNDAY VICTORIAN TEA

Join National Council of Jewish Women for their Victorian Afternoon Tea with guest speaker **Barbara Rusch** on "Scandals of Queen Victoria." Sunday, June 6, 1:30-3:30 p.m. 416-633-5100.

SISTERHOOD DINNER

Beth David Sisterhood's installation dinner and entertainment with musical guest **Jono Landon**, of **BeyondEDEN**, playing a mixture of spiced up familiar Jewish songs, along with songs that will be sure to get everyone singing and participating. Tuesday June 8, 6:30 p.m. Pre-paid reservations of $15 by June 1. Call **Rochelle Kerzner** at 416-630-9500.

CANTOR CONCERT

Join Beth Tzedec Congregation on Wednesday, June 9 at 7:30 p.m. for "Israel In Our Hearts," a musical evening of celebration featuring *Nishmat Tzedek: A Righteous Soul*, composed by Cantor Meir Finkelstein with performances by **Cantors Meir Finkelstein** and **Chayim Frenkel**, **The Beth Tzedec Youth Chorus** and guest artists from Israel. Tickets $50 and $36. Call 416-781-3511.

JUNEFEST 2004

Support The Canadian Helen Keller Centre and Deaf-Blind Awareness Month at a family festival, Thursday, June 10, 3-8 p.m. at Mel Lastman Square. Enjoy an evening of music, face painting, clowns, magicians and a performance by the Wonderful World of Circus. 416-730-9501 or visit www.chkc.org.

JEAN ANOUILH'S *ANTIGONE*

Pushover Productions, a theatre company founded in 2002 to allow observant Jews the opportunity to participate in theatre production, presents **Jean Anouilh**'s *Antigone* at The Artword Theatre, 75 Portland St. one block east of Bathurst, south of King St. June 15, 16, 17, 20 at 8 p.m. PWYC matinee Sunday, June 20, 2 p.m. All Tickets $12, available at the door or call TicketLine at 416-366-7723 ext. 290 or visit www.stlc.com/artword/artword.php.

LIFE DRAWING CLASSES

Art for Life, a new non-profit community group offering art classes to the community, offers life and portrait drawing classes, Thursdays 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Antibes Community Centre, 140 Antibes Drive. Call **Shelley** at 416 663-6309.

SUMMER ULPAN

Canadian Zionist Federation is offering a summer ulpan, an opportunity for intensive, interactive daily Hebrew study with **Chanah Sargon**. July 19-July 22 and July 26-July 29. Two hours of instruction each day. 4580 Dufferin Street, Suite 508. Call 416-633-3988 or e-mail, czf@bellnet.ca.

MELTON SCHOOL

The Florence Melton Adult Mini School is taking registration for the fall classes. Call **Loretta** at 416-789-7400.

JEWS OF NORWAY

Beth Tzedec Museum is bringing the travelling exhibition "Jewish Life and Culture in Norway: Wergeland's Legacy," to Toronto in October. If you lived in Norway or know people who did, the museum would like to hear your story and see any objects, photographs and documents that you may have in your possession. Please contact **Dorion Liebgott** at 416-781-3514 Ex 32 or museum@beth-tzedec.org.

FOR SENIORS

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Casino Rama, June 9, Casino Niagara, June 24. Saturday dance, May 29, June 12. Sunday dance, May 30, June 6. 416-395-7881.

Join **LZA Seniors Cultural Club** June 9 for *Fiddler on the Roof* at the Stage West. Call **Libby** at 416-782-2059 or 416-630-9444 for tickets.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. Closed for Shavuot. Call **Menachem Wallach**, 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

Senior Mixed Bowling Group every Tuesday at 1 p.m. at Playtyme Bowl, 33 Samor Rd. 416-495-1999.

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

"Les" is More is held on Thursdays in classrooms "A" and "B" from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. This is a weekly current events discussion group. No Charge.

Smile Theatre will perform a musical story, *Consider this Lillie*, on Friday, June 4, 1-2 p.m. in the Assembly Room. Free. Call **Melissa Konat** ext. 2297.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

Day trip to see *42nd Street* at the Drayton Festival Theatre and visit the St. Jacobs Market, June 3, 9 a.m. Members $45, non-members $50. For tickets call 416-225-2112 ext. 134.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speaking seniors meets Tuesdays at 2:30 p.m. June 1, Israeli movie, June 8, lecture. Call **Anna**, ext. 110.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or wwwmilesnadaljcc.ca

MNJCC Community Choir 8th Annual Spring Concerts, Sunday, June 13, 3 p.m. and Wednesday, June 16, 8 p.m. with **Harriet Wichin**, conductor, and **Jack Gelbloom**, pianist, at the Al Green Theatre. Tickets: $20 family, $10 adults, $5 seniors/students.

Mini-Me Camp, summer camp for 3-5 year olds with exciting add-ons, Alphamania, Wild and Free. Call for information.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

Koffler Music open house, Sunday, June 6. Meet the teachers, observe the lessons. For schedule and information call ext. 228.

The Koffler School of Music presents "Resa's Pieces," **The Koffler Band** in their year-end performance, Monday, June 7 at 7:30 p.m. Leah Posluns Theatre. Tickets $5, call ext. 228 for details.

Koffler School of Music Student Recital, Sunday, June 13, 2:30 p.m. in the Koffler Loggia.

The Koffler Gallery presents **Norman T. White**, Norm's Robots, through June 27.

The Challenge: Sumo Robot Competition, Sunday, June 6, 12-4 p.m. at the BJCC Amphitheatre. Free. Prizes will be awarded to the top contender in each robot class: Sumo Classic, Sumo Clever, Robot Dancer or Robot Painter, Sumo Autonomous and Sumo Lightweight. Challenge two of White's wrestling robots-Goody 4 Shoes, clever class, and Low Life, autonomous class.

Koffler Nashir Children's Choir is holding open rehearsals/auditions for the fall season for children ages 8-15. Sundays through May at 3:30 p.m. Call ext. 228.

Prenatal class offered in conjunction with Mount Sinai Hospital, Sunday June 6 and 13 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. $136 per couple. Call ext. 390.

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BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Tillie Fine	May 10/04	550 Cummer Ave
Harvey Kerpneck	May 12/04	96 Beechwood Ave
Jean Frankel	May 13/04	7 Acton Ave
Vivian Abramovitz	May 14/04	205 Cummer Ave
Sonny Atlin	May 14/04	65 Skymark Dr
Olga Mittelman	May 15/04	18 Westgrove Cres
Rita Swirski	May 15/04	5 Fisherville Rd
Anne Roth	May 16/04	170 Red Maple Rd
Murray Banks	May 17/04	370 Ridelle Ave
Eliza Podlisker	May 16/04	10 Torresdale Ave
Sydney Traister	May 17/04	3595 Keele St

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
Pearl Gelkopf (Pola) ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 30th at 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Bathurst, south of Steeles
Chenstochover Aid Society Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
DANIEL KLINGER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 6th, 12:00 noon
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Toronto Independent Benevolent Association Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Ramras, Phyllis	Pavlov, Dragan Dan
May 12, 2004	May 15, 2004
1131 Steeles Ave W	1 Ealing Dr
Goldsmith, Jack	Herskovits-Engel, Rose Dody
May 10, 2004	May 18, 2004
14 Rosseau Rd	3560 Bathurst St
Carton, Lorraine Adel	Saraga, Alberto
May 13, 2004	May 16, 2004
Greenspoon, David	Kornbloom, Morris
May 16, 2004	May 17, 2004
550 Cummer Ave	4001 Bayview Ave
Finkelstein, Rose	Zilberleib, Lilia
May 17, 2004	May 12, 2004
429 Walmer Rd	6101 Bathurst St
Gilbert, Zelik	
May 17, 2004	

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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
JACK ROTENBERG ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 30th, 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Beth Tikvah Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
GILDA DUBINS ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 30th, 2:00 p.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
All For One Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
Sara Hamerman ז"ל
loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother & sister
will take place
Sunday, May 30th at 12:00 noon
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Clanton Park Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ENA PAUL ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 30th, 11:00 a.m.
McCowan Road Cemetery
Machzikei B'nai Israel
(McCowan Rd. S. of Eglinton Ave. E.)
Shaarei Shomayim Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
Rose Schwartz ז"ל
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Sunday, June 6th at 1:30 p.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Shaarei Tefillah Section
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On Campus

U of Windsor's vice-president sets new goals

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Neil Gold, who was recently re-appointed to a second six-year term as provost and vice-president of the University of Windsor, has travelled far and wide as an educator.

He has worked in Argentina, Ecuador, Peru, Britain, Zimbabwe, Australia, New Zealand and Singapore, where he was a legal education and justice reform consultant.

And in 1990, he helped establish a new law school at City University in Hong Kong. "We designed an educational program that became a model for other such programs around the Commonwealth," said Gold, a lawyer by training.

At the University of Windsor, Gold is basically the chief academic officer.

"I work with deans and other senior leaders to develop and manage our programs of instruction and our research activities," he explained. "It's my responsibility to oversee the university's core activities: the creation, preservation and dissemination of knowledge."

A former Torontonian who turned 58 on May 16, he was dean of law, dean of continuing education and dean of students before assuming his present position.

In his first term as provost, Gold and his colleagues fostered and promoted objectives ranging from transparency to clarity of purpose.

And now, as he looks ahead, he expressed confidence that the university is heading in the right direction.

"Our enrollment base is firmer than before. We have hired about 300 faculty members and librarians to replace retirees. We now have viable plans for all our areas. We are beginning to innovate in program content and design thanks to our president's strategic blueprint for the next five years.

Gold, whose wife Mary is associate law dean at the university, has definite goals in mind. In an interview last week, he said: "We seek a balance between a strong research culture in which students participate, and a concertedly student-oriented approach to learning and teaching and the provision of services.

"We want to demonstrate that students' learning and personal growth and development are clearly and pervasively central to all our activities and be known as the best place in Canada to learn."

Expounding on his philosophy of education, Gold observed, "I think it's clear that students learn best when they are active participants and are provided ways to see how what they are learning is meaningful and relevant to them. We focus on students and their needs while being clear about the core requirements of our fields of study."

Students should be able to demonstrate abilities in acquiring knowledge and research and in computer skills, he said.

And they should be capable of exercising critical thinking and possess literacy, numeracy, interpersonal and teamwork skills.

Last but not least, they should be motivated by a desire to learn continuously.

Neil Gold

Gold, a graduate of York University, the University of Toronto law faculty and Osgoode Hall Law School, launched his career in 1973 when he started the University of Windsor's law clinic.

Two years later, at the University of Victoria, he helped establish its law school. "We developed some new courses that sought to integrate understanding about obligations, rights and legal processes. And we created a very welcoming and positive learning environment that fostered dialogue and debate."

While in Victoria, he was president of an 1860s-era synagogue that was restored to its former splendour.

In 1981, Gold went to Vancouver to become director of the bar admission and professional legal training programs for the Continuing Legal Education Society of British Columbia.

Then he returned to Victoria for a spell before becoming dean of law at the University of Windsor.

"We developed an outstanding reputation in the profession," said Gold, whose mother Marie was a homemaker and whose father, Marcus, ran a Toronto millinery firm, American Hat Company, and Beverley Hat.

Gold is a believer in the power of the law to achieve justice. But he admits that the legal profession has not always lived up to his standards or expectations.

"I have been disappointed with the way in which some lawyers, the minority by far, use law to harass, abuse others and avoid accountability.

"In my brief time in legal practice, I became discouraged about the 'game' lawyers played to exact unmerited results without regard for human interests that were always in the balance."

And, he added, his own legal education left much to be desired.

"It was unpleasant for me – highly competitive, not collegial and not much focused on the impact of law on individuals and society. I was young enough and clear-sighted enough to think I might change things."

Of course, he did not. But since then, Gold has grappled with the issues that so annoyed him as a younger man.

Today, he is quite content with his lot in life. "A career in the academy provides tremendous opportunities to meet personal goals, serve society and learn for life."

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Coast to Coast

Brazilian Jews want to immigrate to Quebec, official says

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL – A significant number of Brazilian Jews want to immigrate to Quebec because of rising concerns about the economic and political situation in their country, says Jaques Perlow, executive director of the Confederacao Israelita do Brasil, an umbrella Jewish organization based in Sao Paulo.

Perlow was in Montreal recently to discuss with Jewish community officials how they might assist Brazilian Jewish immigration.

Perlow said there are about 100 families who are currently interested in coming to Quebec.

Contact has also been made, he said, with the Quebec immigration office in Buenos Aires, Argentina, which opened in the summer of 2003 and has been actively recruiting potential immigrants from Latin America.

The president of the Confederacao, Berel Aizenstein, and Jacques Terpins, president of the Latin American Jewish Congress and a Brazilian, are expected to be in Montreal in June for further talks, Perlow said.

Argentinian Jewry has been the focus of FEDERATION CJA and Jewish Immigrant Aid Services (JIAS) over the past two years. The Montreal community has actively encouraged Argentinian Jews, hard-hit by the economic crisis in their country, to settle in Montreal where the number of Jews has declined by eight per cent over the past decade.

Perlow met with JIAS president David Sela (who speaks Portuguese) and Victor Goldbloom, who heads the joint task force of JIAS and the federation, which is seeking to increase Jewish immigration to Montreal.

Goldbloom said the community would welcome Brazilian Jews, but at this point it has only three serious inquiries on file.

Goldbloom, who visited Brazil last August, said he is surprised by the dire picture Perlow painted of the situation of Brazilian Jews and is trying to obtain more information from international Jewish organizations on just how bad things are.

During the five days he spent in Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, he met with Perlow and three other community officials and attended synagogue services in Rio. He said he did not get a sense that there was a crisis or that there was a great interest among Jews to emigrate to Quebec.

"A small number, about 10 people, met me after services with questions about the possibility of emigrating here," Goldbloom said.

Perlow told *The CJN* many of the approximately 120,000 Jews in Brazil have experienced a drastic deterioration in their standard of living because of the country's economic problems since the late 1990s.

A change in the political climate has also provoked anxiety, he said. For the first time in its history, Brazil has a leftist government headed by Luiz Incio Lula da Silva, who took office in January 2003. The community sees Lula's government as pro-Palestinian in contrast to that of his predecessor Fernando Henrique Cardoso. "He was openly friendly to Israel. He received an honorary degree from Hebrew University," Perlow said.

Perlow notes that Brazil announced plans this year to open a diplomatic office in the West Bank city of Ramallah. Brazilian newspapers ran photos of a Brazilian official being kissed by Yasser Arafat. He said there has been a rise in anti-Semitism generally.

About half of Brazilian Jews live in the capital, Sao Paulo, with the rest in other parts of the country, he said. They are equally divided between Ashkenazim and Sephardim. Jews trace their first arrival in the region to before the Inquisition, he said, and Brazil claims the oldest synagogue in the Americas, built in 1640 and still preserved in Recife.

YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

ייִדיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פון: אַלעק סילווער

גרינס אויף שבועות

פון ד"ר ש. ז. כהנא

עס איז אין אַלטער באַליבטער מנהג צו בראָנגען גרינס אויף שבועות. עס איז סתם אזוי גוט אין שיין אריינצוברענגען אַ ביסל גרינס אין די וויסע, שטרויקע זומער־טעג. עס ברענגט אריין לעבעדיקייט אין צו דער־קווישן אַ ביסל מינט פרישן גרינס. דער מנהג האָט זיינע פֿאַרשיידענע טעמים, מען ביגדט עס מיט די בלומען אין גרינס, ואס האָבן באדעקט דעם בארג סיני אין דעם גרויסן מאָג פון מתן תורה.

אַנדערע ביגדן עס מיט משה רבינו, ואס דריי חדשים נאָך זיין געבוירן, האָט מען אים אריינגעוואָרפן אין אַ קעסטלע צווישן גרינע בלעטער פון נילוס־טייך. עס זיינען פאַראַן נאָך פיל טעמים. גרינס מאכט האָס געמיתם אין הארץ אירשלעם. אין די פונקטים פון ר' האַונולען, ואס זאָמלט מעשיות אין לעגענדעס וועגן דער שואה־צייט, גענפינען זיך צוויי קעגנגעצלעכע מעשיות וועגן גרינס אויף שבועות אין די לאַנדען. איינע איז גרינלעך־פֿריילעך אין די צוויי־טע ביז גאר פֿיינלעך.

פֿיינלעך איז געווען האָס לעבן אין נעטא, פול מיט לעבן אין צער, דאָך האָס מען אָנגעשאַלטן האָס לעבן טראָץ אַלע טויט־מיטלען פון די רשעים. מען האָט גע־האַלטן, אז לעבן איז אַ מצוה צו להכעיס די שונאים. איז מען טאָקע אונטערגען מיטן טאָג־טעגלעכן לעבן אויף דעם אלטן שטיצער אויף וויפל מען האָט גאר געקאָנט אַן מען האָט אויך אָפּגעהיטן מצוות אַן מהגים וויפל עס איז געווען גאָר מעגלעך.

אין יאָר 1943 האָט זיך געפונען ר' פּחוסל איך פּיט־לעכן לאַגער פון אוישוויץ. ער האָט געטאָן אַלץ צו בליבן אַ יִד אַן אָפּהיטן מצוות. אַבער ואס האָט ער געקאָנט טאָן, אז די שכיחה האָט זיך מסתלק געווען פֿון דער וועלט אַן זי איז געוואָרן הפקר אין די הענט פון דעם רשע ימח שמו? ער האָט אַבער נעקעמפט קעגן אים אַן זיינע וועגן מיט זיינע שוואכע כוחות. ער האָט געטאָן מצוות וואס ער האָט געקאָנט.

שבועות צייט האָט ער געטראָכט וועגן אריינבראָנגען אַ ביסל יום־טובדיקייט פון שבועות אין די צעבראָכענע הערצער. ואס ברענגט מען אַבער אויף שבועות, אַז עס איז גאָרנישט געווען ואס צו ברענגען. ר' פּחס האָט אַבער אויסגעפּונען אַ געדאַנק. ערב שבועות האָט ער אריינגעזיפן גרינס אין עס אריינגעבראכט אין זיין בא־ראָק. וען ר' פּחס מיט זיינע מיטאַרבעטער האָבן פֿאַר־נאכט מאַרשירט צוזיץ פון דער ארבעט האָט ער געזונגען דעם סקראבאוטן ניגון־מארש פון „אזה בחרתנו". זיינע מיטגייער האָבן געקוקט אויף אים מיט וווּנדער, צי איז ער חלילה משוגע געוואָרן?

וען זיי האָבן אריינמארשידט אין באַראָק אין איז פֿאַרמאַכט, האָט ר' פּחס פּונאַנדערגעשפּרייט דאָס גרינס אינערן באַראָק אין נעוואָגט פּריילעך: גרינס אויף שבועות, אַן אמתע שיל, כאָטש אַן אין עמוד, אַן אַ ספר, אַן א סידור, אַבער גרינס איז דאָ.

אנדערש האָט אַבער אויסגעזען דאָס שבועות גרינס בּיי ר' שמואל צודאָק אין וואַרשעוער נעטא. אויך ער האָט זיך פֿאַרבעטן נאָך אַ ביסל גרינס אויף שבועות, בלעגדיקס, שפּראָצנדיקס, לעבעדיקס. אין נעטא איז אַבער נישט נעווען קיין שום גרינס. ער האָט נאָרנישט נעפּונען. ער האָט נעבעטן זיך שכן יצחק ער זאָל אים העלפן נעפּינען אַ ביסל גרינס אויף שבועות. „גרינס זוכט איד?", האָט אים יצחק נעענטפערט. „אן בריוו האָט איד? אן אַ שול האָט איד? באַרישט, נאָרנישט אַר גרינס פעלט אייך?!"

„גרינס ר' יצחק", האָט ר' שמואל נישט אָפּגעלאָזט, „עס פעלט אַ ביסעלע גרינס". לסוף האָט אים ר' יצחק צוגעזאָגט. גוט אויך וועל אייך ברענגען אַ ביסעלע גרינס, צוויי ביסטלעך גרינס, גוט?

אין ער האָט טאָקע געהאַלטן וואָרט. צומאָרגנס האָט ער אים גענראָכט זיינע צוויי אויסגעדאָרטע, אויסגעגרינטע קינדער, וואס זיינען נעווען גרין ווי גראָז. „נאָ, אייך גרינס אויף שבועות ר' שמואל, אַלע ייִדישע קינדער זיינען גרין, ביסטו אן גרין".

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Coast to Coast

Young couples said largest group emigrating

Continued from page 3

The Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in the United States perked up aliyah, too, he added. Sept. 11 illustrated that the fact of terrorism does not respect national borders. "People don't feel as safe as they used to," said Anavi.

Certainly, the intifadah has not deterred Wolf, who is getting married next month and plans to be a teacher in Israel.

Aliyah to Israel

Year	USA	Canada	Total
1948	301	35	336
1949	584	75	659
1950	761	127	888
1951	568	50	618
1952	292	61	353
1953	202	32	234
1954	294	55	349
1955	321	59	380
1956	187	22	209
1957	277	36	313
1958	378	31	409
1959	330	49	379
1960	413	49	462
1961	313	35	348
1962	619	58	677
1963	868	100	968
1964	1006	116	1122
1965	924	92	1016
1966	749	77	826
1967	665	74	739
1968	932	103	1035
1969	5739	680	6419
1970	6424	734	7158
1971	7364	758	8122
1972	5515	519	6034
1973	4393	393	4786
1974	3089	304	3393
1975	2803	262	3065
1976	2700	279	2979
1977	2571	335	2906
1978	2921	364	3285
1979	2950	323	3273
1980	2312	238	2550
1981	2384	286	2670
1982	2693	241	2934
1983	3469	337	3806
1984	2581	246	2827
1985	1915	175	2090
1986	1968	211	2179
1987	1818	168	1986
1988	1551	149	1700
1989	1383	150	1533
1990	1370	176	1546
1991	1538	165	1703
1992	1840	228	2068
1993	2057	223	2280
1994	2118	280	2398
1995*	2468	284	2752
1996*	2520	406	2926
1997*	2438	337	2775
1998*	2030	266	2296
1999*	1894	254	2148
2000*	1504	231	1735
2001*	1477	176	1653
2002*	1854	186	2040
2003 (1-10)*	2015	220	2235

From 1948 to 1994 the source of olim is from the Central Bureau of Statistics.

*** From 1995, the source of olim is from the Central Bureau of Statistics and includes Israelis as part of olim families.**

"When I'm in Toronto, I'm apprehensive about the situation," said Wolf, a 24-year-old university student and graduate of Eitz Chaim Day School and the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto. "But over there, in Israel, I feel exactly right."

Nor has Alex Pomson been intimidated by the spectre of terrorism. "It was not a consideration in our plans," said Pomson, who holds the Koschitzky Chair in Jewish education at York University. "Unfortunately, we're familiar with terror incidents. But we appreciate that life goes on."

Tanya, his 38-year-old wife, concurred. "Terrorism is obviously a concern. But we've been in Israel during some of the harder times."

Their refusal to be cowed by the daily drumbeat of violence comes naturally to modern Orthodox Jews such as Wolf and the Pomsons, who comprise about 60 percent of the new olim who have arranged their aliyah through Anavi.

According to Anavi, about 25 percent of new immigrants from Canada are Conservative and Reform Jews, while the rest are secular.

"As a person, I'm happier in Israel," explained Wolf, both of whose European-born parents previously lived there. "I feel like I belong in Israel. I'm part of something, the past and the future. I feel Jewish in Israel. My roots are there."

"My wife and I both grew up in B'nai Akiva (the religious Zionist youth movement) and our families are Orthodox," said Pomson, who was born in Britain 40 years ago. "This is something we always wanted to do. "

"It's an ideal I grew up with," observed Tanya. "It has been my ultimate aim to end up in Israel. We're doing it now because the kids – Anna [13], Ori [11], Ittai [9] and Shifra [7] – are getting older."

According to Anavi, young couples, with or without children, constitute the majority of Israel-bound immigrants. They are likely to be in their early 30s, university-educated, self-employed and possess a knowledge of Hebrew.

In addition, they have probably visited Israel as tourists, students or volunteers and have relatives or friends there.

"This is a good time for them to go to Israel," said Anavi, referring to the quintessentially typical immigrant. "They're young enough to be able to adjust and become part of Israeli society."

With the assistance of a social worker, the Israel Aliyah Center has also begun recruiting young adults in foster homes and on the streets who have drifted away from the Jewish community.

"The goal is to bring them to Israel and help them adjust to life in Israel," said Anavi.

To ensure success in their new environment, prospective immigrants should look for jobs and hunt for housing before leaving Canada. "We give them useful information," said Anavi. "But they should use family connections and go to Israeli web sites on employment agencies, cities, banks and schools."

Like all olim who settle in Israel under the Law of Return, Wolf and the Pomsons are eligible for a basket of fairly generous government benefits aimed at easing their integration.

For three years from the date of their aliyah, they may import personal belongings, appliances and furniture on a duty free basis. On new cars, 50 per cent of the duties are waived, though the 17 percent value-added tax must be paid.

The cost of the El Al flight is absorbed by Israel, and in their first year, individuals and families receive absorption stipends.

Also in the first year, Hebrew ulpan language lessons are free of charge. If an immigrant is not working during the first six months, medical coverage is provided. Should an immigrant choose to reside in an absorption centre, the first six months are free.

The sales tax on a house is reduced for the first 10 years. Rental subsidies are available in the first four years.

As well, immigrants are eligible for income tax reductions in the first three years. Discounts depend on income and size of family.

The state offers free adult education within five years of aliyah, plus a living allowance in some cases.

The ministry of absorption picks up the cost of tuition for university students under 25 studying for a first degree. Olim under 27 who already have earned a degree can apply for a stipend to cover the first two years of tuition toward a post-graduate degree.

And under a North American-funded program known as Nefesh b'Nefesh, an immigrant deemed to have a good chance of making it in Israel can apply for further financial assistance that becomes a grant after the third year.

"There are a lot of minor benefits, too," said Anavi, citing as an example the free Hebrew lessons elementary and high school students may take.

Due to cost-cutting measures, Israel has dropped special mortgage rates and housing grants.

"The benefits are somewhat helpful," said Alex Pomson. "They make a difference in relieving financial pressures. But we would have made aliyah without them."

New olim tend to settle in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and nearby localities. A few opt for cities such as Eilat or Beersheba, kibbutzim or settlements in the territories.

Wolf intends to live in Ma'alot – a Galilee development town and the scene of a 1974 terrorist attack – with her new husband, David Singer Jordan, a Canadian who made aliyah a decade ago. Both have relatives in Israel.

The Pomsons, with relatives in Israel, too, plan to live in Baka, a neighbourhood in Jerusalem. Alex, the vice-principal of a Jewish school in London prior to his arrival in Toronto in 1996, is currently negotiating for a position at an Israeli university.

The Jewish Agency regards aliyah as a process, explained Anavi.

"We're aware that some olim, having left family and friends behind, may have to return to Canada, even for years. We accept the fact that you can't disconnect yourself from your past life."

He has no idea how many olim give up in frustration and go back to their former homes in Canada.

"I know some have returned, but I don't keep figures. They don't report to my office."

Despite the hardships they may encounter in Israel, new immigrants usually leave Canada with a positive attitude.

As Wolf succinctly put it, "I'm definitely going there with the intention of staying."

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Coast to Coast

Israel should withdraw from Gaza: Krauthammer

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Israel should withdraw from the Gaza Strip out of self-interest and not as a favour to the Palestinians, U.S. syndicated columnist Charles Krauthammer believes.

"Israel should pull out because Gaza is indefensible militarily," he said in a recent interview. "Israel has to rationalize and straighten out its defensive lines."

Positing further reasons why a unilateral withdrawal is necessary, Krauthammer noted that Israel is at war with the Palestinians and that the current Palestinian leadership is not a credible negotiating partner.

Claiming that Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat seeks Israel's destruction, Krauthammer said, "If Arafat didn't want to destroy Israel, he would have made a counter offer at the Camp David summit four years ago."

Asked how he reconciles Arafat's public support for a two-state solution with his own contention that Arafat's real objective is Israel's demise, Krauthammer replied:

"Arafat is a liar. He signed 63 ceasefires during the civil war in Lebanon. What does that tell you about him? Of course he's a liar! Arafat will never sign an agreement that leaves a Jewish state intact."

The present generation of Palestinians is simply not ready for a two-state solution, and may not be for years to come.

"Israel won't get a deal from them even if it withdraws to the 1967 lines. Right now, there is no one on the Palestinian side to give anything to." The Palestinians have yet to produce a moderate leadership, he said.

Suggesting that most Israelis back a withdrawal from Gaza, he declared, "It will happen under one Israeli government or another."

Krauthammer, a conservative columnist associated with the *Washington Post* Writers Group, urged Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to move ahead with his recently announced plan to evacuate Gaza on a unilateral basis.

"If I were him, I'd go straight ahead."

On May 2, the Likud party's central committee rejected the scheme by a wide margin in a non-binding referendum.

"Sharon can't break a promise to the president of the United States, especially after he went out on a limb for him," said Krauthammer, referring to George W. Bush's statement in mid-April backing Israel's right to retain parts of the West Bank and refusal to accept an influx of Palestinian refugees.

Sharon runs the risk of alienating Israeli public opinion and rupturing relations with the United States should he reconsider his plan, he warned.

"Any policy that lacks the support of Israeli public opinion and the United States is dead," he added.

"Gaza will never be part of Israel."

Krauthammer expressed sympathy for Gaza's 7,500 Jewish settlers who vehemently oppose Sharon's proposal. "People don't want to be uprooted from their homes. That's pretty understandable. But in the end, the people as a whole decide what's in a nation's interests."

He acknowledged he was at a loss to explain how Sharon would persuade the settlers to pack their bags and leave. "It may cost him the prime ministership."

Krauthammer was scathing in describing Sharon's decision to call a Likud party referendum to settle the issue.

"It was one of the stupidest political moves. He thought he would win. But you never ask a question to which you don't already have an answer or are not sure of the outcome. If he had called a national referendum, it would have been a slam dunk. He made a fine mess of it."

In his view, a withdrawal will not be interpreted as a Palestinian victory since Israel is building an electronic security fence through the West Bank.

The barrier will stop terrorism, deprive the Palestinians of a powerful weapon and define the borders of Israel and a future Palestinian state.

"It's a demographic fence," he noted, saying that about 70 per cent of Jewish settlers in the West Bank will end up living on the Israeli side.

Claiming that Sharon intends to retain upwards of 15 per cent of the West Bank, Krauthammer said that Israel will have no problem defending such areas.

"Israel shouldn't stay in Nablus or Ramallah, but should keep places like Ma'aleh Adumim and Gush Etzion," he said in a reference to Israel's biggest West Bank settlement and a cluster of settlements near Jerusalem.

Krauthammer denounced proposals by Israeli personalities Ami Ayalon and Yossi Beilin for a virtual Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 borders.

"They're beyond naive," he asserted. "They're criminally naive. The problem in the Middle East is the lack of a Palestinian partner. Jews will negotiate among themselves until they're blue in the face, and in the finest talmudic tradition."

Krauthammer does not rule out the possibility that the Bush administration will lean on Israel for political concessions on the Palestinian track to win the support of the Arab world for its policy in Iraq. "It's possible. Maybe rhetorical pressure, but not much more."

The road map to peace will remain still-born unless the Palestinians dismantle "the terror apparatus," he said.

Krauthammer has no regrets about the United States' invasion of Iraq. "History will judge. But Saddam Hussein is gone, the Baath regime never to return, and his two sons are dead. Libya, as a direct result, has disarmed."

And now, Iraq stands a decent chance of becoming a country that will neither terrorize its population nor its neighbours. "That's a pretty impressive list of achievements."

The Abu Ghraib prison abuse scandal has temporarily damaged U.S. interests in Iraq, but "people who think Abu Ghraib is a turning point know little about history," he stated.

Calling the new anti-Semitism in Europe "extremely serious," he said, "It's a return to the pre-Holocaust norm. The last 50 years were an aberration. Now we're back to old Europe. The Europeans are not too comfortable with the idea of the proud, independent Jew. They swallowed this discomfort for 50 years in the shadow and shame of the Holocaust. Now they have no shame. So they do what they can to cut Jews down to size."

Apart from Britain and Denmark, Jews have no business living in Europe anymore, said Krauthammer.

By contrast, the new anti-Semitism has bypassed the United States because of its spirit of decency and tolerance. "That makes us unique."

Krauthammer, who practised psychiatry before journalism, was in Toronto to address Canadian Friends of Ben-Gurion University.

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Conference draws over 120 women from across Canada

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — More than 120 women from across the country gathered here recently to network, learn from one another, and enhance their leadership skills.

Many Voices One Vision: Canadian Jewish Women Speak, a three-day conference sponsored by UIA Federations of Canada, featured a wide array of speakers from Canada and Israel, as well as workshops and panel discussions.

At a luncheon held on Parliament Hill, best-selling author Irshad Manji, who has just received the first annual Oprah Winfrey Chutzpah Award, described her life as a Muslim woman who dares to question her own religion.

As a young child growing up in Vancouver, in a family that had been refugees from Idi Amin's Uganda, Manji attended weekend classes in Islam where she recalls being taught that women are inferior and Jews are evil. Even at the age of eight she questioned both premises, a bold move that heralded the beginning of a lifetime of questioning.

"Where is the evidence for the so-called Jewish conspiracy against Islam?" she asked.

The ability to question her religion seems to have been lost, she said, although "in the early decades of Islam, 135 schools of Muslim thought existed."

Unwilling to blindly accept what the imams told her, she has spent years in study and in a personal quest for meaning without abandoning Islam.

Manji challenged Canadian women, "who have the luxury of freedom of speech and thought, to join me in expecting more of Islam. Join me in asking more of Muslims."

The keynote speaker at the conference, Justice Rosalie Silberman Abella, discussed the differences between human rights and civil liberties. By sharing her own family's personal story of loss and escape from the Holocaust, she emphasized that human tragedies abound in the world today.

"We have made remarkable progress and we are immeasurably ahead of where we were 50 years ago in many ways, but we have not learned the most important lesson – how to prevent the abuses.

"Instead of lamenting past injustices, we must learn to stop them before they occur. Where injustice is preventable, it should be prevented when it is first identified," she said.

Other speakers at the conference included Marlene Catterall, MP for Ottawa West; and Ruth Bar-On, executive director of SELAH – The Israel Crisis Management Center.

Israeli-Canadian military ties said strong

OTTAWA – If the recent one-day conference held in Ottawa by the Canadian Defence Industries Association is any indication, military co-operation between Canada and Israel is strong and getting stronger.

Speaking to more than 100 participants from the Canadian government, Israeli government and private defence companies from both countries, Ambassador Haim Divon explained why Israel is so advanced in the field.

"For us, it is a necessity, not an option. We don't want to be featured on the history channel," he said. "This is an event of mutual interest and for the benefit of both countries."

Israeli companies hoping to do business in Canada were here to take advantage of opportunities in the country. They learned about Canada's rules and regulations, its procurement policies and tips on how to trade successfully.

Toronto MP Art Eggleton, chair of the Canada-Israel Parliamentary Friendship Group, described the time leading up to the signing of the free-trade agreement between Canada and Israel in 1996, the first free-trade agreement outside North America, when he was Canada's minister of international trade.

"Both Canada and Israel are trading countries, countries whose economies greatly depend on trade. Recognizing that and recognizing globalization, I set out to expand our horizons in terms of free trade," Eggleton said.

"Defence procurement is a slow process…it takes a lot of patience. There needs to be persistence, there needs to be a greater presence on your part. It is not enough to try to manage it from the United States. There is a similarity, but there are differences as well between the United States and Canada," he said.

"You have my support and the support of the Parliamentary Friendship Group, which is made up of parliamentarians of all parties as we try to strengthen that relationship and friendship between Canada and Israel and I hope and pray that Israel will find peace within secure borders very soon," said Eggleton.

Alan Williams, assistant deputy minister in the Department of National Defence, echoed Eggleton's advice to Israeli companies, adding, "[Y]ou also need to ensure that you and your interests are properly represented here on the ground – to optimize your chances of success, you need to be present, seen and become known."

Williams said Canada can also benefit greatly from increased trade.

"The fact is that there are no, let me repeat, no policy or other structural impediments to DND's ability to acquire Israeli defence products. The policy may have been somewhat less clear 15 or so years ago, but as I speak to this audience, there is no reason why DND cannot purchase Israeli defence goods if they offer the most in terms of competitiveness and performance," he said. – D.K.

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'Ambassadors of peace' honoured for their work

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — Israeli ambassador to Canada Haim Divon and his daughter Michelle were recently honoured as "ambassadors of peace" by the Ottawa branch of State of Israel Bonds.

The duo were feted for their efforts to bridge the cultural divide between Israel and its neighbours. The event, which was held at Beth Shalom Synagogue, was attended by several members of Parliament, Senator Laurier Lapierre, Government House Leader Jacques Saada, the Hon. Justice Morris Fish, former Liberal MP Herb Gray and former NDP leader and MP Alexa McDonough.

Peter Herndorff, president and CEO of the National Arts Centre (NAC), spoke of his close friendship with the Divon family, developed during their four years in the nation's capital.

"Eveyone in this room knows that Haim has a reputation as the most energetic ambassador in Ottawa," he said, "but even by that standard, Haim and Linda's [Divon's wife] presence at the NAC has been amazing."

After reading a message from Pinchas Zukerman, director of the NAC Orchestra, Herndorff presented Divon with a Zukerman-autographed baton "to orchestrate peace throughout the Middle East."

Michelle, who is about to graduate from high school, said in a speech, "Spending four years in Canada enabled me to learn multiculturalism and to respect every person, regardless of background. People in Canada take it for granted that they can talk to anyone, regardless of religion, nationality or race, but it is different in Israel."

Michelle is organizing a summer camp on the grounds of her school, Ashbury College, for Israeli and Palestinian youth to get to know each other far away from the scene of the conflict. She hopes this will be a first step in preparing the next generation for a real and lasting peace.

"My work reflects the upbringing my parents have provided me and therefore most of the credit goes to them," she said.

Senator Mobina Jaffer spoke of her relationship with Divon and of her experiences in Israel, beginning with her visit as a special envoy to a conference in Haifa. Arriving shortly after a suicide bombing there, she said she was moved by her experiences. Before she had left Canada, she expressed some hesitation about the trip, but her daughter encouraged her to go.

"You are the chair of a committee of women, peace and security; how can you say no? It is always easy to talk about peace from a place of peace, but you have to experience conflict to understand it," she said.

"When Haim and I met, I knew that Allah had given me a job to do," said Jaffer. "Together we have to find a solution; to stop the violence, to bring two communities together. Canada must play a larger role in bringing a sustainable peace to the Middle East."

FROM MIRACLE TO MIRACLE: The students of United Synagogue Day Schools, Bathurst campus, recently raised $2,000 for Israel Research Cancer Fund (IRCF). The money raised goes to support scientists in Israel working on cancer research. Seen from left are Jamie Rose, Hilary Notkin, Taia Samuel, Jacqueline Jordan, Jamie Blustein, and top, Mindy Blustein.

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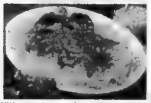

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Coast to Coast

Three new leaders will take their case to the people

Continued from page 1

have frequently and forcefully spoken out for Israel and against anti-Semitism, but their boss has been less vocal on the issues.

Which leaves Martin. The prime minister was said to be visibly shaken at the recent spate of anti-Semitic attacks in Ontario and Quebec, culminating in the firebombing of United Talmud Torahs in Montreal on April 5. His strongly-worded reaction to the UTT attack – "This is not my Canada. This is not our Canada" – was repeated in headlines across the country.

Martin "shows a real understanding of what we have to come to call 'the new anti-Semitism' – the demonization and delegitimization of Israel," says Canadian Jewish Congress president Keith Landy, who has held talks with Martin several times, both as prime minister and finance minister.

"We believe he's a true friend of the community," said Landy. Should Martin be re-elected, "we have great expectations of change with respect to Israel. He's a strong advocate of a strong Israel with defensible borders, and he equally wants the peace process to go forward. And I think he realizes there's very little on the Palestinian side to negotiate with."

And while Harper "has much to learn" about foreign affairs, the Conservatives' policy on Israel has been "sterling," Landy said. "Israel can only benefit from these two parties."

Martin had much to say about the Mideast peace process when he sought the Liberal leadership in 1990. In a *CJN* interview at the time, he voiced support for then-Israeli Labor Party leader Shimon Peres' "land-for-peace" formula.

"I believe that land for peace is the ultimate solution [to the Arab-Israeli conflict]," Martin said, but cautioning that "as Canadians, it's not up to us to pre-judge the outcome of negotiations, but to encourage them."

A devout Roman Catholic who attends church regularly wherever he is, Martin spoke out against racism and anti-Semitism well before the most recent anti-Jewish incidents. He attended the inauguration a year ago of the Montreal Holocaust Museum, and condemned last autumn's anti-Semitic tirade by Mahathir Mohammed, Malaysia's retiring prime minister.

In an Internet journal, or blog, he described the remarks as "hateful, hurtful and deeply offensive," adding it was important to speak out against this kind of outburst "if for no other reason than to make clear that from Canada's perspective, this is unacceptable. It is hatemongering and it should be called as such without equivocation."

He also blasted Mahathir for long having used language "that can be barely described as code with respect to Jews."

The general issue of religion has already reared its head in this campaign, even before a vote has been called. It began with the announcement earlier this spring that three high-profile religious activists, all evangelical Christians, would seek candidacies for the Conservatives.

> ***No matter which party wins the election, the current face of the House of Commons will change***

Last month, a furor erupted when it was discovered that a poll commissioned by the Liberals asked some voters whether they would be "more or less likely to vote for the Conservatives if you knew they had been taken over by evangelical Christians."

Some of Martin's own MPs lashed out, saying that as devout Christians, they were offended. But Liberal party officials defended the poll as an appropriate way to gauge Canadians' feelings on socially conservative issues.

Last month, Martin was agitated in the Commons when he angrily lashed out at the "prejudice" and "bigotry" of Conservatives. It came in response to a Tory MP who accused the Liberals of preparing to attack members of his party because of their religious faith.

Shouting over a howling House of Commons, Martin called the question "as vile as it possibly could be," and added: "Let me say that faith, religion has no room in politics. The fact is that this government would never allow that."

Still, issues with strong religious overlays are bound to come up in the election: Same-sex marriage is sure to be a flashpoint, and many Christians are eager to punish the Liberals for passing Bill C-250, which added sexual orientation to the Criminal Code's hate crimes provisions. Devout Christians have expressed fear the bill could be used to gag faith-based teachings about homosexuality and even ban the Bible as hate propaganda.

But are Jews eager to punish the Liberals for their voting record in the UN and their stance on Israel?

It doesn't seem likely. After all, Jean Chrétien was handily re-elected in 2000 just as his government was being excoriated for supporting a United Nations resolution that condemned Israel for excessive force against Palestinians.

No matter which party wins the election, the current face of the House of Commons will change. Two Liberal stalwarts, Art Eggleton in York Centre and Elinor Caplan in Thornhill, won't be on the ballots.

Eggleton, a longtime friend and outspoken advocate of the Jewish community, will make way for Toronto Maple Leafs president Ken Dryden, while in Thornhill, Canada's riding with the most Jews, Vaughan city councillor Susan Kadis will be the Liberal hopeful.

In the coming weeks, *The CJN* will keep an eye on the following ridings:

• Brossard-La Prairie in Quebec, where Jacques Saada, leader of the government in the House and one of five Jewish MPs, may not be a shoo-in. He won the riding in 2000 with 52 per cent of the vote, but the Bloc Québécois could mount a serious challenge this time.

• Eglinton-Lawrence in Toronto, where Joe Volpe, minister of human resources and skills development, is popular with Jewish voters. However, many Orthodox residents in the Bathurst-Lawrence area became signed-up members of the Alliance in 2000, and may be drawn to Conservative candidate Bernie Tanz.

• Laval-Les Iles in suburban Montreal, considered safe for Jewish MP Raymonde Folco. She won last time with 53 per cent of votes cast.

• In Mount Royal, considered the safest Liberal seat in the country, justice minister Irwin Cotler faces little opposition. In 2000, Cotler took the seat once held by Pierre Trudeau with 81 per cent of the vote.

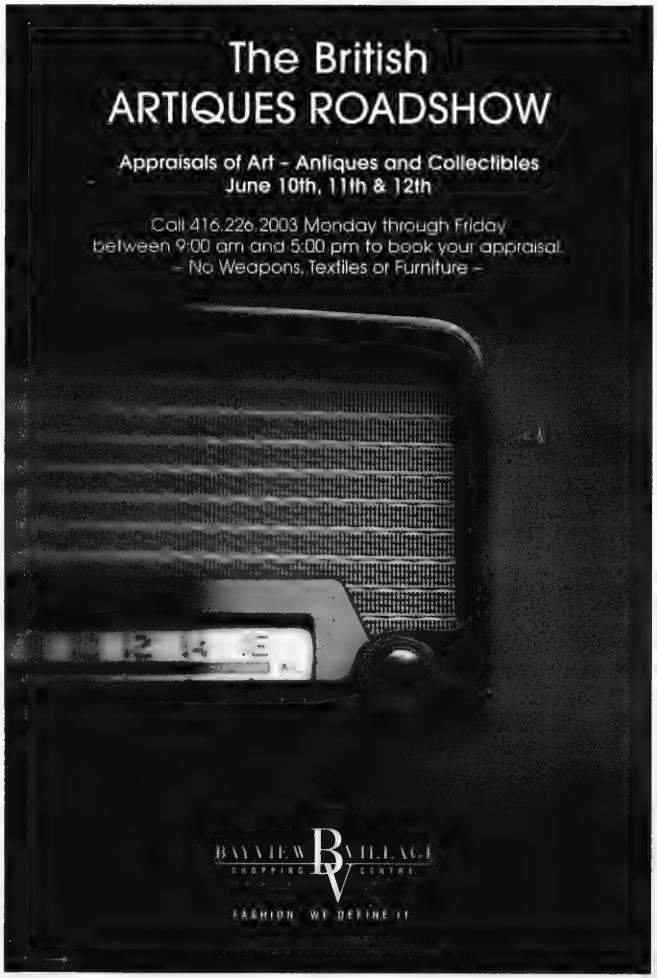
• In the Toronto riding of St. Paul's, Carolyn Bennett, who chairs the Canada-Israel Parliamentary Friendship Group, will face Conservative Barry Cline. The riding is not expected to slip from Liberal hands.

• Kadis in Thornhill may get a stiff challenge from Conservative Josh Cooper, a former Alliance member who has been campaigning in the riding for months. Cooper has called on Kadis to resign her municipal seat while she campaigns.

• Toronto's Willowdale riding is currently held by Liberal Jim Peterson, also a strong friend of Israel. He's expected to coast to another win.

• In Winnipeg South Centre, Jewish Liberal MP Anita Neville is expected to win re-election.

• And in York Centre, Toronto city councillor Howard Moscoe last week squelched rumours that he would seek the NDP candidacy, leaving the seat open for the taking by star candidate Dryden, the former Montreal Canadiens legend.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IDF redeploys in Rafah, says scaling down Gaza operation

By ARNON REGULAR
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The IDF's Operation Rainbow, aimed at flushing out militants and arms smugglers in the Rafah refugee camp, will continue, military sources said last week, after troops and tanks pulled out of part of the southern Gaza refugee camp.

Israel said the Israel Defence Forces had withdrawn most of its forces from Rafah's Tel Sultan neighbourhood, the focus of the operation, and that troops were deployed along its perimetre. But army officials emphasized that Operation Rainbow was far from over.

The commander of the IDF troops in Gaza, Brigadier General Shmuel Zakai, said in a press briefing that Operation Rainbow would not end in the coming days, and that the army had received no order to leave Rafah. He added that the nature of the operation demanded that the IDF reduce its troop presence in the camp in order to allow the local population to obtain food and medicine, and to ensure maximum flexibility for the operation.

Army Radio quoted senior military sources as saying that the Palestinians "can't breathe easy yet."

Palestinian witnesses said that most of the troops have also left the As-Salam section and the Brazil section next to the border, Israel Radio reported. A tank and a bulldozer were blocking the entrance to Tel Sultan, and the IDF has dispersed pamphlets in the neighbourhood asking residents to prevent terrorists from operating in the region, according to the report.

Earlier, hundreds of Tel Sultan residents rushed into the streets to inspect the damage caused during the Israeli operation, but Israeli forces opened fire and leaders urged people to remain indoors, a local doctor said.

Municipal officials said at least 43 homes were demolished and dozens more damaged in the camp since the offensive began. The IDF said it deliberately demolished seven homes, including one belonging to an Islamic Jihad militant. Other damage to homes and roads was caused by heavy military vehicles and Palestinian militant roadside bombs, the army said.

Forty Palestinians have been killed in the operation. Most were armed, said the IDF.

Political sources in Jerusalem, meanwhile, told Israel Radio that the operation would be scaled down, and that troops had left areas where their missions had been completed.

Minister Gideon Ezra said that the army would reduce its presence in the camp, and would concentrate on intelligence gathering. Ezra said IDF troops would block arms-smuggling tunnels in Rafah based on intelligence information gleaned from questioning Palestinians who know the tunnels' whereabouts, rather than by knocking down houses to find out whether or not a tunnel was hidden underneath.

Last Thusday, nine Palestinians – including eight militants – were killed by the IDF as troops moved into two new neighbourhoods in Rafah, witnesses and military sources said. In addition, the body of Hamas' military wing commander in Rafah was located last Thursday evening; the circumstances of his death are unclear.

In the West Bank, two Palestinians, including the local Hamas leader in Qalqilyah and a 13-year-old boy, were killed by IDF fire that day. An IDF soldier suffered critical wounds in a pre-dawn friendly fire incident in Jenin. In addition, Palestinian militants fired six Qassam rockets toward Israel last Thursday and one on Friday, but there were no injuries.

***

Israel's security operation against the terror strongholds last week and the accompanying loss of innocent life in Gaza elicited public expressions of sadness from the Canada-Israel Committee.

"We extend sincere condolences to the families of those who suffered casualties and look forward to the results of the Israeli government investigation into today's incident", said CIC Chair, Marc Gold.

"The continuing loss of innocent life on both sides underscores the urgent need for the emergence of a credible Palestinian leadership to join with Israel in seeking a peaceful resolution to the violence and conflict based on the 'Roadmap' blueprint ," concluded Gold.

Let's not get mired in Gaza

By ZE'EV SCHIFF
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

Opinion

The incident last Wednesday in Rafah, in which an Israeli tank may have been responsible for the deaths of seven Palestinians, is another reminder that the Gaza Strip is a quagmire. The strategic directive that must not be forgotten is: make sure not to get mired in Gaza.

The operational needs in the Gaza Strip are deceptively tempting. There will always be a reason to penetrate further into Gaza to achieve a more important operational target. And suddenly we find ourselves in the quagmire. These are not huge geographic areas, desert steppes or deep snow. The quagmire in the Strip are the 1.4 million Palestinians living in refugee camps, in terribly crowded conditions.

This number will increase quickly in view of the young population there. In about a decade, demographers say, the population will reach about three million. Palestinian leaders say that when they take over, there will be no way to avoid transferring population to the West Bank.

There is very little chance of finding a reasonable solution to the problem of the Gaza Strip. Israel must distance itself from the quagmire at any price.

Israel must also help from the outside, because poverty and despair are a hothouse for nurturing terrorism. Were the Palestinians to declare a unilateral ceasefire in the Gaza Strip right now, Israel would be dragged in there, and a different process would begin.

Israel occupied the Gaza Strip twice in the past, and then withdrew – once in 1956 and once in 1967. During the term of the previous government when Labor was part of the coalition, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who was then foreign minister, often urged taking control of the Gaza Strip, including Gaza City. Sharon was supported at that time by the chief of staff, Shaul Mofaz, and only the opposition of the Labor party's defence minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer prevented it.

Now Israel is inside Gaza once again.

The condemnations of the world are received with indifference by the government, and the indifference is reinforced by the fact that similar, and worse, blunders are happening to the Americans in Iraq. There is also an intention to prove to the Palestinians that Israel will not be deterred from completing its military goals against the instigators of terrorism.

The operation in the Rafah area has not yet ended and we cannot yet measure its success. To do that, we must take into account the goals established at the outset. One goal was to seize large caches of weapons in Rafah, which the Palestinians have managed to smuggle via new tunnels beneath the Philadelphi route. That has not happened yet. Another goal was to seize the contractors, the experts and the engineers who dig the tunnels. Their names are known to the IDF, but most of them succeeded in escaping. Only one big fish was reeled in. These are meagre achievements.

There was another major objective as well, which has not been discussed in public, but hovers above all.

The objective was developed after three serious incidents: first the murder of Tali Hatuel and her four daughters, who were shot at point-blank range. This was followed by the explosion of two armoured personnel carriers. There was great rejoicing in the Gaza Strip, and arms warehouses were opened to continue the attacks. At that point, the Israel Defence Forces decided that we must restore Israel's deterrence capability, because if we don't, the escalation in the violence directed against Jews will continue.

Has this goal been accomplished? It is difficult to measure, but we can assume that the answer is positive to a great extent. Still, along with increased deterrence, there is also an increase in hatred and the desire to take revenge among Palestinians, and in the world's unbridled criticism.

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ייישר כוחכם

Israel's economy grows

The economy grew by 5.5 per cent in the first quarter of 2004 compared to the same period last year, according to the Central Bureau of Statistics' preliminary estimates. The annualized growth figure is higher than the most optimistic forecasts made by all economic forecasters.

Changes to electoral vote

The Knesset gave final approval to a proposal to raise the electoral threshold in the next Knesset elections to 2 per cent from 1.5 per cent. Only parties that win at least 66,000 votes would be able to enter the 17th Knesset. Votes cast for factions that received less than 66,000 votes would be lost and not included in the calculation dividing the 120 Knesset seats among the parties.

Barghouti found guilty

An Israeli court convicted Marwan Barghouti, a Palestinian official, of murder. Last week's verdict at Tel Aviv District Court found Barghouti guilty in connection with three shooting ambushes by the Al-Aqsa Brigade in which five people were killed, as well as a botched suicide bombing. But the Fatah leader was acquitted on 21 other counts of murder for lack of evidence. Sentencing is set for June 6. Palestinian groups threatened to kidnap Israelis to use as bargaining chips to win Barghouti's freedom.

Breach in the Wall?

The eastern wall of the Temple Mount is "in immediate danger of collapse," the director of the Antiquities Authority, Yehoshua Dorfman, told the Knesset's interior committee. If this happens, it will have a domino effect that will lead to the collapse of a considerable part of the compound, he warned. A recent earthquake has caused a movement of 2.5 cm in the eastern wall and the widening of an existing protrusion in the eastern wall.

Kidnap attempt against NY Times *newsman*

Palestinians tried to kidnap *New York Times* correspondent James Bennet, the *Times'* bureau chief for Israel last week. Bennet said he was speaking on a cellphone in front of a hospital in the Gaza Strip refugee camp of Rafah when a Palestinian came up to him, said hello and offered his hand. When Bennet shook his hand, the man and another Palestinian grabbed Bennet and tried to throw him into a car. A kidnapping was averted only by Palestinian police. The two men fled.

End to Ron Arad saga?

Ron Arad, the Israel Air Force navigator who went missing in Lebanon in 1986, reportedly is dead. Quoting diplomatic sources knowledgeable about efforts to determine Arad's whereabouts, Reuters reported last week that the airman is dead and that Hezbollah has his body. Israeli officials said they were checking the report. *Files from JTA and Ha'aretz.*

Egyptian school texts defame Israel and Jews

Continued from page 1

The American Jewish Committee, founded in 1906 and headquartered in New York City, seeks to protect the rights of Jews around the world and combats bigotry and anti-Semitism.

The data in the report is based on a study of 103 Egyptian textbooks used in primary, preparatory and secondary state schools and 16 textbooks found in preparatory and secondary religious schools.

According to the 172-page report, Israel is depicted as a usurper of Palestinian land and as an aggressor that inflicts pain and suffering on the Palestinians.

Israel's name hardly ever appears on maps. On many maps, Palestine appears instead.

In a grade 8 book, *Islamic Notions in Environmental and Demographic Education*, Israel is referred to only obliquely: "The poet asks: How is it possible for an oppressor and aggressor to walk on the tender soil of the east? How does the aggressor fulfill his wishes on the pure soil of the east, while its own sons live there as strangers?"

A grade 11 lesson in *History for Public High School* describes the 1967 Six Day War as an example of Israeli perfidy: "For the third time, the goals of Zionism coincided with [those of] imperialism. Zionist expansionist schemes are expressed by the phrase 'from the Nile to the Euphrates.'"

The text adds that Israel lured the Arab states into a war for which they were not prepared.

In a poem in *History for Public High School*, Israel's sincerity regarding peace is doubted: "We have already had experience of these people before/And experienced enmity and feud/We have already tasted their treachery before/And therefore we shall not be satisfied with sweet words."

The same text implies that Jews have no place in Israel: "Palestine is Arab. This is the historical reality, a reality Zionism, with the co-operation of the great powers, has tried to completely eradicate, in order to say that Israel is a historical reality."

Jerusalem receives special attention in a grade 6 text, *Our Beautiful Language: Grammar and Grammatical Exercises*: "Today Jerusalem's wounds bleed, her sigh resounds and her call for help fills the horizons. History shall not forgive the Arabs and the Muslims if they fail to save and liberate Jerusalem."

The Western Wall in Jerusalem, however, is recognized as a Jewish holy place.

Palestinian terrorism is legitimized in the grade 7 text *The Struggle of the People of Egypt*: "The [guerrillas] started infiltrating into Israel day and night, hitting the settlements, destroying roads, planting road mines, destroying power plants and water [pumping] stations, until fear, worry and confusion became widespread in Israel and its people lived in the trenches day and night. There were no more safe borders for them, as they had been claiming."

Jihad, in a grade 11 text entitled *Selections for the Explanation of (the Book of) Selection*, is glorified: "Jihad is a religious duty of every individual at a time of general call to arms, and a religious duty of a sufficient number [of Muslims] in other times. Jihad is a firm religious duty and any [Muslim] who repudiates it should be considered an unbeliever."

Martyrdom is lauded in *Arabic Language: Read and Express*, a grade 5 text: "God loves the strong believer who carries his weapon defending his religion, family, himself and his property. He promises them [that he will enter] Paradise, if the enemies overcome him and [if] he is killed as a martyr."

In the texts under review, Jews, with the exception of biblical figures and Albert Einstein, are seen negatively.

Islamic Education, a grade 11 text, contains a chapter on the Prophet Mohammed's attitude to Jews:

"… they were harbouring in their souls many things … Greed, malice and hatred filled their souls when they saw that Islam's standing in Medina was becoming firmly established…"

Islamic Religious Education, a grade 4 text, claims: "The Jews do not show regard for the neighbour's rights and do not honour treaties."

In general, Egyptian texts do not attack Jews of modern times, except in the context of the Arab-Israeli dispute. But Islamic school books, which take a harder line toward Jews and Israel, have no such scruples.

In "Lessons Derived from the Treatment of the Jews by the Prophet," the grade 11 text, *Islamic Education*, says, "Religious racism dominates them. They are hostile to the Islamic religion and take a hostile position against any religion that is not theirs."

The book adds:

"Ethnic racism is firmly established in their souls. They hate other ethnic groups and peoples."

"They do not owe allegiance to the home and where they live, nor (do they) keep a commitment. Rather, their life is based on treachery and betrayal."

"The Jews of the past are the [same as the] Jews of today and of the future. [They are] all the same. One should study them, study their ambitions, and arm oneself against them with every [possible] weapon."

Although Judaism and Christianity are respected as monotheistic faiths, Islam is seen as the sole true religion.

"God's religion is one," states a grade 7 text, *Islamic Religious Education*. "It is Islam… God will not accept from His creatures a religion other than Islam."

In a commentary at the end of his report, Groiss writes, "Textbooks and curricula are a crucial factor if notions of peace are to take root among the younger generation in Egypt."

The report can be read in full on the web site of the Center for Monitoring the Impact of Peace: www.edume.org.

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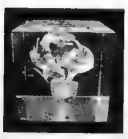

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Google opens the door to Jewish history of Harbin, China

By JON CAMPBELL
Special to The CJN

HARBIN, China — Ask a Chinese person about the town of Harbin and they'll probably know a thing or two: that it is bitterly cold and that it used to have a sizable Russian population. That's all I knew before I made the overnight train trek northeast from Beijing in search of a few stories about Russia, some hearty food – including, likely, some vodka – and a bit of snowboarding at the nearby resort of Yabuli.

But thanks to the wonders of technology, I stumbled upon Harbin's Jewish history, something I'd neglected to consider, despite knowing full well the extent of the Russian presence in Harbin at the turn of the 20th century.

My journey to Harbin's Jewish community began in a gritty neighbourhood Internet café the night before I was to depart Harbin. I sat among more than 30 gamers of college age, mumbling curses at themselves and their opponents and teammates across the tiny room – and cyberspace. I had come to find out more about the beer Harbiners drank: I noticed that the local brew, Harbin Beer, touted itself as "China's Oldest Brewery," and sensing a story, I had set up a private tour of the 103-year-old brewery. But before I went on the tour the next afternoon, I figured I should do some research.

A Google search for Harbin beer brought me face to face with Harbin's Jewish history. The 10th hit was an article from the *China Daily*, China's official English newspaper. The article was written to commemorate the release of a coffee table book issued by the Harbin Jewish Research Centre of the Heilongjiang Academy of Social Sciences. I was aghast. The Harbin Jewish Research Centre?

I decided to track down the centre and its director, Li Shuxiao, possibly forsaking my brewery trip if need be. After almost four years of nail-biting, wondering just how much longer her crazed son would be spending in China, my mother, if nobody else, would understand. I was on the phone with Professor Li first thing the next morning and was in his office soon thereafter.

"So few people have heard of Harbin," he said. "But it was China's first international city, the first place that China met the rest of the world."

Li has spent his academic career researching Harbin's international population, specifically Russians, making three trips to Israel to continue – and promote – his research.

The Russian population grew out of the construction of a Vladivostock-Dalian railroad that passed through what was, in 1896, a collection of fishing villages. Within a few years, Harbin was known as "Little Moscow" and before the Japanese invaded China in 1932, it hosted residents hailing from 30 countries.

While Shanghai might be best known for its European Jewish history, and Kaifeng famous for a Jewish population that followed the Silk Road more than a thousand years ago, Harbin's Jewish history has not been well-publicized. But, with Li and others on the case, that is set to change.

"At its peak, there were 20,000 Jews out of a Russian population of 200,000," Li said.

It wasn't the numbers of Jews, but rather, their prominence in Harbin life that led Li to focus his work on his city's Jewish population.

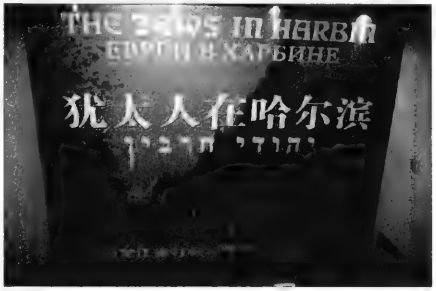
"You can't research Harbin's foreign population without looking into the Jewish population," he said. "Even though they were a minority of the community, they comprised the bulk of its influential members."

Thanks to Li, there is more than decaying and restored architecture – not to mention the best-preserved Jewish cemetery in the Far East – commemorating the former Jewish presence in Harbin: the Jewish Research Centre opened in 2000, and it has an impressive exhibition of photographic displays of the history of the city's Jewry, currently housed in a vacant room in the Academy of Social Sciences, a building not far from the centre's cramped quarters.

Li hopes to move the collection into a former synagogue that he's hoping to renovate into a permanent museum should funding become available. The funding, says Li, should come from a combination of donations and government coffers. Local and provincial governments are both in favour of the move, he says, but there is bickering over who should foot the bill: the centre is in a provincial institution and the synagogue is a city building.

Li's mission of publicizing Harbin's history will be boosted should the synagogue move happen, but the coffee table book, based on the centre's collection, is helping as well – despite his protests that it isn't of a high-enough quality for mass distribution. Currently, aside from the several dozens Li has given away, the book has only been distributed in China, and he hopes it will go through another round of editing before being distributed internationally.

The book features photographs and stories of the community whose progeny have since scattered throughout the world, having left, like most other foreigners, when the Japanese took over the area in the early 1930s. These descendents include internationally renowned politicians and artists.



A poster outside the exhibit of the Jewish Research Centre

"Had it not been for the Japanese invasion, many would have stayed longer. They had established homes there," Li said.

The Olmerts are one of the families of which Li speaks. Ehud Olmert is the former mayor of Jerusalem and currently Israel's deputy prime minister. His brother, Amram, is posted at the Israeli embassy in Beijing.

"My grandfather came to Harbin in 1917," Amram Olmert said. "It was, in a way, the most convenient place to go. And one of the first things I did when I came to China was visit Harbin."

Olmert's father, Mordechai, trained in electronics at Harbin's Technical University and left China against his grandfather's wishes for British Mandate Palestine in 1931, stopping in Holland en route to study agriculture. He eventually rose to a prominent position in the Knesset's agricultural department. Olmert himself has carried on his father's tradition: he is science and agriculture minister at the embassy.

The Olmerts spread throughout the world in the 1930s: to Shanghai and Tianjin, to Russia and to Israel. On his first trip to Harbin, Amram found his grandfather's grave, and cleaned it up. In total, four Olmerts are buried in China: "I like to tell Chinese people that I'm a true capitalist," he said. "'I've got bits of property all over the country,' I tell them. 'A plot in Tianjin, one in Shanghai and a couple in Harbin."

Olmert sees his posting in China as completing the cycle of his family's story.

"I'm coming back to the place from where my parents began their life," he said. "They brought the skills they learned here to Israel. Now I'm bringing Israeli technology and know-how back to China."

His department has been busy lately, with several dozen ongoing projects, and Olmert is about to make his 20th trip to the northwestern province of Xinjiang, where yet another massive project is about to begin.

Meanwhile, other Jews are focusing their gaze on Harbin. Tour East, a Canadian-Chinese travel agency, has been offering Jewish trips to China for the past four years.

"When Jews come to China," said Wang Jianguo, who runs the Chinese end of the tour operator, "they want to know more than your average tourists. We take them to all of the regular sites, but add sites with Jewish history."

Tour East adds visits to Kaifeng, a synagogue off-limits to non-researchers in Shanghai and to a former synagogue-turned restaurant in Tianjin. In October of this year, for the first time, they will be visiting Harbin, with Li's help.

According to Li, most Harbin-based foreigners lived lives as far removed from those of the locals as was possible.

"Most people only knew how to say 'Hello' and 'We're from the same hometown' in Chinese," he said. The Olmerts were different.

"When my parents didn't want us to know what they were saying," said Olmert. "They would speak Mandarin."

"When my father was dying," Olmert recalled, "he spoke Chinese for a whole day. I think he was at the point where he was returning to the happier times in his life."

Jon Campell is a Toronto writer/ editor living and travelling in China.

The former Jewish High School [Jon Campbell photos]

The window inside the former Jewish High School

Summer Fashion

Look, feel and smell great with Estée Lauder.

BEAUTY SHOP

By CAROL WISE

NEWS, NEWS, NEWS

MAKEUP: Pink, pink and more pink say summer in the city. For extra savvy, highlight your eyes with green or turquoise and always rim them with black. Feminine is the key this summer, with eyes and lips glistening in a rather transparent way. Bronze your skin with some really great self-tanners. Just to name a few of the best: **Estee Lauder**, **Clinique** and **Shisedo**.

Dr. Steve Mulholland tells us that 2004 and 2005 will witness the re-emergence of the body in esthetic, non-surgical treatments. With the development of exciting new technologies and procedures that non-surgically enhance and improve the appearance of cellulite and unwanted body fat, there will be an unstoppable wave of excitement in non-surgical fat contouring and cellulite improvement.

Mulholland, a world-recognized cosmetic plastic surgeon, owns and operates Toronto's **Spa Medica**. He is the creator of three incredible non-surgical facial enhancements, the FotoFacial RF, Pan G and Threadlift. His most current development is pioneering a protocol for non-surgical body contouring that replicates many of the effects of liposuction and simultaneously corrects and improves cellulite.

This exciting program involves the combination of a device called Vela Smooth (developed by the Israeli company Syneron), Mesotherapy and Carboxytherapy. The 12-week, co-ordinated program involves twice weekly visits and monthly maintenance treatments to maintain the cellulite improvement. Mulholland is seeing 50 to 90 per cent improvement in cellulite over the 12 weeks, noticeable lessening of saddle bags, pot bellies and love handles – without a diet regime. It will be available early this summer.

HAIR: Jie Matar of the famous **Salon Jie** (38 Avenue Rd., Toronto) tells us that hair fitness is essential during the summer months. "To keep your hair healthy and shining, you must protect it from the hot sun."

The styles for men and women are changing, Jie says. "For women, the straight styles that we see are reflecting the new coiffure looks, as seen on Nicole Kidman and Pamela Anderson.

"These Barbie looks created with big hair curlers [bigoudies] are a throwback to the popular styles of the '60s. Watch for big curls and dramatic statements of colour in hues of ginger," Jie says.

"More hair and more colour is the future trend for men. The short styles, as seen on Justin Timberlake and Eminem, will be out and long hair and colour will be in."

In the **Jie Hair Collection 04**, Jie presented minimal, classic, tailor-made, intelligent styles – styles reflecting individual personalities, bone structure and healthy hair. The styles are long for both men and women, with the emphasis on the colour ginger.

CAROL'S TIPS

SKIN CARE: NeoStata launches a revolutionary new cosmetic category. Cosmecedures are cosmetic procedures strong enough to be used at a doctor level and safe enough to be used in the comfort of your own home. The collection includes a microdermabrasion system, exfoliating peel system and an acne peel system. It is easy to use and the results are excellent. The exfoliating peel removes all the dead cells on the surface of your skin, leaving it youthful and fresh.

Chanel presents a "Precision" event, the unveiling of Hydramax, a new cream that corrects and prevents dehydration at its source. It's available in three textures – cream, gel cream and fluid.

NARS Aqua Gel Hydrator is an ultra-luxurious, lightweight, gel-cream mask comprised of 87 per cent water to deliver intense hydration to dull, dehydrated skin. Leave it on overnight for best results. Nourishing eye cream, also from **NARS**, promises to revitalize the eye area by improving the delicate skins resilience.

Clinique's Moisture Surge is an excellent spritz for thirsty skin relief. With one quick spray, this aloe-activated water immediately comforts the skin.

For a golden bronzed look try **Clinique's** new Quick Body Bronze Tinted Self-Tanner Mousse – it just glides on without streaking.

Clear Difference Advanced Oil-Control Hydrator from **Estee Lauder** is a light moisturizer that hydrates inside while leaving a perfectly matte appearance outside. To enhance the results of this product, the Clear Difference Deep Pore Purifying Facial clay mask provides oily skin with a deep cleaning that rebalances the skin without oil rebound, so that skin is left shine-free. It is excellent for teenagers.

Clinique beauty products

B. Kamins Lip Balm SPF 20 is a soothing treatment that helps to heal and protect lips making them kissable at all times. Also from **B. Kamins** is a Maple Treatment Hand Cream SPF 20 that can combat all environmental assaults and the driest skin. All **B. Kamins** products contain the exclusive Bio-Maple compound found right here in Canada. Yes, this fabulous line is Canadian and available at www.bkamins.com.

Continued on page 37

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Summer Fashion

Continued from page 36

Happy Legs from **Biotherm** tones and cools the legs with an icy gel.

Shiseido has combined exclusive retexturizing techniques with a highly advanced skin-brightening formulation to achieve exquisite clarity. **Shiseido's** White Lucent Line contains vitamin C and TIA Complex, which works to brighten skin. Visible freckles, dark and dull spots are targeted as the skin's surface is toned and retexturized with the use of rare Asian plant extracts.

SPA TREATS: Indigo Wild is a line of all-natural products for the body and home-made with the highest quality essential oils. Good karma and aromatherapy are the principles that Indigo Wild is based on. From Zum bars to Zum kiss, the Wee line for babies and the very special Betsy Bar, this product is fabulous, the scents are great and so are the prices. Available at indigowild.com.

June Jacobs' Spa Collection is a complete line of beauty products. The extensive collection is based on botanical-derived extracts chosen for their nourishing, soothing and relaxing properties and their exfoliating and antioxidant action. They are not only effective but the scents are light and exquisite. Quench your body with Cranberry Body Balm. It's not only nourishing, but the scent is divine. To purchase go to their website www.ebodytreatments.com

FOUNDATION: Estee Lauder's Amber Bronze Air Bronzer is as light as air and warms the skin with a sun-kissed finish. Wear solo or dust over foundation.

Luminous Face Fluid from **Chanel** brings a golden glow to the face with a shimmering iridescent effect – available in one shade: Sunkissed.

NARS Eye Brightner is a dual-ended wand that makes application child's play. It contains a weightless eye primer that creates an ideal canvas for the creamy concealer, and prevents unsightly creasing.

SWEET CHEEKS: Sweep a Touch of Bronze on your cheekbones and dust lightly over your whole face, another treat from **Clinique**.

NARS' Penny Lane Cream Blush in Nude Pink glides on like a second skin with just the right highlights.

EYES: Lancome presents Hypnose, a powerful new mascara that promises to add volume to six times your natural lash thickness.

Chanel's Aqualumiere Color Lip Shine

Estee Lauder introduces two new additions to the Artist's Lip and Eye Pencils Collection. New Artist's Mechanical Lip and Eye Pencil glides on easily with its dual-ended automatic applicator that has co-ordinating colours for all.

Chanel's new Ombre Unique Crème Illuminating Eye shadow is soft as silk and does not fade.

NARS eyeliner pencil in mint green is a must-have.

Revlon's Cream eye shadow in Limited Edition Tropicolor from their CopaCabana Beach Summer 2004 Collection shimmers in four natural hues inspired by the tropics – stunning!

LIPS: Chanel's brand new Aqualumiere Sheer Color Lip Shine features 15 gorgeous shades that are both nourishing and hydrating.

Clinique's new Color Surge Bare Brilliance Lipstick contains an innovative reflective pearl system to maximize shine to its peak.

Rouge Glamour by **Lise Watier** has intense colour with incomparable comfort and a colour story that is simply enchanting.

And try **Visage's** "C Stick" with SPF 15 to keep your lips kissable all summer.

HAIR: Hydra-Destress Complex from **Kerastase** is formulated specifically for dry itchy scalps and dry hair. It calms and moisturizes simultaneously.

L'Oreal Professional presents two new lines to help beautify your hair. Volume Extreme is a new root-lift volume booster that gives fine, limp, flat hair density. Shine Curl gives your curls ultra shine in good weather or bad.

New L'Oreal lines for your hair

FRAGRANCE: Estee Lauder's Summer in Bloom fragrances are a lighter, refreshing version of her classic scents, Pleasures, Beautiful and Intuition. They are smartly presented in a vividly-coloured vase to define the scent.

Allure Homme Sport is **Chanel's** latest edition to their men's perfume collection. It is an exhilarating citrus scent that embraces a green aquatic freshness and is warmed with the South America Tonka Bean. The bottle is broad and sleek with a sexy black rubberized cap.

Attraction from **Lancome** is a new encounter between Patchouli and Iris. Flower and wood unite to form femininity and strength that create the name "Attraction." Wear it and watch the response!

Echo Fragrance, new from **Davidoff** seems to capture the city in a bottle. It is exhilarating and sensual with a fresh, woody spiced scent – it's like liquid air.

Ladies, you will want to try **Kenneth Cole's** "Black" Body Lotion, which is irresistible.

Lise Watier's Spa mist is a cocktail of freshness whose lemon fresh smell is revitalizing.

Just **Cavalli** for Him and Her is very sensuous, like the men and women who wear the designer's fashion line, these two fragrances are distinctive, but at the same time united. **Cavalli** for Her is an oriental floral with the carnal sweetness of the Powdery Musks. **Cavalli** for Him is woody, aromatic and quite invigorating. The flacons' fronts are both a Plexiglas sheath enclosing the signature Just **Cavalli** motifs – the zebra and the python. The back is made of solid pure glass covered with a striped decoration – a real piece of art.

New Bath and Hair products from **Givenchy** are wonderful! The delicate Hair Mist is light and protects against bad odours and the Bath Gel exfoliates and polishes the skin. Of course, the scent is superb.

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Summer Fashion

Battle of The Teen Idols

By RANDI BERGMAN
Special to The CJN

Since the newest teenaged trends have emerged, several über-stylish girls have taken front and centre in our minds. And as they battle for supremacy in the movies, on TV and in Wal-Marts, one thing is certain – we just can't get enough.

The girls of today are part rock star, part girl-next-door. They say they'd prefer Sketchers when we all know they'd take the Manolos, and that they'd rather be having a sleepover with friends as they're partying at the Oscars. Yet despite all these contradictions, we love them just the same, because they seem, well, human!

These girls have access to all the hottest designer clothes, and without even knowing it have become the newest fashion templates. In a recent issue of *Elle* magazine, Mischa Barton was featured as the doll to their dress-up fantasies. The 18 year old was gussied up in everything from Chanel to Miu Miu while chatting about boys and school.

Perhaps the greatest thing about these new darlings is their obviously flawed behaviour. They have boy trouble, just like any girl. As rumours of the love triangle between Lindsay Lohan, Aaron Carter and Hilary Duff continue to surface, they remind you more and more of your own high school traumas. Lines like, "She started it" and "I wish it would just stop" are just plain funny because they make you feel like a kid again.

These girls are different because of their carefree attitudes. They aren't trying to prove anything, they just enjoy the spotlight. I walk proudly in my cut-off Lizzie McGuire T-shirt, because I know it doesn't stand for anything.

This carefree attitude has grabbed us – and held on. You may consider yourself above the trend, but no matter how hard you try, there will come a day when you find yourself singing, "You're so yesterday."

Victoria Spa at the InterContinental Toronto Centre

By KATHRYN KATES
Special to The CJN

Torontonians need not travel far to experience an exotic spa/hotel vacation. In fact, you can just hop the subway – steps away from Union Station lies Victoria Spa on the third floor of the newly renovated ultra-modern InterContinental Toronto Centre at 225 Front St. West.

SPA Life

Victoria Spa is a hidden oasis in downtown Toronto. The spa is 10,000 square feet with 12 private treatment rooms, a large swimming pool with a sculpted-metal waterfall, a solarium pedicure and manicure bay with a juice bar and a private outdoor terrace.

"We have 22 therapists on-hand including manicurists, pedicurists, message therapists, holistic practitioners and full service estheticians," says Nicole Bookman, spa director and key makeup artist for the spa owned by Victoria Sutherland, who before opening her present day establishment made a name for herself on Avenue Road., servicing many of the high-end hotels in the Yorkville area.

Bookman describes the spa's décor as Balinese with both Romanesque and Asian influences. The environment is soothing with lots of natural light coming through the solarium over the tropical pool surrounded by palm trees and rock formations.

Victoria Spa offers the perfect solace for their celebrity clientele, who include Catherine Zeta Jones, Yoko Ono, Kim Basinger and Sylvester Stallone.

Best of all is the array of services available; facials include the Original Victoria Facial with Yonka - a European skincare line and the spa's specialty Ayurveda facials using Sundari and Kama Ayurveda, Indian skincare brands. Other services include body treatments, waxing, hand and foot care and makeup applications done with Movie, an Italian makeup line.

Their signature treatments include the Head to Toe Reviver, its three treatments in one procedure that includes a Dead Sea exfoliation, an herbal body wrap and a botanical facial. The Herbal Body Glow Polish consists of two types of exfoliation followed by a hydrating aromatherapy Swedish massage.

Also popular is the Gentleman and Lady's Time Out starting with the couple's pedicure, they're separated for a facial and come back together to partake in a Swedish/Aromatherapy Massage. Bookman says the spa will gladly customize a package for you.

The luxurious hotel with superior and deluxe rooms and 68 suites overlooking the city is the official hotel of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. Musical and non-musical guests of the InterContinental Toronto Centre can select from three Ultimate Spa Packages that all include superb accommodations on the Club Floor, a welcome spa gift, valet parking, breakfast, and so much more. Kosher meals are available upon advance notice at an additional charge.

The packages are Relax and Rejuvenate with an 80-minute specialty massage, Tranquility for Two, which includes the 90 minute, Victoria Couples Massage; and the Victoria Spa Escape for serious spa goers that allows for a choice of four of eight selected services.

"The InterContinental Toronto Centre has a great reputation with people who stay here from all over the world. The space allowed Victoria to come in and create the spa of her dreams," adds Bookman.

For more information contact Victoria Spa at 416-413-9100 or online at: www.victoriaspa.com. To book a hotel/spa package call the InterContinental Toronto Centre at 416-597-1400 or online at www.torontocentre.intercontinental.com.

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Diabetes drug may be used to fight breast cancer

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Metformin, a drug commonly used in the treatment of diabetes, may also help treat breast cancer.

Studies are now being carried out by a research team led by Pamela Goodwin, director of Mount Sinai Hospital's Marvelle Koffler Breast Centre, who is being honoured with the Israel Cancer Research Fund's (ICRF) Scientific Award on June 9.

The metformin study grew out of research the team has done on the relationship between obesity and breast cancer. Obesity, Goodwin said, raises the insulin levels in the body. Insulin helps tumours grow. Breast cancer cells, she explained, have insulin receptors in them, and so are more able to accept the excess insulin and use it to increase tumour growth.

Goodwin's study aims to show whether, since metformin lowers insulin levels in diabetics, it can also lower them in those with breast cancer, thus inhibiting tumour growth.

The research is in the early stages and the team is still recruiting participants, she said. She estimates the results will be out in about a year-and-a-half.

Later research will investigate if metformin can also prevent tumours from returning, Goodwin said.

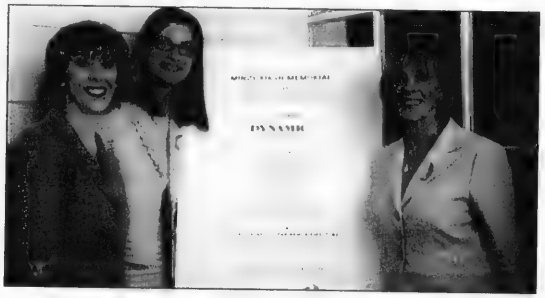
Goodwin has also been involved in researching the impact of obesity on breast cancer, and the psychological effects of breast cancer on young women and those getting chemotherapy.

Another cross-Canada study tried to reproduce an earlier study claiming that attending breast cancer support groups leads to longer survival. According to Goodwin's findings, while support groups were a big help in improving mood and in controlling pain, they had no effect on survival rates.

Goodwin's award will be presented at the ICRF's gala, which will be held on June 9 at the Sheraton Centre.

Proceeds from the gala, which is being held in partnership with the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation, will fund scientific research in Israel and in Canada, as well as a digital mammography machine with a stereotactic biopsy attachment at the Marvelle Koffler Breast Centre at Mount Sinai Hospital. Marvelle and Murray Koffler and their family are being honoured with the ICRF's humanitarian award at the event.

For more information or to reserve, call 416-487-5246 or visit the ICRF website at www.icrfonline.org.



FIGHTING OVARIAN CANCER: Taube Zeifman, Joanna Slone and Anita Gertin were co-chairs of the 1st Annual Mindy Kirsh Memorial Bridge to The Cure Bridge & Mah Jongg Luncheon, held at the Donalda Club. Proceeds from the sold-out event were in support of ovarian cancer research at The Princess Margaret Hospital. The women lost their friend Mindy Kirsh, 52, to ovarian cancer one year ago and decided to organize the fundraiser to help raise funds for research into the disease. The tournament raised $30,000.

Foundation awards 23 scholarships to diabetics

The Diabetes Hope Foundation and its founder and chair Barbara Pasternak, have awarded 23 $2,500-scholarships to students who have achieved strong academic performance, while at the same time managing the challenges of diabetes, participating in extra-curricular activities and working for their community.

The scholarships will help offset the financial strain that the disease puts on their families.

The awards were presented by Pasternak recently at Hart House of the University of Toronto.

A media release explains that the students receiving the scholarships "are in their transitional year from pediatric to adult health care...the Diabetes Hope Scholarship program is a critical element of DHF's commitment to enhancing the lives of children and adolescents living with diabetes."

Students come from all over Ontario, including the Greater Toronto Area, Belleville, Ottawa, Burlington, Huntsville, and Orleans. Pasternak, who has two children with type 1 diabetes, founded the diabetes Hope Foundation in 1999 to deal with funding and service gaps that exist for families and children living with diabetes.

The media release notes that "managing diabetes can cost a family between $2,600 to $10,000 per child per year, depending upon the severity of the disease."

So far, scholarships to the value of $220,000 have been awarded to 85 students.

Among this year's winners are Michael Goldberg from Thornhill, who is studying science and kinesiology; Ottawa's Daniel Kagedan, taking music; and Sara Kirchner from Burlington, who wants to play university level hockey.

Other winners will be studying computer animation, medicine, business, fine arts and engineering. – L.S.

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Arts & Travel

Comedian follows in the footsteps of Canadian greats

By TAMMY STONE
Special to The CJN

The Second City, which opened its doors in Toronto in 1973, has launched the careers of comedic greats Dan Aykroyd, Gilda Radner, Mike Myers and many others.

Matt Baram grew up a huge fan and devoted follower of their work.

Now, at 32, Baram is living his dream. Just five years after moving to Toronto from Edmonton to make it as an actor, he's a veteran of the Second City Mainstage, performing in his third show. "Invasion Free Since 1812", the company's 55th revue.

The show is exemplary Second City, a collaborative effort between the producers, director and SC alumnus Bob Martin – who just won a Writer's Guild Award for his work on the popular TV series *Slings and Arrows* – and cast members Baram, Paul Constable, Sandy Jobin-Bevans, Jamillah Ross and Naomi Snieckus.

"Invasion Free Since 1812" takes many jabs at what defines Canada in relation to our superpower neighbour to the south. So Jobin-Bevans plays a hilarious pot-smoking Paul Martin, Constable a gay employee seeking maternity leave, and Baram a potential victim of a shooting: Jobin-Bevans wants to kill him for stealing his coffee mug, but is thwarted by the bureaucracy involved in getting a gun license in this country.

Baram stands out as a neurotic, evasive businessman stuck fending off a deadpan tax auditor. His physical humour and comic timing are impeccable here, as in the scene that has Jobin-Bevans and Baram playing former marketing executives turned members of the Young Republican Party out on a cross-country university tour telling students how they can blame all their problems on Osama bin Laden.

Matt Baram

The youngest child of three sons born to Jewish parents running a deli in Alberta, Baram says that as a kid, "I made my mom laugh, but I have a feeling she was a really easy audience. On Passover seders I was the one standing delivering my Richard Nixon routine saying 'no comment' to the four questions."

After studying acting at the Unviersity of Alberta, Baram moved to Toronto where, as he describes it, he waited tables, had an agent who never called him, and would come home from work to cry on his bed looking for a reason to quit his day job.

He started getting theatre work, but soon took matters into his own hands and produced *Reefer Madness*, a show based on the film that would become a huge hit and attain a sort of cult status. It was at that point that he was approached and asked to audition for Second City.

For a year and a half, Baram travelled across country in a van with the Touring Company, living the bohemian life, stopping in small communities and performing to audiences who were really appreciative of the company's work.

"There's something so romantic about that. You're paying your dues, and there's something so cool about knowing you're doing it at the time you're doing it."

Though becoming an actor – or worse, a comedian – isn't exactly a Jewish parent's fantasy, Baram had a lot of support growing up.

"My parents had miscarriages before I was born, so not only was I the youngest but I was a miracle. So it was like, 'do what you want. You're breathing, and you're happy, keep doing whatever keeps you doing that.'"

In 2002, Baram graduated from the Touring Company to Mainstage, which he calls "the gig to get ... Here there's a consistency, you're with people in the cast for longer durations, and you get to know them so well. There isn't a lot of movement of people in and out, so your work gets better. You can feel it getting better, you learn so much from your cast members."

The chemistry among them – in part the product of respect for different points of view – was noticed by the show's producers as well. This is the first time in years that all five cast members are doing two consecutive shows together. Generally, performers do around five revues before moving on to other things.

But they do keep coming back; alumni can't stay away from their training ground, often showing up for the improv sets that take place after the nightly shows. Baram recounts a time he was doing a Touring Company show in the Muskokas, and Martin Short and Catherine O'Hara dropped in for a set.

"It was insane. [Short] has a cottage there, so they just dropped in on this intimate cottage setting venue, community centre, and we did a scene called Dr. Know-It-All ... he was hysterical, he was making us laugh, he had the whole audience just completely crazy ... These are people you grow up and you idolize them, and they're there so I freaked out. I totally freaked out."

All in a day's work – a few weeks ago rockers Aerosmith popped in, and alumni like Colin Mochrie show up regularly. Baram is still taken aback when he walks into the SC building and sees the photos of his favourite comics adorning the walls. "I'm so thrilled, so jazzed by the fact that I get to be a part of [all this] just for a blink of an eye ... Second City, for whatever else it does in the present, is going to give me a foot in the door."

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Arts & Travel

Comedian's play based on her journey

By CARA EDELL
CJN Intern

A Toronto-born comedian and actress's journey for self-fulfilment has paid off.

It's About Time, written and performed by Lori Pearlstein, 31, is a musical "dramedy" that follows the immigrant in her quest for stardom.

"The play is extremely autobiographical," she says. "It's 98.9 per cent based on the truth."

While the production is humorous, Pearlstein says there have been points in her journey that were both "serious and poignant," things she "did not want to belittle."

Since she was a child at arts camp, the native Torontonian dreamed of moving to New York City, and when opportunity knocked, she says, she took advantage of it.

"I knew it was the path I was supposed to take at an early age."

Five years ago, after fighting her parents, the immigration department and herself, Pearlstein packed her bags and set off for New York, what she calls "the theatre mecca of the world."

The move was a struggle in terms of motivation and money, she says. "I had to throw away everything. It was the hardest thing I've ever done in my life."

She says she got her first break doing stand-up at Yuk Yuk's in Toronto, but craved something bigger.

"I wanted to see if I could be a small fish in a big pond."

It's About Time premiered at New York's The Producer's Club in January and ran for one week.

"It was a work in progress, but it was still received very well," she says.

Being an artist with Jewish parents did challenge her plans, says Pearlstein, as it is not the most compatible mix.

"The traditional Jewish life path would be to become a doctor or a lawyer, something that offers more stability.

"My mom tried to suppress my urge. She didn't know how hard it was for me to want something so badly and not get support."

Pearlstein says it was difficult for her parents to accept certain scenes in the play, which explains her mother's reaction on opening night in New York: "A beautifully acted piece, a well-written story, but that was not my daughter's life."

But the play is "all based on perception," she says.

Lori Pearlstein

"I saw my childhood differently. I can understand where my mom is coming from. I wouldn't want to see my kid experiencing what I did at age 25 to 30. My parents wanted what was best for me."

She expects the Toronto audience will have a different response to her play than the New York crowd.

"It's fun in a nostalgic kind of way," she says.

In Toronto, people will be able to identify with the places she grew up visiting and with references she makes.

"In New York, people embraced the immigrant aspect. They could identify more with it," she says.

"It's a thought-provoking piece," she adds. "It deals with the choices I've made and the consequences I've faced."

Time is the play's central theme, she says, and a visible clock is ticking throughout.

"What's it ticking to?" she asks, building up the suspense.

"It would be anti-climactic if I gave away my plans for the future," she says with a laugh.

It's About Time runs May 27 to 29 and June 3 to 5, at 8:30 p.m. at the Alchemy Theatre, 133 Tecumseth St. (one block southwest of Queen and Bathurst streets). Tickets cost $20 and can be ordered by calling 416-648-9055.

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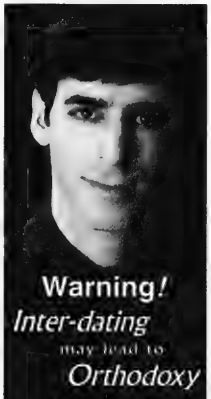
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Arts & Travel

Director breathes new life into opera

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

It was more than 25 years ago when *The Death of Enkidu* and the *Merman of Orford*, two riveting musical productions, made their debut.

Like many other premiere performances, they have yet to be seen again. And there isn't even a single tape for posterity's sake.

But that is about to change thanks to artistic director Lawrence Cherney.

The acclaimed founder of music theatre company Soundstreams Canada has spearheaded the revival of these works.

They will be performed at the St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts from May 26-29, as part of SomersFest, aptly named for the composer of the productions, Harry Somers.

"We're breathing new life into these pieces," Cherney explains while sipping espresso at a downtown Toronto café. "It's not that they never had a chance, (but) they kind of got to first base and that was it. I don't presume to know that these works will endure, but the public has to see them in order to judge for itself."

Music revival or "reconstruction," as Cherney prefers, is part of the mandate of Soundstreams, now in its 21st year

The award winning organization presents everything from multi-choral spectaculars to thrilling operas, composed by living Canadian and international artists, along with providing music education.

The ultimate goal is to engage as many people as possible in "new music."

"You can really reach people," Cherney says, in reference to choral productions in particular. "You can get them excited about music from 25 years ago."

Cherney, 58, has been getting people excited about music for the majority of his life.

A seasoned oboe soloist and recitalist, he has commissioned or premiered some 150 works for the oboe and has performed before audiences in North America, Europe and Israel.

Along with being the visionary at Soundstreams, Cherney also founded the summer festival Music at Sharon, which kicked off in 1981 and enjoyed success for 13 years.

> Music 'reconstruction'

His musical creativity and contribution to the development of Canadian artists led to being named to the Order of Canada and being the recipient of the Chalmers National Music Award.

While growing up in Peterborough, Ont. Cherney's music grooming began, first on the piano at the tender age of five and later on the oboe, at the suggestion of his father, Harry.

"I came home and told my father was gong to play the trombone. My father said, 'if that's what you really want to do, then o.k., but I really like the sound of the oboe,'" Cherney recalls.

"So as a dutiful son, I went back, asked to play the oboe and the rest is history. And if it hadn't been for that, I'd probably be in the furniture business today."

By the early 1980s, the entrepreneurial itch prompted the musician to start up the Sharon festival, in the namesake village north of Newmarket, Ont. "I did a lot of themes at Sharon. I had a wonderful time," he reflects.

"I thought maybe this could go in the direction of Niagara on the Lake…But what we didn't have to sustain the festival was restaurants. It was a miracle people kept coming back only for the music."

Soundstreams' performances have multiple venues. In February, the company showcased "Canadian Voices", a choral production with six professional Canadian choirs performing a new work by Murray Schafer called *The Fall Into Light*, at the Barbara Frum Atrium in Toronto.

> 'It took tremendous creativity'

"The Schafer piece required a lot of interaction between the choirs, so we decided to put all the choirs on the atrium floor," Cherney explains.

"I had 700 people in the middle, surrounded by all the choirs….The extraordinary acoustics and the atrium's physical properties are unmatched."

The performance received rave reviews.

With *The Death of Enkidu* and the *Merman of Orford*, major reconstructions from the original have been made.

"Enkidu is having flashbacks as he looks back on his life…and flashbacks are hard to do on the operatic stage. So we decided to treat the singers as almost being instruments and all (flashback) actions are carried out through dance," Cherney says.

"It took tremendous creativity for somebody to take that score and actually recreate it."

Cherney is always on the hunt for new ideas and says he intends to create a distinctly Jewish piece.

"I'm interested in having somebody write a piece, on a big scale, that is rooted in Judaism," says the practiced shofar blower.

"Right now I'm exploring."

For tickets to SomersFest, phone the St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts box office at 416-366-7723 or call Soundstreams at 416-504-1282.

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

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Leah Posluns Theatre. $25. Tuesday, June 8, 8 p.m. 416-782-3214. www.lachan.org

* * *

Film Festival Report: Richard Benjamin "is terrific, a really classy guy," said programming director **Shlomo Schwartzberg** after the close of the Toronto Jewish Film Festival (TJFF) earlier this month.

A special guest of the festival, the celebrated 66-year-old actor-director spent a lot of time with friends here, Schwartzberg reported. "He really loves Toronto. He described it as New York without the stress. He was a very gracious and a very unpretentious and genuine person."

During the fest, Benjamin introduced some films and was interviewed on stage by *Toronto Star* writer **Martin Knelman**. Soon after leaving Toronto, he was a special guest at the Jewish film festival in Vancouver.

The TJFF hosted a record 36 VIP guests this year, averaging three guest appearances every day. It also grew in other ways. Jumping in size from 59 to 88 screenings since last year, the fest made good use of the new Al Green Theatre at the Miles Nadal JCC, in addition to its usual venue, the Bloor Cinema.

"The transition went unbelievably smoothly and both venues had a really wonderful buzz," Schwartzberg said. "We had our most ambitious line-up this year. Based on the number of films shown, we're now the biggest Jewish film festival in North America." (By attendance, the TJFF ranks second in size to the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival.)

Repeat screenings of some of the TJFF's most popular offerings are planned for the fall and winter in the Sheppard Grande Theatre, Vaughan City Playhouse and Leah Posluns Theatre. Watch this space for details.

* * *

Silent Auction: The Winchevsky Centre is holding a silent auction to raise funds for the Morris Winchevsky School, its weekly secular Jewish cultural program for children, and Camp Naivelt, a progressive summer cottage community in Brampton.

Varied works by Toronto artists **John Abrams**, **Sybil Goldstein**, **Carole Conde**, **Karl Beveridge**, **Johanna Householder** and **bh yale** are being offered. The event, which is free and open to the public, also features ceramics, signed books, light refreshments and music by saxophonist **Wally Brooker**. 585 Cranbrooke Ave. Thursday, June 3, 7:30 p.m. 416-789-5502.

* * *

Names in the News: Following an age-old Broadway ritual, the lights in front of Toronto's Royal Alex, Princess of Wales and Canon theatres were dimmed at 8 p.m. on May 18 in tribute to actor **Tony Randall**, who died the day before at the age of 84… Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Center is hosting a gala fund-raising tribute for **Simon Wiesenthal**, featuring Canadian hero **Gen. Romeo Dallaire**, CBC's **Evan Solomon**, mezzo-soprano **Tsepora**, author **Irshad Manji** and Los Angeles **Rabbi Marvin Hier** representing the 95-year-old Nazi hunter. It's at the Toronto Centre for the Arts on June 10… Five major recent projects by the Toronto architectural firm **Diamond and Schmitt**, Inc. are highlighted on the company's newly redesigned website, www.dsai.ca… Playwright **Wendy Wasserstein**, novelist **Anne Roiphe**, artist **Tobi Kahn** and theatre producer **Daryl Roth** are the honorees of the 15th annual Jewish Cultural Achievements Awards in the Arts to be held next week at New York's Plaza Hotel. The awards are sponsored by the National Foundation for Jewish Culture, whose executive director, **Richard Siegel**, is slated to receive a cultural leadership award for 25 years of devoted service.

* * *

Media Watch: Britain has protested to Syria and Lebanon over their hosting of a Hezbollah-controlled TV station that broadcasts anti-Semitic propaganda around the world. Foreign Secretary **Jack Straw** instructed his ambassadors to express London's "revulsion" at the broadcasts, which were said to contain "inflammatory material" meant to incite racial hatred. British owners of satellite antennas were able to pull the offensive material into their living rooms. Do any readers know whether Hezbollah-TV is accessible by satellite dish in Canada?

* * *

Arts in Brief

• **The Yorkminstrels Show Choir** presents "Sing & Swing," with the North York Concert Band. Adults $18, children $10. Northview Heights S.S., 550 Finch Ave., west of Bathurst. Sunday, May 30, 2 p.m. 416-291-0600.

• The **Shevchenko Musical Ensemble** presents "Gems of the Season," an annual spring concert with the **Shevchenko Choir**, **Toronto Mandolin Orchestra** and **Kaniv Dancers**. Highlights include an excerpt from the **Kaniv Dancers'** production of *Three Pictures at An Exhibition*, and the *Epic Festive Medley*. Leah Posluns Theatre, 4588 Bathurst St. $22 - $20. Sunday, May 30, 2 p.m. 416-533-2725.

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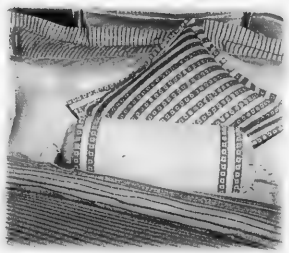

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Irony and black humour infuse Holocaust work

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

As often happens on the first day of school, David Albahari recalls being asked to stand up and introduce himself to his Grade 2 class. The name was unusual to the teacher, so David was asked to explain his heritage.

"Jewish?" the teacher asked, quite puzzled.

"I didn't know there were any Jews still alive," he said.

David Albahari

It was the first time the award-winning writer, who grew up in the former Yugoslavia, had to confront his identity and the question of the Holocaust, an issue he now feels must engage the efforts of every generation.

In his recent book, *Gotz and Meyer* (Harvill Press/Random House), Albahari chooses to examine the horror of the Holocaust by focusing on the summer of 1942 when the Nazis exterminated the majority of Belgrade's Jews.

Using irony and black humour, Albahari examines humanity at its worst in an effort to understand the point at which people cross the line into immorality. The writer, who has been compared to Primo Levi and Eli Wiesel, uses a narrator one generation removed from the atrocities to explore the illusory nature of evil.

The namesakes of the book are the two SS officers who drove the 5,000 Jewish inmates from the Fairgrounds, a holding camp for the Jews of Belgrade, to their deaths by carbon monoxide poisoning in a hermetically sealed truck.

The story, written in one long paragraph, is told by a teacher who becomes consumed with his effort to reconstruct the lives of his relatives, many of whom died in that Saurer gas truck, and becomes obsessed by the nature of the two drivers, Willhelm Gotz and Erwin Meyer.

"One of the two, or so witnesses claim, came into the camp, played with the children, picked them up, even gave them chocolates," Albahari writes.

This image of innocence is juxtaposed with the description of Gotz, or was it Meyer, (the author often confuses the two) crouching under the truck, as the women and children waited inside, to move the exhaust pipe over so that the truck would fill with carbon monoxide poison.

Albahari describes the banality of Gotz and Meyer's conversation as they continue their drive while the carbon monoxide pumps into the truck and the Jews in the back scream "at their God with their last breath, asking him why he wasn't there, why he wasn't there yet, why he was never there?"

In his novel, Albahari brings together the persecutor and persecuted in an effort to reinterpret the events that defined that horrific period.

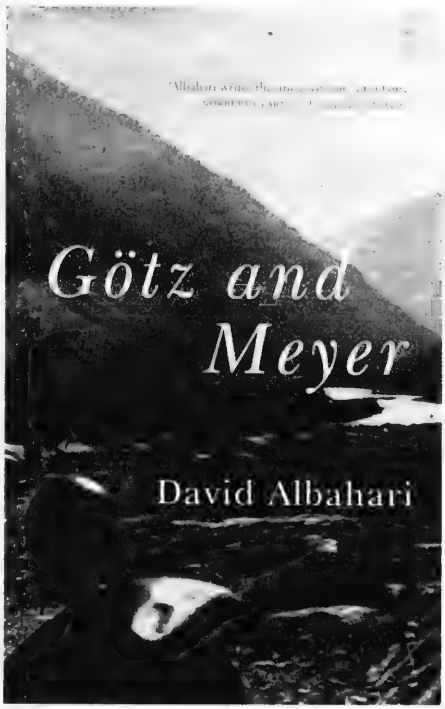
"We cannot simply blame the Holocaust on the whole German nation," Albahari said in an interview.

"These two characters, who are real, were not born as monsters. If you want to think of them before those evil things were done, you have to think of them in terms of normal happy and sad people like everyone else," he said.

Albahari, who now lives in Calgary, was in Toronto recently to read for the Harbourfront Reading Series. He has written 14 books in Serbian and is the winner of the Ivo Andric Awards for the best collection of short stories in Yugoslavia and the NIN award for the best novel.

Before coming to Canada, Albahari was president of the Jewish communities of Yugoslavia. When he accepted the honorary position, Albahari thought he was committing to four years of hand shaking at receptions and dinners.

"Then, in 1991, a new war began in Croatia. In 1992, it moved to Bosnia and in April of 1992, suddenly my honorary position became a full time job," Albahari said.



Before the beginning of the recent war, the former Yugoslavia was a federation of six different republics which came together in Belgrade, a city which brought together people from the Austrio-Hungarian and Turkish empires, and integrated both Sephardi and Ashkenazi Jews.

In 1991, the Jewish community consisted of somewhere between 7,000 or 8,000 people, with the largest community of 1,600 in Belgrade.

After the war began, Jewish refugees from Bosnia and Sarajevo began to flow into Belgrade. At one point, Albahari said there were 600 Jewish refugees that were being assisted by world Jewish organizations.

"Suddenly, my position became something very real and terrible in its own way. All these people left their homes, became refugees and lost everything they had," he said.

Although proud of his work as a Jewish community leader in Belgrade, Albahari felt that his life as a writer was slipping away.

"I felt that if I missed writing this book, it may never happen later," Albahari said.

In 1994, Albahari decided to accept a writer in residence position at the University of Calgary and moved to Canada with his wife, Bojana – who teaches English to new immigrants – and their two children.

When he arrived in Canada, the writer was surprised at the similarities between Canada and the former Yugoslavia.

"Of course, the systems are different. The former Yugoslavia was a communist country and Canada is not."

However, in the former Yugoslavia, defining identity became a challenge because there were different nations coming together under a federated system.

This is a challenge also faced by Canadian artists, Albahari said. While Canadians don't face the problems that were faced in the former Yugoslavia, new immigrants do find themselves "redefining something which is not completely defined.

"Identity in Canada must be very fluid," he said.

Albahari, who now considers himself Canadian, Jewish and Yugoslavian, in the old sense of the word, said he loves living with several identities.

"In a way, it is the Jewish experience. But it may be one of its problems as well."

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510 UPHOLSTERY
515 WATERPROOFING
520 WINDOW COVERINGS
525 WINDOW REPLACEMENT
530 WINDOW CLEANING
550 WORKSHOPS

REAL ESTATE section

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

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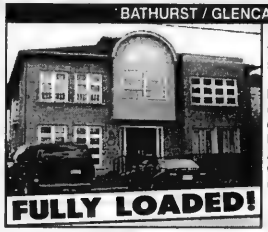
BATHURST / GLENCAIRN



Spacious custom family home, 4,400 sq. ft. + 1,900 sq. ft. in basement. 6 + 2 bedrooms, 6 baths, granite hallways, dream maple kitchen. Loaded with extras! Asking $1,195,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / LAWRENCE

Charming 2 + 1 bdrm. detached bung. on 50 ft . lot, renovated kit., new bath, desirable location close to TTC, schools, shops, **ACT FAST — WON'T LAST!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

SOLD

BATHURST / FINCH — NEW LISTING!

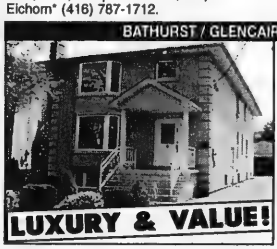
Spacious 3 bedroom brick bungalow on quiet court. Finished basement, sep. entry to possible in-law suite, attached garage. Live in or build your dream home! **PRICED FOR IMMEDIATE SALE AT $379,000.** Call Esther Rubenstein, Sales Rep., (416) 787-1712.

* * *

BATHURST / WILSON — NEW LISTING!

Totally renovated & decorated! 4 + 1 bdrm. bungalow, gleaming hardwood floors, designer bay windows, new kitchen & baths, granite foyer, gorgeous oak trim! Prime central location close to TTC, 401, shops. **ONLY $349,000 — ACT FAST!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / GLENCAIRN



Spacious executive home, approx. 3,600 sq. ft. of finished living space, modern open concept, 4 + 3 bedrooms, 5 baths, hardwood floors on main floor and 2nd level, double garage. **ONLY $649,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / LAWRENCE

Architectural gem! Stunning custom luxury home, approx. 3,600 sq. ft. + fin. bsmt., 5 + 2 bedrooms, upgrades throughout. Stone front, extensive use of limestone, marble & granite, main flr. 9.5 ft. ceilings and custom library w/ built-in bookcases, dream kit., sep. entry to 2 in-law suites, w/o to deck. **ONLY $1,195,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

* * *

BATHURST / GLENCAIRN

Gorgeous custom luxury home, 5 + 2 bdrms., 5 baths, limestone hallway, dream kit., main floor library, large principal rooms ideal for entertaining, sep. entry to in-law suite, upgrades throughout. **ONLY $1,095,000 — ACT FAST!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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BATHURST / YORK DOWNS

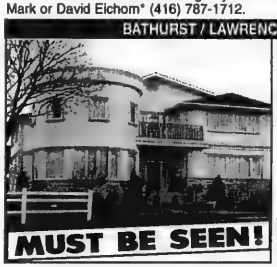
RARE OPPORTUNITY ON SPECTACULAR 67 X 432 FT. LOT! Build your dream home on this magnificent property backing onto Timberlane Ravine and surrounded by multimillion $ homes. **PRICED FOR IMMEDIATE SALE AT ONLY $1,159,000 — ACT FAST!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

* * *

AVENUE ROAD / COLDSTREAM

PRESTIGIOUS AREA! Magnificent new custom luxury home by upscale builder. Quality craftsmanship and materials throughout. 10 ft. ceilings, gleaming hrdwd. floors, dream kit., granite & limestone +++. For the most discriminating buyer! Asking $1.549 million. Call Mark or David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / LAWRENCE



Exquisite custom-built home, 5,000 sq. ft. (approx.), 5 + 1 bdrms., 4 baths, quality materials & superior finishes throughout. Limestone & 3/4" plank hardwood floors, granite counters, crown mouldings, 2 heating zones, jacuzzis. **Incredibly priced at $998,000.** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / AVENUE ROAD / LAWRENCE

Best value in area! Spacious custom built luxury home, fin. bsmt., open concept, upgrades throughout! Approx. 2,900 sq. ft. + fin. bsmt. Dream French Country kit., gleaming hardwood floors, main floor fam. rm. & 9 ft. ceilings, extensive use of marble & slate, **INCREDIBLY PRICED AT $869,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* or Mark Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

* * *

BATHURST / LAWRENCE

Magnificent Chateau-style luxurious custom home by upscale builder in prestigious location! Architectural gem with impressive front elevation, stone exterior, granite & limestone, 5 + 1 bdrms., 7 baths, dream maple kit., main floor library + fam. room ++. $1,149,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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CLASSIFIEDS

BATHURST/GLENCAIRN

4 level sidesplit on cul de sac. Very spacious! $649,000.

500 GLENCAIRN AVE.

Gorgeous condo. 2 Bdrm. $320,000.

1 GLEN PARK AVE.

Luxury condo. 1720 sq. ft. 2 bdrm. ++ $529,000.

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5 HOUSES FOR SALE

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HUGE LOT ON ARNOLD AVENUE!
100 x 180 ft., existing 3 bdrm bungalow. Build your dream house in the most desirable area in Thornhill. the land value is higher than the asking price! Call *Philip Osadtsuk or *Esther Greenbaum

• • •

ATKINSON-CENTRE $539,900
Lovely detached 4 bedroom on extra large lot, backs onto park! Finished basement, hardwood floors, air+++. *Larry Wronzberg

• • •

"WESTMOUNT" BATHURST-CENTRE
Detached 4 bedroom with finished basement on pie-shaped lot! $469,900. *Larry Wronzberg

• • •

BAYVIEW & GREEN LANE - JUST REDUCED!
Gorgeous 5 bedroom home, finished basement, side onto park-land! *Larry Wronzberg

• • •

BATHURST-CLARK $489,000
Large 4 bedroom home, prof finished basement, huge principal rooms, close to all amenities! **Mark Waxman

• • •

"ROSEDALE NORTH" - BATHURST-ATKINSON
Great 3 bedroom home with large family room, finished basement, near best schools and parks. *Larry Wronzberg

• • •

BATHURST-ATKINSON $369,900
Fabulous "Rosedale North" home with double garage, finished basement, close to schools and shopping. *Ted Waxman

• • •

BATHURST-CENTRE $299,000
Exquisite 3 bedroom townhome, fully renovated, finished basement, 4 piece ensuite, appliances, air, vac and security, on quiet cul-de-sac. Value+++. *Ted Waxman

• • •

CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

"PROMENADE" - UNDER MARKET VALUE!
Hurry fast, won't last! 2 bdrm condo about 1,100 sq. ft., balcony, eat-in kitchen, California shutters, appliances & more. *Becky Wener

• • •

"PRIMROSE" - ONE OF THE LARGEST UNITS!
Panoramic view and fabulous sunsets! 2 bedrooms, eat-in kitchen with large window and extra cupboards, beautiful solarium, great entertaining space. *Becky Wener

• • •

"PRIMROSE" BATHURST-STEELES
2 bedroom penthouse with balcony, hardwood floors throughout, 2 car parking, appliances, shows well. $238,900. *Ted Waxman

• • •

BATHURST-ANTIBES - JUST LISTED!
Renovated 2 bedroom, 2 full baths, huge balcony, eat-in kitchen with window, oversized living/dining room. New broadloom and freshly painted! *Becky Wener

• • •

"PRIMROSE" BATHURST-STEELES
Exquisite 2 bedroom unit on ground floor, completely renovated throughout! New flooring & appliances. Just move in your furniture and live in luxury! *Ted Waxman

• • •

BATHURST-CENTRE $184,900
Large 1 bedroom condo, ensuite laundry, appliances, mirrored walls. Shows well! **Mark Waxman

• • •

CONDOMINIUM FOR LEASE

BATHURST-ANTIBES - JUST LISTED!
2 bedrooms, large living and dining combo, herringbone hardwood floors, appliances, washer and dryer (to be installed). Park like grounds. *Becky Wener

• • •

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EAST OF BATHURST / SOUTH OF WILSON
$579,900. 3 bdrms + mn flr fam rm bungalow. There are 2 lrg rms, bath & grdn w-out downstairs. Jeffrey Joseph** ext. 519

EAST OF BATHURST AT CLARK DET. 2 STOREY
3+1 bdrms, 4 baths, fam rm, 2 flrs, comb. LR/DR, pie-shaped park-like lot, walk to shuls, schools, rec centre, movies, Prom. Mall, TTC. $348,800. Michelle Kahn*, M.B.A. ext. 612

BATHURST / CLARK / HILDA
Reno'd, 4+2 bdrms, LR/DR, eat-in kitchen, fam rm, fin'd bsmnt + 2 bdrms + kit + laundry + 4pc bath, income pot, dble garage, quiet court. $489,000. Michelle Kahn*, M.B.A. ext. 612

THORNHILL GEM
5+2 BRs, finished basement, main floor office + family room, premium lot. $538,000. Michelle Kahn*, M.B.A. ext. 612

PRIME BAYVIEW/YORK MILLS
$835,000. Incredible opp. to live among magnificent estates! Lovely 4 bdrm, 2 storey home, main flr den, fin'd low. lvl, nanny's qrts, great lot, sought after loc. Elain Chelin* ext. 269

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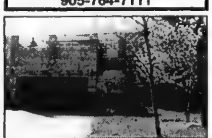
WOW! 77' x 200' lot with 2,000 sq. ft. bungalow. Perfect for professional couple or empty nesters. Great street – Betty Ann. Sheppard/Bathurst. $629,000

67 COMBE AVENUE
$349,000

Homelife/Bayview Rlty. – #1 ACROSS CANADA

WORTH & ROCKWOOD
Elegant 3,200 sq. ft. home, 4 bedrooms, open staircase to fin. basement. Shows like a dream.
SALLY ROSEN
Century 21 Heritage Group
905-764-7111



Bathurst/Atkinson – *Just Reduced!*
Custom 4 bedroom, 5 bathroom, 3600 sq. ft. home, finished basement w/separate entrance, excellent location – close to all amenities.
Won't Last!
Open House: Sat. & Sun., May 22 & 23
2:00–4:00 p.m. • 21 Rodeo Drive
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BATHURST/STEELES
Primrose: large corner unit condo, 2 bedroom, 2 baths, kitchen with window + eating area, huge living & dining, balcony, fast possession, steps to all, don't miss.

BAYVIEW/GREENLANE
Landmark: 2 bedroom condo, living & dining combined, 5 appliances, move in condition.

WILMINGTON/OVERBROOK
Triplex, 2-3 bedroom + 1-2 bedroom apt, bath ensuites, balconies, garages + parking.

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The Canadian Jewish news CLASSIFIEDS

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List with us and appear on our Website: www.foresthill.com

CENTRAL PROPERTIES

1ST AD! 34 STRATHEARN BLVD! $1,049K!
Prime Forest Hill! Incredible curb appeal! Stunning 4+1 bdrm, 3 bath! Gorg'us 50 x 147'! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

109 DELL PARK AVE! NEW 4+1 BDRM, 5 BATH!
$898K! Bathurst/Glencairn! Mn fam+ lib+2pce! W/o bsmnt! Walk to Shul! Motivated! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

CUSTOM BUILT GEM!
Stunning 4+bedroom, 3,000' on premium 45 x 150' lot. Gourmet kitchen. Grand master+++. Anna Pollock* 416-488-2875

96 LAWTON BLVD! NOW $869,000!
Yonge N/St Clair! Reno 3 stry, 5+1 bdrm, 5 bath! Nanny ste! Rare gar+priv prkng! Subway/shops! S. Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

1ST AD! 19 VERWOOD AVENUE! $779K!
Bathurst S/Sheppard! Cstm 5+1 bdrm, 5 bath! Mn fam+lib+lau+2 pce! Nanny ste! Rare 66x102'! S. Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

16 STORMONT AVENUE! NOW $679,000!
At Caribou Park! Updated 4+1 bdrm, 3 bath exec S/S! Fab 55x117'! Walk to shul! Must see! S. Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

LAWRENCE/BATHURST BUNGALOW $619,000
Gorgeous living, dining, family rooms w/out to garden. 3+1 bdrm, 4 car parking. Entrance to fin basement. M. Merrick* 416-488-2875

NEW LISTING – YORK DOWNS/BATHURST $479,000
Wonderful 3+1 bdrm, sidesplit w/mn flr den. Spacious and well maintained. Sep entrance to basement. Irma Weisz** 416-488-2875

BAYVIEW/NORTH PROPERTIES

ELEGANT NEW APPROX 5,600', 5+1 BDRMS
7 baths, great layout, custom kitchen, mouldings, railings, wainscotting. Call Elena Kholodov* 416-226-1987

165 STEELES AVE E! LIVE/WORK @ HOME!
$995K! W/Bayview! Rare 81x 123' w/loads of prkng! 7 bdrm, 6 bath w/2 sep units! Call Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

74 MONTRESSOR DR! RENO 4+1 BDRMS, 3 BATHS!
$899K! Bayview/York Mills! Mn fam+lib+lau+2 pce! Fab 52 x 133'! Vendor says sell! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

2 LAREDO COURT! GRAND 5+1 BDRM, 7 BATH!
$878K! Bayview N/Finch! Mn fam+lib+lau+2pce! 3 car garage! Nanny ste! Move right in! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

***AVENUE RD/EGLINTON* 4+1 BDRM**
$875,000..Beautiful modern kitchen, bathrooms + den! Walk-out lower level. Marty Wagman** 416-226-1987

PRIME THORNHILL $479,000
Immaculate 4 bedroom home, 3 baths. Main floor family, den and laundry rooms. 2,875 sq. ft. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

GORGEOUS PENTHOUSE FABULOUS VIEWS
Forest Hill total reno 2003. 2 bedroom, 2 baths, parking, pool, concierge. Near village. Marilyn Merrick* 416-488-2875

1 GLEN PARK AVE-NEW! REGISTERED! $292,000-$1,200,000
Prime locale – 2 & 3 bdrm suites + penthouses w/terraces, 910'-2,730' upgraded. 9' ceilings, hrdwd, granite, parking & locker. Just move in! C. Feldman** 416-488-2875

YONGE & SIXTEENTH $299,000
Beautiful 3 bedroom, 3 bath townhome. 9' ceilings, hardwood! Freddie Green* 416-785-1500

500 GLENCAIRN AVENUE $279,000
Exceptional 1 bedroom + den, fabulous eat-in kitchen, 2 bathrooms. Sabbath elevator. Caroline Bokar** 416-785-1500

GREAT LOCATION! 33 EMPRESS #1615
Must see this fabulous 2 bedroom unit with all appliances & quality upgrades. Brenda Westbrook* 416-226-1987

FOREST HILL OPPORTUNITY $249,000
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$549,000.

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30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

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30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

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DON MILLS & FINCH - 2 RENO APTS.
Skymark Zenith: Penthouse. Unique 2 bedroom + family + solarium, skylights, fireplace, sauna, 2 parking + locker. Unobstructed panoramic view.
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Bathurst/Steeles, Townsgate, 1550 sq. ft. 2 bed., 2 bath, 2 prkng., all amens. $2100/mo. 647-299-0371 / 416-224-2837.

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Briar Hill/Bathurst, huge, lux. 1, 2 & 3 bdrms. from $1075, renov'd., a/c. Bonus: June FREE. James 416-769-6779.

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Can campus faculty help Israel's image?

BY RACHEL POMERANCE
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

NEW YORK — The belief that students are the main instigators of anti-Israel activity on college campuses is wrong – it's actually the faculty.

That's the premise of a soon-to-be released report by the Israel on Campus Coalition, a group of 27 Jewish organizations that aid pro-Israel activists at U.S. colleges, and the American-Israeli Co-operative Enterprise, a group that aims to bolster the U.S.-Israel relationship.

A few high-profile anti-Israel or anti-Semitic acts on some campuses have created the misconception that anti-Israel activity is widespread and directed by students, said the American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise's executive director, Mitchell Bard, who prepared the report.

"The real problem is more insidious because it's not as visible, and that is the absence of scholars who can teach about Israel in a way that is factual and even remotely sympathetic to Israel," said Bard.

His report was to be released last weekend at Hillel's International Lay Leadership Conference in Washington.

At Columbia University, the administration recently created a faculty committee to examine the extent of permissible free speech by academics.

Columbia president Lee Bollinger said he didn't believe free speech could excuse intimidation in the classroom, and he asked the committee to examine the issue. But the committee found no evidence of "systematic bias in teaching on the campus."

Many Jews, however, maintain that there is a systematic bias against Israel throughout academia – and no quick fix.

"Students come and go," but "faculty can be there for generations, so they really have a huge impact on what happens on that campus," said Rachel Fish, New York regional director of the David Project, which teaches about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in high schools, colleges and communities.

But the problem goes beyond the issue of anti-Israel faculty who turn the classroom into a bully pulpit, Fish said.

"Jewish faculty are absolutely reluctant to speak up" for Israel, she said.

Faculty behaviour will change only if the impetus comes from within the university, Fish and others said.

"Somebody coming in from the outside and challenging a faculty member means nothing. Somebody coming in from the inside, a peer, someone who can challenge your tenure, your next promotion," carries meaning and pressure, said Ed Beck, who teaches psychology at Alvernia College in Pennsylvania and is president of Scholars for Peace in the Middle East, an international faculty network that tries to counter anti-Israel and anti-Semitic teaching.

But some say that pushing for pro-Israel faculty members could undermine the integrity of the academy.

The topic has created a stir among Jewish faculty on Internet discussion groups, and was the topic of a panel discussion at the last meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies, said Norman Stillman, who teaches Judaic history at the University of Oklahoma.

"On the one hand, we all have our private views, loyalties and political affiliations. On the other hand, many of us are old-fashioned enough to believe that our job at the university is not to propagandize but to discuss issues with academic dispassion," Stillman said.

Bard stressed that the purpose of his report isn't to oust or criticize professors that rail against Israel, but to foster more accurate scholarship on Israel.

His group has created a scholarship fund that would give matching funds to universities that hire U.S. and Israeli academics as visiting professors and offer scholarships to students who want to become scholars on Israel.

He also proposes that pro-Israel scholars mentor faculty, train faculty from non-Middle East studies departments to teach courses on Israel, and endow chairs and departments in Israel studies.

"The creation of chairs and Israel studies centres has the greatest potential for long-term influence on the course of scholarship, the development of new talent, and support for pro-Israel students," Bard wrote.

But not everyone agrees with Bard's approach.

"It sounds to me like a very clear attempt to politicize academic departments," said Hasdai Westbrook, editor of *New Voices* magazine, written by and for Jewish students.

Political activism has its place on campus, but not in academia, said Westbrook, who stressed that he had not yet seen the report.

But Bard says his proposal may just be a stopgap solution – and not the only one. Those involved say the report is simply a start toward showcasing the issues and taking a stab at solutions.

Bypassing Middle East studies departments to find professors who can teach fairly about Israel will create a cadre of Israel scholars who eventually can affect hiring and teaching patterns in Middle East studies, he said.

Wayne Firestone, director of the Israel on Campus Coalition and Hillel's Center for Israel Affairs, agrees that faculty need to be seriously involved for change to take place.

But he acknowledges that most professors feel that becoming members and advocates of Jewish groups would compromise their work.

Israeli-Euro team sinks teeth into addiction

By YUVAL DROR
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

TEL AVIV — A joint Israeli-European team has recently developed a revolutionary system for weaning addicts off of drugs – a prosthetic tooth that releases medication to reduce the addict's craving.

The scientists produced a microcomputer that is planted in a prosthetic tooth in the mouth of the addict, many of whom suffer from dental problems and missing teeth. In an adjacent prosthetic tooth sits a tiny cell containing the medication, which is released by the computer into the addict's mouth.

The researchers intend to miniaturize the device to the extent that both the microcomputer and the medication cell can be planted together in one prosthetic tooth.

The project is headed by engineer Bentzi Biesky and dentist Dr. Andy Wolf, both of the Assouta Medical Centre in Tel Aviv. The two originally developed the device for patients suffering from dry mouths.

In that case, the mechanism is planted in an artificial tooth and monitors the moisture level in the individual's mouth. When the mouth's moisture drops below a predetermined level, the device transmits tiny electric jolts to the nerve that controls the saliva glands, thus increasing the mouth's moisture level.

"Because they developed the tiny electronics and mechanics that can be implanted in the mouth, the question arose whether it is possible to utilize the technology to develop a device that can release drugs in a controlled manner," explained Dr. Haim Mahal, head of treatment and rehabilitation at the Israel Anti-Drug Authority.

Mahal said clinical tests of the medication-dispensing device will be carried out in Europe until the end of 2005. An additional test will be conducted on animal subjects suffering from diabetes, with the device releasing insulin.

It is still difficult at this stage to estimate when the device would be put on the market, he said.

"With the current method, addicts need to get to the drug treatment centre on a daily basis in order to receive their medication," Mahal said. "This is problematic because although they do want to rid themselves of their addiction, sometimes they are unable [to come] or not interested in getting to the clinic. This is the reason that only 20 per cent of patients successfully overcome their addiction."

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Adversity has the effect of eliciting talents, which, in prosperous circumstances, would have lain dormant. –Horace

NEW YORK — Shayna Greenwald's passion for basketball and commitment to Judaism embody her identity, and her tenacity to overcome adversity has landed her all-star honours playing for Yeshiva University after experiencing what could have been a career-ending injury.

Two years ago, Greenwald suffered a torn knee ligament that might have brought her basketball career to an end. But she bounced back and her dedication to her country, her sport and her religion culminated in 2003, when the five-foot-one point guard helped lead Canada to a silver medal at the 10th Pan-American Maccabi Games in Santiago, Chile.

"Some people write a book or speak. Sports is a way that I can express myself and my Jewish culture. To represent Jewish Canada was truly rewarding," said Greenwald, a native of Toronto.

"The energy in the gym, for every game – it was the most intense basketball I've ever played. People were playing their hearts out. Everyone was stepping it up to a higher level. You either played your best, or you were embarrassed on the court."

From an early age, basketball has been an integral part of Greenwald's life. Yet, when she hoped to join a league at the Toronto JCC, she found there were no leagues for girls. Undeterred, Greenwald joined the boys' league.

"For a lot of girls, that could have stopped someone's career. While there were not very many opportunities, she overcame that," says Sy Herling, head coach of Maccabi Canada's women's basketball team, who also coached her as a youth. "Shayna didn't see anything wrong with playing with the guys. She was as good as or better than many of the boys, capable of a lot of things that they were. More girls became involved with basketball in the JCC, and we created girls leagues. Shayna was a big part of that."

After two successful seasons as the point guard for Neptune Day School, Greenwald went on to Ulpanat Orot, a Hebrew high school that did not have a basketball program. Greenwald made the decision to transfer to CHAT, where she could resume playing basketball as a junior.

However, during a JCC Maccabi tournament in West Orange, N.Y., Greenwald partially tore a ligament in her knee and then re-injured it the following year.

"I knew that I had torn my ACL and my basketball season was over. I was upset," recalls Greenwald.

She used that as motivation, making it back in time to play Grade 11 volleyball and softball. As a senior, she finally made it onto the basketball court.

"She was desperate to play in her senior year to make an impact. She's the type of girl not to let up. That's what set her apart," said Aubrey Zimmerman, her coach at CHAT.

Greenwald, who was named CHAT's athlete of the year, was among the team leaders in scoring, assists and steals, and hit the biggest shot of the season, a game wining buzzer-beater to win the CHAT Israel Becker Invitational.

"CHAT had never won a tournament. Everyone went nuts. Ramaz was a huge rival and she broke their backs." said Zimmerman. "She had a lot of fire about her. You need that. Shayna was a leader."

After high school, Greenwald spent a year in Israel and then enrolled at the University of Toronto. College basketball games often conflicted with the Sabbath, so Greenwald's commitment to her Jewish faith forced her to make a difficult choice.

"I couldn't play on the university team. Without my Judaic studies as the driving force, what would be the point?" explained Greenwald. "I was not fulfilled."

Instead, she decided to attend Yeshiva University in New York, which offers a Division III basketball program.

"Shayna and basketball are synonymous. She loves the game," said Karen Greene, head coach of the Yeshiva Lady Maccabis. "Shayna is tenacious in reaching her goals."

Last year, Greenwald earned an All-Hudson Valley Conference selection and this year, she was named player of the week twice, along with MVP of the Betty Shabazz Tournament, when she hit a game winning three-pointer with three seconds left.

While she will remain in New York to work for Lehman Brothers as a financial analyst, Greenwald's heart is in Canada. She'll likely be part of Team Canada for the 2005 Maccabiah Games in Israel.

"I love being a Canadian, I love the game and I love Judaism," she said. "I just hope there is another guard out there who is not going to settle but also take a chance to play and shine."

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Sakhnin brushes aside Haifa for place in history

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

RAMAT GAN, Israel — Almost the entire town of Sakhnin turned out last week to watch the local team smash Hapoel Haifa 4-1 with a second-half blitz, including two goals from Lior Assoulin, to become the first team with Arab players to win the State Cup.

Things didn't start off well for Bnei Sakhnin. At the end of a tepid first half, Haifa's talented young playmaker Gil Vermot sent a clever cross in to Shai Dahan, who headed it in seconds before the half-time whistle. The goal sent more than 25,000 Sakhnin fans into a state of shock.

But after the break, Sakhnin came out determined to turn the game around and at the 62-minute mark, Lior Assoulin lifted a corner to Avi Danan, who headed in the equalizer. Sakhnin fans erupted and two fans received medical attention after fainting.

Three minutes later, Dariusz Jaskewicz put through Assoulin and the striker slotted the ball into the net from the edge of the box to make it 2-1. From that moment, the Sakhnin fans started singing their victory song composed by Mussa al-Hafez, a wedding singer from Jenin.

At the 76-minute mark, Jaskewicz blasted in a shot that put the Galilee town ahead 3-1. Another two fans fainted and Sakhnin chair Mazen Ghnaem called on the fans not to invade the field.

Assoulin put the icing on the cake when he hammered in a penalty after being brought down by Haifa keeper Anan Fero.

As President Moshe Katsav handed the trophy to Sakhnin, the club's fans erupted in a celebration that lasted well into the night. In the town itself, which had been empty until the end of the game, those who hadn't made the journey to Ramat Gan began their celebrations. Fireworks were set off at the town hall and thousands poured out into the streets to be joined later by the fans returning from the game.

Even before the end of the 90 minutes of regulation play, the reservoir of verbal crowns applicable to Bnei Sakhnin had already run dry. "Historic" is not a word generally used in connection with a soccer championship. But in the Israeli Arab Galilee town, they spoke of a "Sacred Day – The Independence Day of the Palestinian Arabs of Israel."

Others, like Ghnaem, said it was a day of pride for the State of Israel and that for the first time, Bnei Sakhnin were proud to be Israelis.

The historic achievement, of course, lies in the arrival of the Arabs – tens of thousands came to the stadium – who made their way from the very fringes of the margins to the very centre of events, and enjoyed being the winners.

Immediately after the Arab captain of the team held aloft the golden cup trophy, Shawki Khatib, chair of the Israeli Arab umbrella group, the Higher Monitoring Committee for Arab Affairs in Israel, said, "This is a beef against all those who voice beefs against the Arabs all year long, who have a beef with us from every direction. This is a beef with the state, saying that despite all the discrimination, we can compete as equals for the State Cup."

The sweet taste of victory came mixed with other flavours, of course. There were those who felt confusion as they watched Bnei Sakhnin players drape themselves with the Israeli flag as they took their victory lap around Ramat Gan Stadium. There were those who felt ill at ease, with Palestinian casualties mounting in Rafah and the Arab commemoration of Naqba (Catastrophe) Day, as the Arabs call the anniversary of the 1948 establishment of the State of Israel.

The community of Sakhnin itself has gone through long years of struggle with the state, in the course of which lands were confiscated and young people killed in violent confrontations. In the Sakhnin bleachers in Ramat Gan, blue-and-white flags were waved along with portraits of two Sakhnin residents shot dead by police in the outskirts of the city in October 2000.

A-Shams Radio and other Arab media outlets didn't deal with these issues on game day, however. They focused instead on the carnival of the Israeli Arab public. Author and journalist Salem Joubran, editor of the Sakhnin-based *Al-Ahli* newspaper, said he had never had the slightest interest in soccer, but he shed a tear when the final whistle blew.

"This is the greatest of joyous occasions, a joyous occasion that bridges between the Jews and the Arabs," Joubran said.

"This can be a breakthrough," he said of the victory by the Sakhnin team, which has both Arab and Jewish players on its roster. "If Jews and Arabs can play together and win a cup, they can also do business together and simply live together.

Now, Joubran continued, "one needn't be a big ideologue in order to engage in Arab-Jewish co-operation. We can – and we should – be together."

A film review over coffee

I was sitting in a packed Starbucks in downtown Toronto with a girlfriend on Sunday afternoon. We were sipping our steaming beverages and exchanging dating stories from the past week. Hers were more eventful than mine and I listened intently. I was about to offer her my "expert" dating advice when Igal Hecht and Ron Furman walked in.

30 something

By MIRIAM PORTER

We had just seen their latest documentary, *The Chosen People*, at the Toronto Jewish Film Festival. I loved it for several reasons. It explores the lives of messianic Jews and exposes their beliefs and practices. Hecht and Furman, the filmmakers, interview two sisters in their 20s who were brought up in a traditional Jewish home who now believe Jesus is the Messiah. It includes many interviews with Jews for Jesus members and also the counter-evangelical movement, Jews for Judaism. It was the first time, to my knowledge, that a film focused on this religious group.

The low-budget movie, which was shot mostly in the filmmaker's hometown of Toronto, captures some wonderful moments. A young messianic girl on a busy street corner tries to persuade passersby to join Jews for Jesus. She approaches an older Jewish woman, who begins arguing with her. Finally, the older woman snaps, "Go convert the Muslims in Israel who are killing us!" I applauded and cheered along with the other audience members.

Next time I am approached by Jews for Jesus, I might use the same line. It would probably be more effective than my previous confrontation. A tall burly-haired man once approached me outside a subway stop and handed me a pamphlet. When I realized, to my disappointment, it was not a half-price coupon for the shoe store on the corner, I tore it up in front of him and screamed, "I'm Jewish!" I gave him the dirtiest look my face would contort to and walked much faster than usual all the way home, hoping he was not following me.

The Chosen People is an unbiased film, but focuses more on the two converted sisters and Jews for Jesus than on Jews for Judaism. It affected me because it deals with issues that directly influence the contemporary Jewish world – my world.

A question-and-answer session was held with the filmmakers after the screening. A curious audience member asked why Jewish youth were not given more screen time. I agree with the filmmakers when they replied, "This film is about messianic Jews and we were telling their story."

However, I was disappointed when Hecht avoided the audience question, "Where do your values lie?" He did not take a stand for either group. Instead he passed the microphone over to his partner. Furman said, "I am a Jew." The audience applauded; it was exactly what they wanted to hear.

When the duo entered Starbucks, I wanted to have a question-and-answer session of my own. Unfortunately, I was not prepared. When I was getting ready to leave earlier, it was rainy and cold and all I wanted to wear was comfort clothes. Sticking out from my long denim jacket were my pajama bottoms. My hair was up in a ponytail and I was not wearing any makeup. Plus, my little yellow book of Post-it notes and brown recycled napkins from Starbucks were my writing paper options. There was no way I was going to introduce myself in my unprofessional state. I will wait until their new film, *YID 2*, is released next year and then I will wait for them. By then, I will be properly dressed and have a real pad of paper.

But I didn't want my Starbucks experience to be totally uneventful, so I smiled at the very cute dark-haired guy with dimples drinking tea with his friends at the table across from me. Maybe he liked girls in pajamas who wrote on napkins. My friend looked at me in mock horror and whispered, "Miriam, he's like 21!" I laughed and replied, "Fine, I was just about to give you some brilliant dating advice anyways."

Miriam Porter can be reached at miriam@jtvproductions.net.

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2 1/2 cups fresh lemon juice (from about 12 large lemons)
coarse kosher salt
freshly ground black pepper
1/2 cup honey, heated until pourable

Place each chicken in heavy-duty resealable plastic bag. Add 1 1/4 cups lemon juice to each. Seal bags; turn chickens to coat. Refrigerate at least 6 hrs. and up to 1 day, turning bags occasionally.

Preheat oven to 450°F. Drain chickens; pat dry. Sprinkle each with salt and pepper. Place chickens side by side, breast side down, on racks in large roasting pan. Roast 15 minutes. Reduce oven temperature to 375°F. Roast 45 minutes.

Turn chickens breast side up. Brush all over with honey. Continue to roast until cooked through and deep brown, basting with any juices in pan and brushing with honey occasionally, about 55 minutes longer. Transfer chickens to platter. Tent loosely with foil to keep warm and let stand 15 minutes.

Meanwhile, pour pan juices into small saucepan. Spoon off fat. Rewarm pan juices. Season with salt and pepper. Serve chickens with pan juices.

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Ancient values into modern lives

Epi on Education

Seymour Epstein

My minyan sponsored a lunch and learn session a few weeks ago, and in the midst of it, I suddenly came to appreciate the wonder of Jewish study. While the teacher was a Jewish scholar, the class was composed of fine minds of every discipline: women and men with vast knowledge in other spheres spending "quality time" with rather esoteric texts.

These minyan members are mostly people who care about Jewish affairs, values and texts, but, still, this might be the first century in Jewish life that exposes Jewish writings to so many other disciplines.

What happens when a psychoanalyst reads the Bible carefully? What chemistry is released when a social worker confronts talmudic texts that speak to her concerns? Does the midrash have a message for a special education expert or a tax consultant? How does the knowledge explosion affect Jewish knowing?

Then there was the study itself. A biblical verse is examined because of its strange context. A Spanish Jew talks to us from his study a thousand years ago. A French Jew responds while Jews around the world listen. An Italian has his say. Then, a 20th-century rabbi who knows them all still must add a word or two, not missing the opportunity both to comment on the original text and to interpret the international, cross-century debate about that same text.

Even if this were your primary discipline of study, it would be strange, since so much respect is given in Jewish study to early sources. There is no assumption that the later the source, the better the interpretation. On the contrary, there is even a tradition that our interpretive force is waning. In so many other disciplines, early material quickly becomes obsolete. In our study, there is a constant desire to read ourselves into the ancient texts and to read those texts and bring their values into our lives.

Epi (Seymour Epstein) is the vice-president of Jewish Education at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

The wisdom of bar and bat mitzvah Jews

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

URBAN WRITER

I was recently invited to speak about tikkun olam (repairing the world) at a bar and bat mitzvah class at Beth David Synagogue. I always enjoy these opportunities as they give me the chance to hear refreshing opinions from minds unscathed by the cerebral bulk of age and endless considerations that often dull the thoughts of the more mature.

There were about 12 youngsters around the table, and I launched the roundtable by stating that mystics have said a bar mitzvah should be celebrated even more than a wedding. I asked the group, in this light, if they were indeed excited about their great day and why.

One girl, who had already celebrated her bat mitzvah, said, "I loved going up to the bimah and feeling a real connection with God." She smiled widely, as though she had actually met God eye-to-eye.

A boy in the group, who will celebrate his bar mitzvah in the winter, stated that "the bar mitzvah was an old tradition" and he was much more intrigued by Buddhism than Judaism.

I wanted this young man to have every chance to take pleasure in his bar mitzvah, make it his own and glean something from it that would stay with him forever. The group therefore huddled and presented our Jewish-Buddhist friend with an option.

One of the boys said, "Why don't you compare a biblical character in your portion to a similar character in Buddhism? See what you come up with and what you learn about being Jewish."

The young "Buddhist Jew" said he liked that idea, and would try it.

The girls seemed to be more at ease with their upcoming bat mitzvahs. The boys struggled with the idea, and it seemed to weigh more heavily upon them. I considered that this might be in response to the emphasis Judaism has placed on the bar mitzvah as a stern rite-of-passage, whereas the bat mitzvah has more commonly been recognized as a celebration. No doubt this perception is manifested in the group's lessons.

Every group has its own characters, and this one was no different. The effusive boy among them said, "We are the chosen people and I feel proud at having the chance to stand in front of the synagogue and lead the congregation."

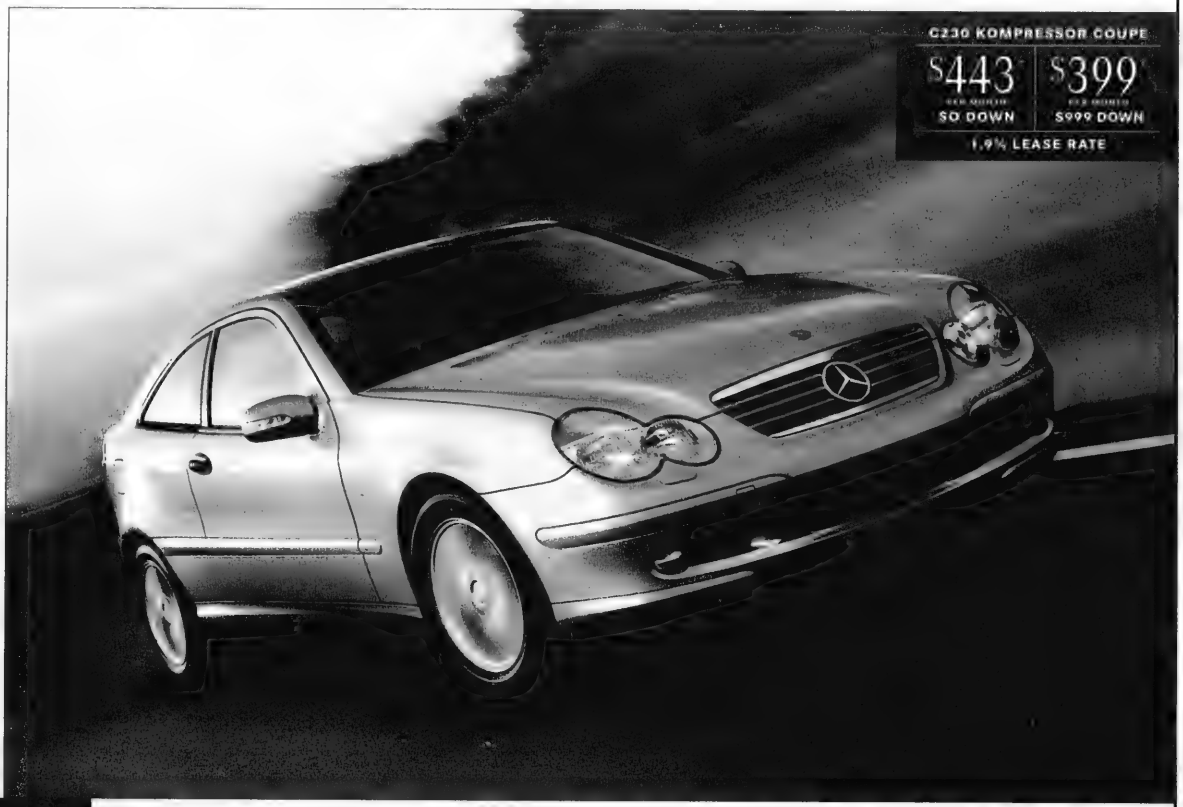
Having a dozen Jews in one room, regardless of their age, led to the inevitable – a debate, as the young teens challenged each other's ideas.

At one point, I asked the group if they would be born Jewish again, if they had the option. Most of them said yes, one said no, and a couple contemplated the question, unable to come up with an answer.

I sat back, listened and loved every minute of the dialogue and my time with the students. I was invigorated by the fantastic ideas that flooded the boardroom, and I am encouraged more than ever about the value of learning from others, whether they are six or 96. I also realized again the importance of challenging bar and bat mitzvah students with questions of deep significance that will stir them to appreciate the richness of their special moment and the meaning of actualizing it through their souls and personalities.

Our rabbis of blessed memory have said that ability to have mercy, to feel shame and to show benevolence are the three ingredients that define a Jew. Mazel tov to Beth David's bar and bat mitzvah kids and their families. I believe these children are on their way.

To discuss this article e-mail mail@veahavta.org.



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This Week

National

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Toronto students win scholarships to study in Israel. *Page 7*

On Campus

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'Lapsed Catholic' wins Jewish book prize. *Page 33*

CJN Profile

Filmmaker affected by horrors of Argentina's Dirty War. *Page 35*

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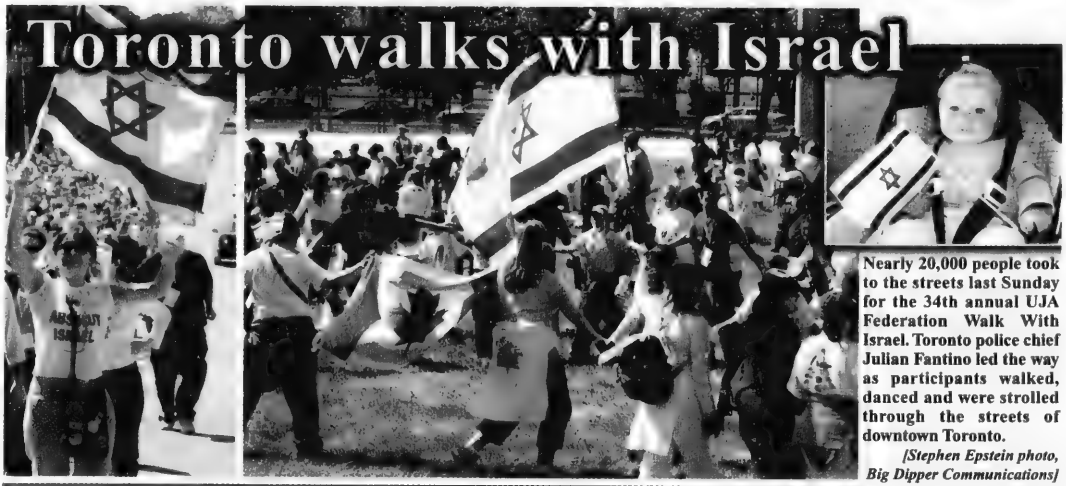

Nearly 20,000 people took to the streets last Sunday for the 34th annual UJA Federation Walk With Israel. Toronto police chief Julian Fantino led the way as participants walked, danced and were strolled through the streets of downtown Toronto.
[Stephen Epstein photo, Big Dipper Communications]

They threw themselves against Germany's Atlantic Wall

D-Day 60th Remembrance

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

About 7:45 a.m. on the morning of June 6, 1944, the ramps on landing crafts bearing the first wave of Canadian assault troops splashed down in the surf of Juno Beach in Normandy. For hundreds of young soldiers, life would from that moment be measured in terms of minutes and hours as they threw themselves against Germany's Atlantic Wall.

Freddy Harris of the Queen's Own Rifles was one of the first to hit the beach – and one of the first to die. He was only 21 years old.

Harris is remembered as someone who could hardly wait to get at the Germans who had been making the lives of his fellow Jews hell.

Barnett (Barney) Danson, his close friend and fellow veteran of the Rifles, later heard that Harris was struck down by a German bullet just as he stepped off the landing craft. Altogether, 340 Canadian soldiers would lose their lives on D-Day, while another 574 were wounded and 47 were taken prisoner. In the days to follow, 18 Canadian prisoners would be summarily executed at the Abbey of Ardenne by the 12th SS (Hitler Youth Division) under the command of Kurt Meyer.

photo provided by Barnett Danson

Danson, who would go on to serve as Canada's minister of defence, recalls Freddy Harris from the prewar years, growing up together in Toronto and attending classes at Holy Blossom Temple. His nickname was "guts" and he was a gung-ho sort of guy, Danson recalled. Harris was the first of three very close army buddies who lost their lives in France.

Harris had been transferred to the fighting ahead of the others and Danson did not see action until a few days later. They, along with their close friends Gerry Rayner (a Brit who enlisted in the Canadian Army) and Earl Stoll were part of a large contingent of Jewish boys who were serving in various Canadian units during World War II. Altogether, it is estimated that 10 per cent of the country's Jewish population at the time – more than any other ethnic group – wore their country's colours in the fight against the Nazis.

Continued on page 24

Parsha: Behaalotcha
Candlelighting: 8:36
Havdallah: 9:41
Greater Toronto Area

No compromise on pullout plan — please see page 27

One Family helps victims of terror

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Representatives of One Family were here recently to raise awareness about the organization that helps survivors of terrrorism. [Carolyn Blackman photo]

Despite being seriously injured last year in a suicide bombing at a shopping mall in Afula, Sigal Nevah, 26, says she wouldn't live anywhere else.

After spending 1½ months in hospital, and facing the prospect of surgery and physiotherapy, she acknowledges that things have been difficult, "but I love the country. My family is there, and I can't think of anywhere else to go."

Nevah was here recently as a representative of One Family, Israel Emergency Solidarity Fund, an organization that helps survivors of terrorism rebuild their lives through financial, legal, emotional and psychological assistance.

The News in Brief will return next week

She says that emotional wounds are harder to heal than physical wounds. "I always take [that moment] with me. It's not easy to go about my business, but One Family gives me hope. They came that first day, and they kept coming and kept calling; they never left me alone."

The international director of One Family, Avihu Cohen, 26, started the three-year-old organization with Marc Belzberg, who moved to Israel from Vancouver 12 years ago.

Belzberg's son was scheduled to have a bar mitzvah party shortly after the Sbarro Pizza bombing. The family cancelled the party and decided to donate all the gifts to victims of terror.

"They could not find an organization to donate it to, so we started one," says Cohen, whose father was murdered in a terrorist ambush about three years ago.

"Our goal is to let victims of terror know they are being loved and taken care of. We try our best to bring them back on track."

He travelled here with several volunteers – they also visited San Diego, Los Angeles, Denver, Detroit, Chicago and Montreal – to raise awareness about One Family, and to have people understand what is going on in Israel.

While in Toronto, they visited students at Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT) and United Synagogue Day School.

"I want people to see that we are continuing on with our lives. There is a different reality in Israel but people are not desperate. They live there by choice," says Cohen.

Omer Keat, who lost a 16-year-old son to cancer 11 years ago and another son in a terrorist attack three years ago, says "We wouldn't live anywhere else. This is my home, my country, my army."

After their second tragedy, his wife was suicidal, he says, "but One Family was there. We felt a little bit better knowing that people were thinking about us. Every time we needed someone to talk to we knew where to turn."

Eventually, he said, they coaxed his wife to volunteer for the organization, "and that is when she got her life back. She volunteers almost every day, and she has the sparkle back in her eyes."

Cohen said that although the organization needs money, there are other ways people in the Diaspora can help out.

"People here can speak on behalf of Israel. They can spread the word that victims do not only feel fear, anguish and tears. They also feel hope."

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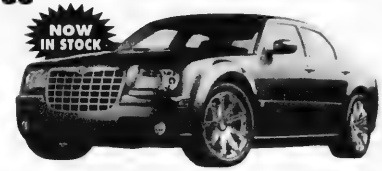

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Peace, coexistence inevitable: Palestinian academic

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

The ground is burning under Sari Nusseibeh's feet, but against all odds, the silver-haired Palestinian academic hurtles forward in pursuit of an elusive goal – peace.

Though the Oslo peace process is dead and buried, and Israel and the Palestinians are locked in an ever deadly embrace, he glimpses a ray of light at the end of the long, murky tunnel.

"Behind the tragic landscape and the atmosphere of anger, animosity and extremism, there exists, nevertheless, a latent recognition of what the terms of a settlement must be and a recognition that this would be in the best interests of everyone concerned," he said in a recent interview. "Peace and coexistence are inevitable."

Arriving in Toronto on a sombre day when 10 Palestinians were killed while protesting Israel's biggest incursion into the Gaza Strip in years, Nusseibeh was here to promote The People's Voice initiative.

Publicly launched a year ago this month by himself and Ami Ayalon, a former director of the Shin Bet intelligence agency, The People's Voice aims at whipping up public support for a permanent peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians.

Their proposal hinges on the yet-to-be-proved assumption that if ordinary Israelis and Palestinians sign their petition, they can persuade their respective governments to resume peace talks after almost four years of strife and bloodshed in the second intifadah.

So far, 180,000 Israelis and 140,000 Palestinians have affixed their signatures to their end-of-conflict plan.

Sari Nusseibeh

It calls for a two-state solution based on the pre-1967 border, territorial swaps, a resolution of the refugee problem through the patriation of Palestinians to a demilitarized Palestinian state and the sharing of Jerusalem.

"If both leaders were to go in this direction, they would find support for our initiative," said Nusseibeh earnestly.

The 54-year-old scion of a distinguished Palestinian family, he is a Harvard and Oxford-trained philosopher, the president of Al Quds University in eastern Jerusalem, the former Palestinian Authority representative in Jerusalem and the son of a former Jordanian defence minister.

Recently, Israeli police detained Nusseibeh for four hours for illegally employing Palestinian workers from the West Bank at his university. "It may have been a technical fault," he said, implicitly admitting he may have infringed Israeli regulations. "But they could have rectified the problem in less than four hours," he added ruefully.

Nervously fingering purple prayer beads as he spoke, and casually clad in a white pin-stripped shirt, fading blue jeans and a navy blazer, Nusseibeh, a world-weary figure exuding fatigue, described the initiative as "revolutionary and unprecedented."

"We will continue to work on the signature campaign. It is a device to create public pressure on the leaders," he went on to add.

Told that 320,000 signatures pale into insignificance when compared to the approximately nine million Israelis and Palestinians living between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea, he countered, "It's not a question of numbers."

Continued on page 41

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Election reflections

In just over three weeks, Canadians will be voting for a new federal government. It is appropriate, therefore, that we record, again, the parameters of *The CJN's* coverage for the upcoming election.

Excluding this edition, there will be three issues of *The CJN* prior to the actual election on Monday, June 28. Due to the intervention of the Shavuot holiday last week, we were unable to provide a news story on the election in this issue. As an anomalous result of our production schedule, the edition of July 1 will not contain any election coverage because we will be going to press Monday morning, the very day of the election itself. Unless any conclusions about the election results are by then so forgone, it is not likely that the July 1 issue will contain any coverage of the campaign.

The paucity of editions prior to the election places a great deal of pressure on the editorial department.

We cannot, nor would we, highlight candidates merely because they happen to be Jewish. Rather, we prefer to try to highlight the ridings across the country where Jews comprise a significant proportion of the electorate. In those instances, we will provide a thumbnail sketch of the riding: the demographics, local issues and the candidates vying for our voter loyalty.

The CJN endorses no leader, nor any party. We will however try to publish an interview with each of the major party leaders. Requests for such interviews have already gone out, and we await the leaders' responses.

While *The CJN* endorses no party, we do however endorse, encourage and urge the free and reasoned exercise by each voter of his or her franchise according to criteria that are consistent with each individual's conscience.

But, the conscience is a subjective calculus. It strops itself into a sharp, cutting edge against private, leathery notions of the proper role of government in a democracy.

The CJN, of course, can only suggest a broad guideline for such criteria: good governance.

In matters of domestic policy, good governance should be consistent with objectives of social responsibility, economic security and achieving the maximum good for the widest number of people possible.

In matters of foreign policy, good governance should be consistent with and supportive of the core values of Canadian democracy. This, in turn, should translate into reliably unflagging – though not unquestioning – support of Israel, a fellow democracy, in its existential struggle against the non-democratic tyrants, despots, military strongmen and theocratic thugs determined to bring about its demise. It should also translate into the wholehearted participation in the fight against international terrorism, which is anathema to freedom and democracy.

These are the minimum criteria, admittedly defined very broadly, that are appropriate for *CJN* readers to apply when considering for whom to vote in the upcoming federal election.

* * *

In keeping with our policy of not endorsing any of the parties, we seldom comment on the specifics of a particular leader's campaign.

Occasionally, but only rarely so, there are exceptions to this rule when we feel compelled to respond to an incident or event in an election campaign.

Though it was merely the first week of the campaign, the accusation by Jack Layton that Paul Martin, as finance minister, was personally responsible for the deaths of homeless individuals is too egregious a behaviour to ignore. It went far beyond campaign rhetoric into dangerous calumny.

"I believe that when Paul Martin cancelled affordable housing [programs] across this country, it produced a dramatic rise in homelessness and death due to homelessness, and I have always said that I hold him personally responsible for that," Layton told a partisan audience last week.

Three weeks ago, when the calling of a federal election became a certainty, *The CJN* urged party leaders to "avoid... the particularly odious, ad hominem method of negative campaigning... We expect our politicians to campaign hard, but we demand that they not degrade each other... through personal vilification."

Could there be a worse example of personal vilification than that exhibited by Layton against Martin?

Not only was it a vicious, incendiary attack, and thus outside the boundary of appropriate campaign behaviour, it was at the same time, as many commentators have pointed out, substantively incorrect.

"To blame Mr. Martin personally for the deaths of homeless people," wrote Andrew Coyne in the *National Post*, "is to gloss over any number of intermediate steps, whether of causality or intent."

Coyne was making the very obvious point that an indisputable, direct causal link cannot be drawn between Martin's macro decisions as finance minister and the "micro" tragedies of the homeless' deaths. That Layton believes the opposite is alarming. That he refused to recant or apologize for his ad hominem attack is illuminating. —*MBD*

SeeJN

RIKUDIYAH 2004: Students from the United Synagogue Day School's Bayview campus recently participated with other Jewish day school students in the annual Rikudiyah held at Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto's Wilmington campus.

Group holds vigil for people with eating disorders

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

It was appropriate that the first vigil for eating disorders took place during the day.

After all, said event co-ordinator Debby Goldstein, the purpose of the vigil was to dispel "the darkness in which our children live."

More than 100 people took part in the program, held at Richmond Green in Richmond Hill and sponsored by FADE (Family and Friends Against Disordered Eating), the Hospital for Sick Children, the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Homewood Health Centre, the National Eating Disorder Information Centre and Bellwood Health Services.

The theme of the program was "to honour, support and celebrate" – to honour those who lost the battle (eating disorders have an approximately 20 per cent mortality rate, the highest of any mental illness), to support those who are struggling and those who help them, and to celebrate those who have overcome their problem.

We must offer a continuum of care, ensuring that there is a safe place to go when the person is medically stable, make the public understand the seriousness of the situation and be vigilant with the media, who create an artificial image of beauty, Goldstein said.

Bill Coleman, president of FADE, charged that "the government has paid little attention to eating disorders or to the need for financial and other kinds of aid."

Eating disorders must be recognized as a health priority in Ontario, he said. "It is time to break the silence about a disease that thousands have and from which some will die."

Blake Woodside, director of the Inpatient Eating Disorders Program at the Toronto General Hospital, called the vigil "a day to speak from the heart, not from notes." He said his program was recently forced to close its waiting list for new patients.

"It costs $3 million to send patients to the United States for treatment. My budget is $900,000 – and is being cut."

He said families are the most important support a sufferer can have. "When you despair and want to give up hope, when there is one last ember left in you, put it away somewhere safe, so that when you need it [for your child], it will be there."

The families themselves, he said, need a network of support as they come to terms with a relentless illness for which they are not the cause and are not responsible, and which they cannot heal.

Leora Pinhas of Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children, decried the pressure put on teenagers and tweens, the selling of violence to boys and the thin ideal of beauty for girls.

A recent study, she said, showed that children of five and six have eating disorders. "That was unheard of before.

"When do we as a culture stop this? When do we stop selling out our kids?" she demanded.

Ian Boulton, a recovered anorexic, repeated Woodside's comment that "nobody is to blame and everybody is involved." He urged the participants to "go out into the world. Question the authorities, the billboards, album covers, the media, yourself."

The emotional program ended with the release of four baskets of doves as a symbol of hope. A single dove, a memorial to those who have died, was released by Carolyn Mayeur, whose daughter Danielle lost her battle.

The afternoon ended with tears and hugs between present and past sufferers of the disease, the youngsters and their parents, and the youngsters and other people's parents, recognizing the bond between all of them.

Simone Finkelstein, a recovered anorexic and now a nutritionist and counsellor specializing in eating disorders, said the vigil was not just moving, but very needed.

Her dream, one echoed by Goldstein and Coleman, is to establish an intensive residential program in a serene place in the country, staffed by a psychiatrist, medical doctor, nurse and art therapist.

In her late teens, she said, she decided to go on a "little diet." There was a lot of chaos in her life, over which she had no control. "I could control the food I ate and the numbers on the scale."

From a healthy weight of 120 pounds, she went down to 84 in three years. Her family, while supportive, couldn't really understand what she was going through. Too scared to enter a hospital program, she tried group therapy one on one therapy and residential care in Arizona, none of which worked.

She finally realized that if she wanted to get better – and she did – she had better take herself in hand.

The techniques she used to recover are those she now uses with her clients: raising self-esteem, correcting body image problems, offering nutritional counselling.

"We discuss their goals and I help them take baby steps toward those goals. They need to be able to see that they can succeed."

She said she encourages them to try new foods and figure out strategies to help them get where they want to go.

She makes her clients write three things they like about themselves every day, write letters to themselves and to their eating disorders several times, and see the differences.

"I tell them, 'Don't say that you can't do something. Say that it's a challenge.'

"If you work on the underlying issues and learn to like yourself, you won't want to self-destruct anymore.

"It's all about mindset," she said. "If you want to get better, you do – just look at me."

Finkelstein said being forced into treatments or being force fed in treatment simply doesn't work. "People have to feel comfortable and take things at their own pace."

A lot of programs, she said, treat a "typical person," rather than the individual.

Art Exhibit

*The **Koffler Centre of the Arts** and the **Bathurst Jewish Community Centre**, in partnership with **JIAS (Jewish Immigrant Aid Services) Toronto**, are proud to display the works of new immigrant artists. These artists, some well known in their countries of origin, have brought, through their artistic expression, the influences and life experiences from their former countries to their new home. You are invited to come and enjoy this unique exhibit and help us welcome these talented newcomer artists to our Toronto community.*

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Computer program helps diagnose infectious diseases

By CARA EDELL
CJN Intern

The computer program GIDEON is the technological "solution" for the diagnosis and treatment of infectious diseases, connecting medical professionals across the globe at the touch of a button, said Dr. Stephen Berger, director of geographic medicine and microbiology at the Tel Aviv Medical Centre.

"It's a cutting-edge computer program that has grown up with the field itself," he said recently at the third annual Jay Keystone Memorial Lecture in Toronto.

Keystone, chief of Toronto General Hospital's tropical disease unit, invited Berger to speak about GIDEON to an audience primarily of doctors.

Developed by Berger 15 years ago, GIDEON (Global Infectious Disease and Epidemiology Network) is used by hundreds of institutions in more than 40 countries, through CD-ROM and online, Berger said.

With 337 infectious diseases in 225 countries, he said, GIDEON provides quick access to a database updated weekly with the latest medical information. It uses relevant citations appearing in monthly MEDLINE searches, World Health Organization publications, meeting abstracts, user feedback, National Health Ministry reports and peer-review journals.

As a new disease is discovered every eight months on average, Berger said, textbooks are no longer reliable sources. "They're out of date before they're even published."

And because infectious diseases no longer stay in their country of origin, it is a challenge to keep track of outbreaks, he said. "Most people don't even recognize the names of many of these diseases and their drugs."

Challenge to keep track of outbreaks

An advantage of GIDEON online is that subscribers are all connected to a server that allows, for instance, "people in L.A. to see cases in China," said Berger.

Red flags go up when a suspicious disease is spreading, and "an outbreak can be identified the day it's happening," he said. "GIDEON can be used as a surveillance system this way."

GIDEON increases the speed and accuracy of the diagnosic procedure by eliminating diseases inconsistent with clinical and epidemiological presentation and identifying diseases requiring isolation or infection control measures, he said.

With 240 diagnostic tools in the program, GIDEON provides a ranked differential diagnosis that takes into account patient symptoms, the country of acquisition, the incubation period, laboratory test results, immune status and bio-terrorism, Berger said.

GIDEON also gives a percentage probability of each listed disease diagnosis and explains why certain diseases have not been included as possibilities, he added.

Detailed information on each disease and drug can be accessed, and two or more diseases can be compared in terms of their clinical and laboratory features, Berger said.

Custom notes can be entered at the bottom of the page for users to add personal or institutional comments.

A filter tool is available as well, to narrow down search results, he said. For example, if a patient has a fever and was bitten by a tick in India, the known details can assist in generating a more immediate diagnosis.

In GIDEON's therapy section, a complete list of drugs for treatment of infection appear, and the program's drug of choice is suggested. Drug, disease and bacteria synonyms are offered, as it is impossible to know, for example, all 439 trade names for Amoxicillin, Berger said.

Warnings about drug side-effects, adult and pediatric dosages, and mechanism of action are also available, he said.

GIDEON can even save patients money by minimizing and pinpointing which laboratory test(s) should be performed on them.

While there is an Internet fee for GIDEON usage, Berger said a free one-month trial subscription can be ordered. He said every three months a new CD version of GIDEON is on the market.

Microsoft Windows 95, 98, ME, NT, 2000 and XP can support the CD, and the program can be found online at www.GIDEONonline.com.

Subscribers include hospitals, medical libraries and schools, private practitioners, health departments and government and travel clinics.

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Zareinu Moveathon is 'a special event for special children'

Zareinu Educational Centre of Metropolitan Toronto, a day school and treatment centre for children with physical and developmental disabilities, will host its seventh annual Zareinu Moveathon on Sunday, June 13, at Earl Bales Park.

The full-day fundraiser will feature 50-km and 100-km bike rides, a 20-km family ride, a 10-km run, and a 2-km Family Fun Loop, all followed by a giant community picnic and carnival.

The highlight of the day will be at 2:30 p.m., when 100-km and 50-km riders return under police-escort to be greeted by cheering crowds. All sporting events will start and end at Earl Bales Park, on Bathurst Street south of Sheppard Avenue.

Proceeds from the Zareinu Moveathon, which draws more than 4,000 people every year, will go to Zareinu's children and their families. The school, located in Thornhill, provides special education and individualized therapies to children with physical and developmental challenges.

"The Zareinu Moveathon lets people from all backgrounds come together as a group to take part in a truly special event for special children," said event chair Hershy Weinberg.

"This year, the response from individuals, schools, community groups and corporate sponsors has been overwhelming. Through their participation and generosity, Zareinu's children and families can continue to receive costly and intensive therapies and programs that enrich their lives."

Returning this year is the Clergy on the Move campaign. More than a dozen synagogues are building teams led by their respective rabbis or cantors to walk, jog or run the 10-km circuit, or cycle the 20-km circuit on patrolled city streets.

The picnic and carnival feature live entertainment, including the All Star Skateboard Circus, a Wushu martial arts demonstration, strolling lion dancers, and jugglers, as well as vendors selling food and drinks.

At the Zareinu Information Centre, a team of Zareinu therapists will run visitors through a series of exercises to show some of the daily challenges faced by children with disabilities.

For more information about the Zareinu Moveathon, or to sign up for an event, visit www.moveathon.com or call 416-661-1800.

Arab world mistaken about Israel: U.S. historian

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Arabs have misinterpreted Israeli restraint and flexibility for weakness, says conservative American military historian, author and media commentator Victor Davis Hanson.

Delivering the Lawrence and Frances Bloomberg lecture at Holy Blossom Temple last week, he cited three examples to illustrate his point.

During the first Gulf War, Israel did not hit back after being struck by 39 Iraqi Scud missiles that caused widspread property damage.

In May 2000, Israel withdrew from southern Lebanon unilaterally.

And several months later, at the Camp David summit, Israel offered the Palestinians an end-of-conflict agreement they rejected.

> ***Misinterpreted restraint and flexibility for weakness***

Yet in the Arab world, Israel's moves were generally regarded as a symptom of weakness.

Describing the Jewish state as a bastion of Western democratic values that should be supported by the West, Hanson praised Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's proposal to withdraw from the Gaza Strip as strategically brilliant.

Once Israel pulls out, the onus will be on the Palestinians to make a "utopia" in Gaza, and the world will be watching.

Expressing admiration for what he called Sharon's courage, Hanson said he was elected to restore Israel's military deterrence.

Hanson, whose articles have appeared in publications such as *The Wall Street Journal* and *The National Review*, noted that the Arab world has lost the means to wage conventional war on Israel.

The present struggle between Israel and the Palestinians is not only about "occupied areas." Not elaborating, he left the impression that the Palestinians covet more than just the West Bank and Gaza.

Hanson, who shot from obscurity after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in the United States, urged the West to defeat the forces of Islamic radicalism.

"Let's not underestimate the power of resolute action," declared Hanson, the author of *Carnage and Culture*.

In his view, the goal of Islamic radicals is to reshape the universe according to a medieval template.

Since they lack conventional armies, they resort to terrorism, he said.

Hanson wondered why Arab terrorists had, in fact, attacked the United States on Sept. 11.

Had not America come to the rescue of Muslims in the Balkans and Somalia and liberated Kuwait from Iraqi aggression? War, therefore, is not necessarily a bad thing.

Hanson, a Californian who did not meet a Jew until he was 18, said that Muslim attacks against Western targets and Jews deflect attention away from the failings of Muslim societies.

Sounding an upbeat note about Iraq, Hanson predicted the United States will win the current guerrilla war there decisively.

"If we win, we'll have more allies than we know what to do with."

In a truculent aside, he said that U.S. marines should have conquered the rebellious Sunni Triangle town of Falluja rather than handing it over to a former Iraqi general for pacification.

Two Toronto high school students win Emunah scholarships to study in Israel

By JESSICA HELLEN
CJN Intern

Emunah Women of Toronto has awarded scholarships to high school students Ariella Pratzer and Shira Sokol to study in Israel for one year.

Pratzer, a student at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, received the Louis Manpel Scholarship. She will be attending Midreshet Lindenbaum in Jerusalem next fall.

Sokol received the Judith Rubinstein Scholarship and will be studying at Michlelet Orot in Petach Tikvah. She is currently a student at Ulpanat Orot Girls' School.

Every year, Emunah Women of Toronto sends applications to CHAT, Ulpanat Orot and Tiferes Bais Yaakov seeking female students who have decided to study at an Orthodox Zionist seminary in Israel.

This year, they received 17 applications. A committee of six women narrowed down the applicants to four and then chose two, Pratzer and Sokol.

Janice Freedman, office administrator for Emunah Women of Toronto, said both Pratzer and Sokol are outgoing,girls with high leadership skills. She said they are involved in many extra-curricular activities, including UJA telethons, committees, student council, helping children and chairing events.

To apply for the scholarships, Pratzer and Sokol had to write a 500- to 700-word essay about where they see themselves in 10 years; what their personal, academic and community goals are; and how a year in Israel would help them achieve these goals.

Then they each had an interview with the committee.

"The people on the committee spoke so highly of them," said Freedman.

Pratzer and Sokol were presented with their scholarships at Emunah's annual Mother in Israel dinner last month.

CORRECTION

In the picture "Family Education" (*CJN*, May 20), about a program at Shaar Shalom Religious School, a boy making a mezuzah was incorrectly identified. His name is Josh Plener. *The CJN* regrets the error.

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HE NEEDS TO WIN THE SUPPORT OF THE PUBLIC.
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A debt that only God can repay

"Stiff resistance" was the term commanders frequently used when reporting the forward progress of their troops against the German enemy on that gray, hazy June morning 60 years ago. But like most summary attempts to convey a massive, indescribable reality in a mere registrar's phrase, the terminology was hopelessly inadequate and excessively antiseptic.

In truth, the D-Day landing by Allied fighting forces on the 60-mile arc of beach in Normandy, France, on June 6, 1944, the largest amphibious military assault in history, was gut-wrenching chaos.

More than 150,000 soldiers from the combined Allied forces of the United States, Britain and Canada stormed ashore in the early hours of June 6 from an armada of some 5,000 ships, to begin the liberation of western Europe from its Nazi conquerors. As *CJN* reporter Paul Lungen writes in this issue, "Altogether, 340 Canadian soldiers would lose their lives on D-Day, another 574 were wounded and 47 were taken prisoner… By June 11, 1,017 Canadians had been killed in action and 1,814 wounded… By late August, more than 5,021 [were] dead." By nightfall, some 10,000 Allied soldiers would become casualties to that "stiff resistance," and yet the liberating forces would secure the beaches whose names – Omaha, Utah (by Americans), Juno (by Canadians), Sword and Gold (by the British) – would enter the pages of modern history along with the date on which the sand of those beaches would be drenched in so much blood.

Martin Gilbert records that in her diary entry on June 6, 1944, Anne Frank wrote from her hiding place in Amsterdam: "Could we be granted victory this year, 1944? We don't know yet, but hope is revived within me; it give us fresh courage and makes us strong again."

The D-Day landing was a beacon of radiating courage and hope for all the conquered and victimized peoples of Europe, though scores of thousands more were still destined to die in the war. Indeed, Hanna Senesh, a young Palestinian Jew from Kibbutz Sdot Yam whom the British had parachuted behind German lines into eastern Europe, was captured on D-Day and eventually murdered by her captors.

Once they landed, however, the advance of the Allied forces against the armies of Adolf Hitler was inexorable. Though they bled so terribly, the soldiers of democracy were unstoppable. On Aug. 25, American troops entered Paris.

Eleven months and two days after the Allied forces landed on the beaches of Normandy – May 8, 1945 – the war in Europe came to an end. The systematic killing of the Jews of Europe by the Nazis and their collaborators also stopped.

Many soldiers lost their lives on D-Day, as did many thousands more in the ensuing months. The early ending of their lives is a debt we, the succeeding generations, will always owe to those brave men and women.

But it is a debt that only God in heaven can repay.

Editorial Advisory Board: Irving Abella, Michael Brown, Sandra Brown, Donald Carr, Paul Cooper, Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, Zac Kaye, Igor Korenzvit, Lou Ronson, Jacques Sayegh, Mike Shriqui, Ron Somogyi, Pamela Medjuck Stein, Rabbi Reuven Tradburks

Focus on the Family (1)

We were appalled to see a half-page ad sponsored by Focus on the Family opposing same-sex marriage in the *CJN*'s May 20 edition. Although the purported goal of this ad is the promotion of healthy, wholesome families, the underlying attitude of Focus on the Family and like-minded groups towards gays and lesbians is consistently one of disgust and fear.

Furthermore, Focus on the Family is an American right-wing, fundamentalist Christian organization. While we recognize that some members of the Jewish community may sympathize with its dismissal of the marriage rights of gays and lesbians, these individuals would be well-advised to choose their bedfellows carefully. Among the "Christian values" that fundamentalists espouse is a belief that the Jews must convert prior to the Second Coming. These people are not our allies and we should not be providing a voice for them in our publications.

Shelley Albert and Cindy Grief
Toronto

* * *

Focus on the Family (2)

I cannot believe *The CJN* would run an advertisement from Focus on the Family, which basically states that same-sex marriages will ruin society and are harmful to children. The ad, which shows (curiously) a very white, very blond couple and child, is intended to discredit and dehumanize gay and lesbian relationships and alternative families. Why would *The CJN* wish to profit financially from advertising that so blatantly promotes intolerance, inequality and barely concealed hatred?

Mark Davies
Windsor, Ont.

* * *

Objects to Landy's opinion

Once again, I find myself wondering whether the Canadian Jewish Congress considers its constituency to be Canadian Jews or the Liberal Party of Canada.

In "Three new leaders will take their case to the people" (*CJN*, May 28), CJC president Keith Landy praises Paul Martin to the heavens, while dismissing Conservative leader Stephen Harper as having "much to learn" about foreign affairs.

Landy says CJC has "great expectations of change with respect to Israel" if Martin is re-elected. Excuse me? Martin has been a top cabinet minister for more than a decade and has governed as prime minister for six months. How long will we naively keep voting Liberal and hoping for change?

Since Martin took over as prime minister, his foreign minister, Bill Graham – the same man who for months refused to add Hezbollah to Canada's list of terrorist groups – has condemned Israel's targeted assassination of Hamas murderer Ahmed Yassin; his Liberal MP Pat O'Brien has compared Israel's anti-terror fence to "concentration camps;" his government vetoed a Conservative motion to keep a notorious anti-Semitic cleric out of the country; and his immigration minister allowed the Khadr family – friends and cohorts of Al Qaeda leader Osama Bin Laden – back into Canada. Meanwhile, his provincial cousins in Ontario retroactively repealed the religious school tax credits, thus ensuring that racial discrimination is institutionalized into law.

Does that sound like a "true friend of the community"?

In contrast, Stephen Harper has appointed Stockwell Day, one of Israel's strongest advocates, as his foreign affairs critic. The Conservatives led the campaign to ban Hamas and Hezbollah in Canada. It was Conservative MPs who rose to defend Israel after O'Brien's scathing criticisms. It was a Conservative senator who rose to defend Israel's right to self defence after the Yassin assassination. It was a Conservative who tried to have infamous Saudi hatemonger Sheik Abd Al-Sudais barred from entering Canada.

Yet, if you believe the CJC, it is Harper who has much to learn and Paul Martin who is our community's saviour. Such comments are misleading and deplorable.

Yaakov Roth
Toronto

* * *

Candidate omitted from story

I was shocked and outraged at your omission from your election coverage of Conservative candidate Michael Mostyn, who is running in the York Centre riding ("Three new leaders will take their case to the people," *CJN*, May 28). You mentioned other Jewish candidates, but for some reason omitted Mostyn.

I am a 24-year-old resident of the riding and I have been working with Mostyn on his campaign. I have never met a more honest and sincere person who has all the qualities that the Jewish community could want to represent them in Ottawa. Your paper often criticizes the Liberals for their foreign policy towards Israel and here is a candidate who has nothing but support for Israel and our Jewish community, yet you gave him no mention whatsoever.

The Jewish community should not be afraid to support another party besides the Liberals, especially when we have the opportunity to send someone from our own community to stand up for us.

Jarred Friedman
Toronto

* * *

Calls for NDP vote

Considering how many Jewish Canadians identify as progressives or socialists, and the historical link between Jews and the left, it is surprising and disrespectful that *The CJN* chose not to even mention the NDP in its election feature in the May 28 issue. It seems to me that the bulk of the Toronto Jewish community would be most at home in the New Democratic Party.

We Ontarians who consider ourselves "liberal" should remember an old aphorism, inspired by the folksinger Phil Ochs, who lampooned liberals who "loved Puerto Ricans and Negroes" and "felt like I'm almost a Jew." Liberals govern like conservatives. One only needs to look at Dalton McGuinty. True small "l" liberals should vote NDP.

Jordy Cummings
Toronto

LET OUR PEOPLE GO…

MIAs: Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz.

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Thinking more seriously about Jewish education

The following is Part 2 of a two-part essay on Jewish education. Part 1 was published in last week's CJN.

By DANIEL MAROM

While Judaism offers a rich treasure of wisdom and ideas, a long and dramatic history that profoundly influenced other religions, cultures and peoples, and an ennobling heritage, our programs and institutions of Jewish education often seem bound up with narrow issues and concerns. How can this gap be overcome?

In Part 1 of this article, I reported on the Mandel Foundation's efforts to address this problem. Its decade-long project involved working closely with leading Jewish scholars, educators and researchers to develop alternative conceptions of a meaningful and compelling Jewish education. Seymour Fox and I led the project in collaboration with Harvard University's Philosophy of Education Research Center, and its director at the time, Israel Scheffler.

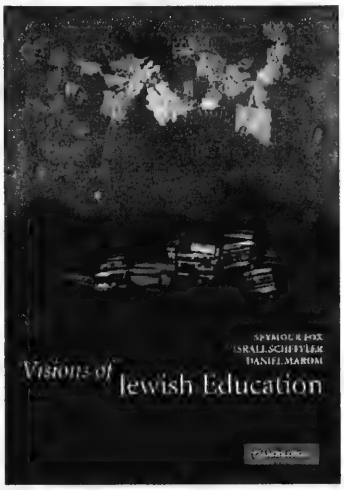
The results of this work have recently been published in a volume titled *Visions of Jewish Education* (Cambridge University Press, 2003), which offers those engaged in Jewish education – educators, policymakers, Judaic scholars, researchers or parents – six visions of Jewish education as a point of reference for thinking more seriously about their own commitments and practices.

For Isadore Twersky, the late director of the centre for Jewish studies at Harvard University and a leading authority on Maimonides, the educated Jew is a master at applying the theological, moral and historical principles contained in halachic literature to the minutiae of every day life. Twersky shows how each situation encountered by such a person – even deciding where to sit on a bus – would be treated as an opportunity to do something religiously and ethically significant.

On the other hand, Menachem Brinker, an Israeli secularist at the Hebrew University and the University of Chicago, seeks to liberate Jewish education from the assumption that a good Jew is someone who adheres to any particular axiom of faith or code of behaviour. For Brinker, a scholar of early Zionist thought, the ideal graduate of Jewish education is a freethinking person who is deeply involved with the Jewish community, thoroughly proficient in its history, literature and ideas, and committed to activities aimed at the betterment of Jewish life.

Moshe Greenberg, a Bible scholar at the Hebrew University, posits a view of Jewish education that focuses on addressing the spiritual needs of Jewish learners without requiring them to adopt any prior assumptions about the validity or supremacy of Jewish religion. Through continuous engagement with Jewish texts and participation in the tradition of their commentary, Greenberg's learner seeks out answers to the question, "What is of lasting worth?" and tries to live in accordance with those answers.

Michael Meyer, a historian of modern Judaism at Hebrew Union College, suggests that various lessons from the past two centuries of Reform Judaism can be a means to strengthen its impact in the future. Meyer's educated Reform Jew is one whose autonomous relationship to Judaism has been developed and refined over time rather than assumed from the outset. As well, the Jewish identity of this person will not rest solely on theological commitments, but will also be bolstered by ethnic awareness.



Michael Rosenak, a philosopher of Jewish education at the Hebrew University, presents a set of challenges to all visions of Jewish education. Over and above his own modern Orthodox commitments, Rosenak turns to the community as a whole to ask: How will Jews educated in accordance with one vision come to have a common basis with Jews educated in accordance with others? How will the educated Jews of various kinds learn to co-operate in solving problems that challenge their coexistence?

And finally, Israel Scheffler, a philosopher of education and consultant to the *Visions* project, explores topics and issues in general education and suggests their contribution to envisioning Jewish education. Scheffler's educated Jew is a person whose Jewish learning is coherent with the values that guide his or her learning in general.

Although the scholars developed their conceptions in dialogue with one another and with leading Jewish educators, social scientists, rabbis, policymakers and federation planners, we did not assume that their work alone could make an impact. Working conditions in institutions of Jewish education do not allow enough time for the kind of thinking that is necessary to redefine the aims and methods of Jewish education. How, then, could such ideas become part of the living culture and workplace of Jewish life?

The last section of *Visions of Jewish Education*, titled "Visions in Context," suggest ways a philosophical educational orientation can become part of the way Jewish education is devised and implemented.

First, Seymour Fox illustrates how educators, administrators, policymakers and others might improve their work through such an orientation, using the six visions as examples. He describes what early childhood programs based on Twersky's or Meyer's proposals might look like, the co-operation of formal and informal programs of education in a Greenbergian system, the questions a teacher would ask students about text and how a principal would run her or his school according to Brinker's conception, and how all the visions might be useful to policymakers in making their decisions.

The final chapter describes an experiment in which I acted as an on-site educational philosopher at a non-denominational day school in North America. I write about my work with this school during the school's process of reformulating its purposes and practices. I describe principles that guided my work and offer a series of vignettes that tell about how I applied them in the everyday life of the school. My hope is that this chapter might offer a basis upon which to generate similar initiatives.

The publication of *Visions* has led to an ongoing Visions of Jewish Education Project (VJEP), which I direct. The aim of our project is to enable those engaged in Jewish education to frame their guiding ideas and corresponding methods in light of the profound ideas of Judaism and Jewish existence. The VJEP serves Jewish education in Israel and communities around the world through seminars, collaborative initiatives, demonstration sites, an online resource centre and publications (www.mandelfoundation.org/vjep.asp).

A powerful example emerged from a recent seminar for the professional development of teachers, in which we studied Twersky's vision and its pedagogical implications. Since Twersky's vision posited the teaching of each and every mitzvah as an opportunity for character education, we decided to explore the possibilities embedded in the Jewish law of *hashavat aveydah*, returning lost property.

We chose this particular law because we sensed that it provides a microcosm for the beauty and power of Halachah. The renowned Jewish historian Gerson Cohen once claimed that the uniqueness of Judaism in western civilization is expressed well in the difference between the common principle of "finders keepers losers weepers" and the Jewish obligation to seek out the owner of a lost item until it is properly returned. According to Jewish law, one who does not undertake this obligation in effect becomes a thief.

Following Twersky's approach, we first delved into the philosophical ideas behind this law, studied the details of its observance and then focused on the linkage between the two aspects involved in actually carrying out the mitzvah. Only after we had concluded this unit of study, did we begin to think creatively about how the deeper meaning and full experience of this Jewish practice could be effectively transmitted to learners. This study process became a model as well for how teachers in schools might learn together – one that I would argue would be hard to find in existing programs of Jewish education.

One interesting suggestion that emerged was the possibility of replacing a school's lost and found with a *hashavat aveydah* station. Participants emphasized that this station ought not to be a place where the learner simply returns the lost item and lets somebody else take responsibility for giving it back to the owner.

"That might be appropriate and practical at the community level," they argued, "but here the whole point is for us to enable the learner to experience the practice of the Jewish law in a way that he or she will internalize the value of respect for ownership and commitment to building a just and caring society. Only through such experiences can we hope to cultivate a just Jewish community."

Thus, a student who found a lost item would be encouraged to bring it to the station, where he or she would be greeted by a teacher who would use his or her proficiency with the law to individually "coach" the student in carrying out the obligation to return the item.

If the student was at a loss about ways of finding the owner, the teacher would posit the suggestions found in halachic literature.

If, after several failed attempts using this literature, the learner expressed frustration and impatience with the purpose and tenor of this law – claiming that if the owner lost the item, "it's their tough luck" – the Jewish educator would philosophically challenge him or her with ideas behind *hashavat aveydah*: "I see that you would prefer to live among people who are indifferent to each other's belongings over having to persist in finding the owner of this lost property… But isn't there a huge price to pay for that? Wouldn't you prefer to know that when you lost something valuable to you, someone else cared enough about it to make an effort to return it to you even without personally knowing you?… That is what this law is about and this is the kind of society we are trying to build in our school and our community."

Whatever discussion might follow this challenge, it would enable both the "coach" and the learner to engage in a profound pedagogical exchange – one that is both uniquely Jewish and sorely lacking in other educational systems.

At the end of the discussion, a participant rose and angrily cried out, "My children have been getting a Jewish education for years and have received little experience of this kind. How can it be that Judaism offers such beautiful and compelling educational opportunities and they have never successfully been transmitted to my children?"

If this is what she got from looking at one example of one conception, imagine what might emerge if all the educators, administrators, policymakers, parents and others were to explore whole visions of Jewish education on an ongoing basis.

Daniel Marom is director of Visions of Jewish Education at the Mandel Foundation in Jerusalem. He is a graduate of the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto and the York University program in Jewish education.

Opinions

Social activism reflects Jewish values

Though rabbis and synagogues often join in local interfaith social projects, Jewish participation in such programs on the provincial and national level is less consistent. Though individual Jews are often committed social justice activists, they rarely represent the Jewish community.

Rabbi Dow Marmur in Toronto

My own experience bears this out. For many years, I have been involved with the Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition (ISARC) in Ontario. Of the two Jewish organizations listed among its sponsors, only one has been visible. Others that should have participated have stayed away.

Yet ISARC reflects Jewish values and addresses problems Jewish social agencies share. It seeks to influence legislators to ease the intolerable burden placed on charities that try to bridge the social gap. It calls for increased government resources for justice for the poor, the homeless and the disabled, thus securing for them a dignified existence. The fact so many people in Canada, including children, live below the poverty line is a scandal, especially in view of the country's wealth and the prosperity of many of its inhabitants.

ISARC's most recent project has been the social audit it conducted in Ontario. The findings have now been published in a powerful document, *Lives in the Balance* (can be purchased through www.pandorapress.com for $19.95). The book brings compelling evidence of the terrible inequalities in our society. It points to realistic and inexpensive ways to remedy many of them. However, those in power are only likely to act on its recommendations if their constituents urge them to do so. Our complacency will be their excuse for not doing enough.

Jews are important in many ridings. Here is our opportunity to make our voices heard on behalf of the community at large, as well as the needy in our own midst. In addition to information, *Lives in the Balance* provides the inspiration for action in all provinces.

Jews are rightfully an integral part of Canadian society. Though we are aware of the benefits, we don't always seem to accept the obligations of integration. As the heirs of the biblical prophets' passion for justice, we have a duty to articulate their vision in the service of all our fellow-citizens – and act on it.

In my contribution to *Lives in the Balance* I cited the prophet Ezekiel. He identifies arrogance as the sin of Sodom: "She and her daughters had plenty of bread and untroubled tranquility; yet she did not support the poor and needy" (16:49). As Pirkei Avot (5:13) suggests, the one who says, "What is mine is mine and what is yours is yours" speaks the language of Sodom. It behooves us to speak differently – and be heard.

How do we make our choices?

The end of final exams this year has marked the end of an era for me.

The last bubble has been dutifully filled in on the multiple-choice sheet. The mechanical pencil has been refilled with lead for the last time, put down squarely on the edge of the desk as the buzzer goes off to indicate the end of the exam.

Barbara Balfour in Calgary

For the last time, I have walked through the stuffy hallways, sat in sparse classrooms named after sponsoring oil companies, and listened to professors drone on and on.

And on.

It is now time to set out into the real world, say others around me by way of congratulations – and oh, what a shock to be told that what you've been living in for the last four, five or six years of post-secondary education doesn't qualify as being real.

So far I'm not impressed.

Blame it, perhaps, on what pop psychologists like to refer to as the "quarter-life crisis." Whatever it is, it's definitely here and it continues to rage on.

I think my first clue was when I started to look longingly at 40-year-old celebrities who talk about how glad they are to have survived their 20s and how fabulous life is now that it's behind them and they everything All Figured Out.

I've never heard a better endorsement for being 40 in my life. Sign me up now, please.

Anything to avoid day after day of the greatest internal inquisition I have ever known.

"Is this is what life is all about? What is my purpose? Am I doing the right thing? Should I go back to school? Should I take on that job? What do I really want to do?"

But most tellingly of all, "Why can't I be more grateful for everything I have?"

After I crossed the stage at graduation, all decked out in that ridiculous cap that doesn't stay on your head and that non-form-fitting gown, just to get my pieces of paper, I couldn't help but think: "There's got to be more to it than this."

And I still don't understand why people expect me to be so thrilled at the offer of a $30,000-a-year job when I just finished paying for a $40,000 education and completed two degrees.

Yet I've learned the hard way that taking on a job you hate just because of the money is the hardest way to save any of it. Because the more unhappy you are, the more money you spend to make yourself happy again.

One of my favorite authors, Yann Martel, describes a tie as nothing but an inverted noose, and I can't help but wonder if perhaps he is right.

Clearly he has never discovered the horrors of pantyhose, which in my mind are far worse. But I digress.

I looked at my goals for the next 10 years and they were all pretty lofty.

They include the completion of at least my master's degree, if not my PhD as well; publishing a book; dabbling in the medium of film, whether as a screenwriter or behind the camera; and travelling across Asia and Europe.

These goals seem so implausible, so very far away right now. After all, I have not only sold my soul to a job in the energy industry that most other people would give their eyeteeth for, but I have also acquired a new sofa for my apartment.

How can I leave behind my well-paying job, my apartment whose balcony doesn't look out into a dumpster but rather onto the street – the privilege for which I pay good money – and my new sofa to become a starving student again?

On the one hand, I want to be as far removed as possible from the poverty of my early childhood and always have enough to afford the pretty, shiny things in life. On the other, it would seem as if a certain amount of dreaming, and of youthful idealism, must be sacrificed for it.

I wish I knew what to choose.

Balfour can be reached at bbalfour@ucalgary.ca.

It's not reality, but it's still addictive

Jesse picked Jessica. For those of you who don't watch *The Bachelor*, this translates to: the latest bachelor, Jesse Palmer, an NFL quarterback for the New York Giants, selected Jessica B., a law student from California, rather than Tara, the construction worker from Oklahoma, to be his life partner. Now admittedly, this factoid is of little relevance to anyone other than a reality TV die-hard, and yet, it was the most significant occurrence of my day.

Joanna Grossman in Halifax

I should mention that Jasmine Trias also got booted from American Idol, but we all knew it had to happen, so it definitely came as less of a shock, and thus did not have the excitement of the bachelor's final choice.

Family and friends declare my obsession to be shameful. I, of course, don't even attempt to justify my fascination with reality TV as a meritorious one. Admittedly, I am myself embarrassed to admit my dependence. But, whereas once I could deny an obsession, this season, my devout following of *The Bachelor*, *Survivor All-Stars*, *American Idol*, *Trading Spaces: Home Free* and *Extreme Makeover Home Edition*, in addition to the excitement of returning old favourites *Big Brother* and *The Amazing Race*, I can no longer rationally do so.

So why is it that I, who can appreciate things like classical music, opera, well written plays, classic literature, and the more respectable television dramas like *The West Wing*, also have this incorrigible need for reality TV?

Don't think I haven't given this thought. I realize how ridiculous the reality TV genre is. I accept its barely veiled emotional manipulation, the massacre-esque editing that re-hashes the one-liners to draw you in. I see in all of these shows the silly and puerile tactics that make them popular, and yet I love them. Not only do I watch them on TV, but now, thanks to the Internet, I get the extra "behind the scenes" information between episodes. My interest has become a full-scale dependence.

Perhaps reality TV provides a much-needed escape. Everything in life today seems serious, planned and formal. Reality TV provides just the opposite, and as stupid as it may seem, it is a nice escape to watch two people madly fall in love, even if a month later they will break up.

Like all good television, reality TV offers people the viewer can relate to. Though one can argue that none of the characters is "real," their underlying personalities undoubtedly reflect different aspects of our own behaviours and attitudes, thus drawing us in to watch their development.

Leading up to the finale of *Friends*, interview after interview spoke about the fact that the six main characters reflected every personality type, so that every viewer could identify with one friend on a personal level. Though we all realize the huge New York loft and the wardrobes without repetition to be elusive for any real New York singles of that age and income level, *Friends* melded the real with the imaginary in such a way as to make it believable.

I argue that reality TV takes the *Friends* scenario one step further. It is clear that we are fascinated by the lives of celebrities, as illustrated by the ubiquity of tabloids and magazines with the latest stories, interviews and gossip, and by the fact that this kind of information is scattered throughout our own conversations. Reality TV feeds this interest directly. Whether it is valid or not, we feel as if we are watching real people rather than some writer's script.

Somehow, individual stupidity, blanket emotion and even banality, are more engaging than similar depictions created by writers. By following "real" people, we find it easier to become engaged in a personal story, and we care more about the outcome because the situation does not seem as arbitrary as one achieved by a group of writers who select one conclusion rather than another. When Amber Berkich won *Survivor All-Stars*, viewers saw how players in the game could not separate their emotions from the game.

If nothing else, reality TV offers an indulgence, an opportunity to engage in the mindless, to get swept up in the irrelevant. In a skeptical world where everything is called into question, it is pleasant to sit back and take something at face value.

The Kirshner File

Louis Rubenstein's story recounted on film

At the edge of Fletcher's Field – a park I knew well as a boy and as a teenager in Montreal – and across the street from the old YMHA at the foot of Mount Royal, there is an unobtrusive water fountain dedicated to the long-departed Louis Rubenstein.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

In case you haven't heard, he was a world-class athlete who, at various times, was the Canadian, American, North American and world figure skating champion.

On hot summer days, when I happened to be cycling in the vicinity of Fletcher's Field, I would often stop at the weathered fountain.

As I slaked my thirst, I would occasionally be tempted to learn more about Rubenstein than I could read on his plaque on the fountain.

I could have gone to the Jewish Public Library for elucidation, but I never got around to it.

Several weeks ago, I finally sated my curiosity, having watched *Inspiring Figure: The Louis Rubenstein Story* – a 26-minute biopic directed by Rosalind Raddatz and produced by Iris Wagner – at the Toronto Jewish Film Festival.

Though their documentary is all too fleetingly brief and does not really plumb the depths of Rubenstein's personality, it touches virtually all the bases of his distinguished career as an athlete, athletic administrator and politician.

Born in 1861 in Montreal, when some 200 Jewish families lived there, he was the son of Max and Leah Rubenstein, Polish Jews who had immigrated to Canada in 1850.

The Rubensteins had 12 children and six of them excelled in sports. Louis, who took up figure skating as a child, surpassed them all on the playing field.

Apart from being a stellar skater, he was an accomplished cyclist, curler and bowler.

At winter carnivals, he would skate rings around his competitors, and when he was 16, he won the city championship.

Cutting a dashing figure in a fancy black bowler hat, Rubenstein captured the North American title in 1885 and defended it successfully for the next four years.

In 1890, he became the first North American champion to compete at a world championship. It took place in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Because he was a Jew, the police pressured him to leave the country. Having expected such harassment from an anti-Semitic government, Rubenstein wisely obtained an introductory letter from Lord Stanley, Canada's governor-general and a fan, before setting out to Russia.

Thanks to Lord Stanley, the British ambassador in Russia intervened on Rubenstein's behalf and he was permitted to participate.

Performing before an audience that included members of the the czar's court, Rubenstein went on to win a gold medal in the figure skating design category.

Then, at the top of his form, he abruptly retired from competition.

Not content to fade away, Rubenstein founded the Canadian Figure Skating Association, whose objective was to standardize the art of judging. Being independently wealthy, he also sponsored gifted young athletes.

Subsequently, he was president of the Montreal Amateur Athletic Association, the Amateur Skating Association of Canada, the Montreal Athletic Commission, the International Skating Union of America and the Young Men's Hebrew Association.

A life-long bachelor who resided on St. Urbain Street with his single siblings, he worked in the family metal finishing business, Rubenstein Brothers.

In 1914, he expanded his horizons when he was elected an alderman in Montreal's Ward 5, which teemed with new immigrants.

Blessed with a sense of noblesse oblige, he was a populist politician who took an interest in the welfare of the poor.

His decision to establish the Rubenstein Bath was of no small importance to poverty-stricken Montrealers who lacked something so basic as running water.

A keen politician, Rubenstein sometimes filled in as mayor. He died in 1931 and his funeral attracted thousand of mourners.

Several years after Rubenstein's passing, a group of well-heeled Montrealers raised about $2,000, no insignificant sum during the Depression, for a fountain in his memory. It was finally erected in 1937.

According to Wagner, the president of Memoirs Productions – a Montreal company specializing in video biographies – the fountain is the only public monument in Montreal, and perhaps in Quebec, honouring a Jew.

When I ventured the heretical observation that a simple fountain seems like a rather modest monument for so prominent a person, she disagreed.

"Water gives life," she countered. "From water springs youth and athleticism."

Not surprisingly, Montreal is not the only city that holds Rubenstein in high regard.

A bronze bust in his likeness adorns the International Skating Hall of Fame in Boulder, Colo.

Richard Pound, a Montrealer who was formerly vice-president of the International Olympic Committee, believes Rubenstein exemplified the Olympic ideal, true sportsmanship and community service.

"He was a complete, well-rounded man," he says in the film. "His life shone by example."

Barbara Ann Scott, a renowned Canadian figure skater and Olympic gold medalist, is even more effusive.

"He was the father of Canadian figure skating," she comments in *Inspiring Figure*.

For all his fame, Wagner admits, Rubenstein was an unknown quantity to her before she made *Inspiring Figure*.

She was drawn into the project after chatting with Hillel Becker, the current president of Rubenstein Brothers, now Canada's largest manufacturer of machinery and equipment for the garment industry.

Rubenstein toward the close of his life

Wagner originally approached Becker because she wanted to make a film about his late father, Lavy, a rabbi and a founder of the Reconstructionist movement in Canada.

As they talked, Becker told her about Rubenstein and a box of his mementoes he had recently found.

There and then, they decided he was worthy of a documentary.

Financed by the YM-YWHA Foundation of Montreal, *Inspiring Figure* had its debut at the Y before being screened at the Toronto Jewish Film Festival last month.

Rubenstein in his prime

Wagner, a graduate of Bialik High School and Concordia University, researched Rubenstein's life in the Jewish Public Library – where she pored over his scrapbook of newspaper and magazine clippings – and at the McCord Museum.

"He was, to me, the quintessential amateur athlete," she said. "He just wanted to be the best."

And, as Becker says, "He left a great legacy."

Recently, the National Film Board of Canada acquired *Inspiring Figure*. Now Wagner can rest assured that many more Canadians will become acquainted with Rubenstein's amazing feats on the ice.

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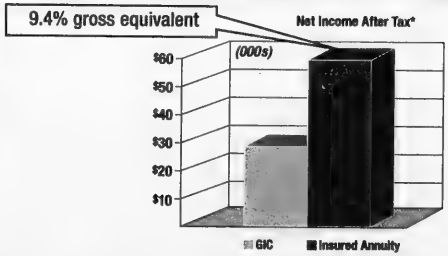

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Jewish Life

Ancestry.com rides the boom

By ZE'EV GLICENSTEIN

In the way that all roads in the Roman Empire led to Rome, anyone who does genealogy-related research on the internet sooner or later is led to Ancestry.com or other related family-tree websites spawned by its parent company, MyFamily.com.

Ancestry.com claims to offer some 3 billion individual records online in a vast informational spectrum that will seem mind-blowing to many users. Each of its screens presents a cornucopia of resources that are accessible to subscribers with the ease of a mouse-click.

For example, the site offers millions of images from the U.S. Census Collection from 1870 to 1930, all indexed and available for instant downloading. It also presents multitudes of birth, marriage and death records, immigrant records, historical newspapers, U.K. records, an obituaries collection and much more.

The opening screen outlines three simple steps: 1. Ancestor's name. 2. Where did they live? 3. Click search. I typed in my ancestral surname "Rubinoff" without specifying a place, and up came a huge list of potential matches from various birth, marriage, death, census, military, newspaper and other data bases, mostly from the United States, Canada and Britain.

The search results initially seemed overwhelming. For example, I had a choice of 193 names in the US census of 1930, 125 names in the US Social Security Death Index, and 102 names in the Ancestry World Tree. I quickly narrowed the search terms to pare down the possibilities to more manageable levels.

At Ancestry.com, the options always seem endless. Did your ancestors serve in the American Civil War? Do their portraits hang in Britain's National Portrait Gallery? The site employs a feng-shui-like strategy to ensure that subscribers never run into the electronic equivalent of a dead end.

Ancestry.com is the little website that grew. A survivor of the dot.com bust of the late '90s, the firm's managers chose to defy the conventional wisdom that the public wouldn't pay for online information. Gambling that roots researchers would pay for the right genealogical stuff, they transformed the company from an advertising-based free website to a paid-subscription service offering a multiverse of digitalized resources.

The privately held, Utah-based company began turning a profit in 2001 and generated nearly $100 million in revenues in 2003. Today it boasts some 1.5 million paid subscribers.

The company uses numerous free data bases to lure casual visitors into its spiderweb of genealogical delights. Confronted with a row of tiny lock symbols beside most of their potential matches, visitors may register by credit card to receive a free two-week trial. Access to the site's various packages ranges from US $39 to $239 per year.

The site includes several gems especially geared for Canadian and Jewish researchers. For example, Avotaynu, Inc. some years ago published the Biographical Dictionary of Canadian Jewry, 1909-1914, the wonderful reference work that Ottawa archivist Lawrence Tapper compiled from the *Canadian Jewish Times*, a former anglo-Jewish newspaper. Although Tapper also compiled a second volume for 1897 to 1909, it was never published. Both volumes are now searchable on Ancestry.com.

It's not well known that almost all of the company's resources (Tapper's second volume being a rare exception) are in the public domain and available elsewhere for free. Customers pay for the convenience and instant thrill of utilizing the digitalized originals at home, as opposed to visiting a long list of town halls, museums, archives and libraries in the hard-to-navigate real world.

Researchers may try out the site for free at the North York Central Library, Metro Toronto Reference Library and other library branches in Toronto and elsewhere. Alternately, get out your credit card, go online to www.Ancestry.com, and make the jump into genealogical cyberspace without delay.

* * *

Do you have memories of growing up in the Dundas-Bay-McCaul-St. Patrick area of Toronto in the 1920s or 1930s? If so, please contact me in regard to a historical project I'm working on. Phone 416-391-1836 or e-mail info@cjnews.com and put "Attention Ze'ev Glicenstein" in the subject line.

A show of faith

By RABBI YEHIEL BEN AYON

I regard our faith as more of a movement than a religion. When this movement first began at Mount Sinai, its defining characteristic – the one that would set it apart from all the other religions of the world – was the fact Judaism would have only one god: "I am the Lord your God." This first commandment was immediately followed by the words, "You shall have no other gods."

There is much pluralism in our approach to religion. We don't believe that a gentile needs to become a Jew in order to be "saved." We believe they should follow their own faith and that there is room for them in heaven, provided they also believe in only one God. Belief in other gods constitutes idolatry – *avodah zarah*.

Not only are we not to believe in multiple gods, we may not condone, accept or tolerate anything that may be related to idolatry. One may not have any association with idolaters, one may not enter a temple of idols (as opposed to a place of worship of another monotheistic religion), one may not use figurines of idols to decorate one's home or garden, and one may not benefit in any way from idols or their offerings.

It is because of this last prohibition that observant married woman have recently refrained from covering their heads with wigs made of human hair from India.

In the Hindu religion, there is a concept known as "tonsure," in which an individual forgoes an item of value as a result of good or bad occasions, such as an upcoming celebration or a loss. Giving up a piece of jewelry or cutting one's hair is a form of tonsure.

Hindu temples, primarily in the region of Madras, have barbers stationed outside. Women coming into these temples have their hair cut off before entering the temple. The hair is not considered holy, and neither is it offered to a Hindu god. The hair simply falls to the ground and is discarded. Some enterprising temple workers saw that a profit could be made from this hair, and they began gathering and selling it to be processed into wigs.

Tonsure is not technically a form of worship – it's a preparation for worship, such as bathing.

Living in the western world, one thankfully does not come across much idolatry. But while this concern with the origin of Indian wigs may be quite bizarre, it is, nevertheless, a serious question that had to be addressed.

Is this practice of tonsure idolatrous or not? A definitive ruling has yet to be made. The matter is being investigated both in India at the temple level, with Hindu swamis and lay people, as well as by researching the collected writings of poskim (halachic authorities).

What is especially noteworthy in this otherwise strange episode is the staunch loyalty shown by observant Jewish women upon hearing of this possible problem. Women who go about their life with their heads covered totally refused to don this hair until a decisive ruling is made. Virtually no observant woman will wear wigs of Indian origin. The market for such wigs disappeared overnight. What the ruling on them will be remains to be seen.

It was a demonstration, in the clearest fashion, of unflinching loyalty to the words, "I am the Lord, your God. You shall have no other gods."

Jewish Life

18th century British hero returns

***A Spectacle of Corruption* by David Liss, Random House $37.95.**

Four years ago, *A Conspiracy of Paper*, Liss's first novel, a masterful recreation of diverse aspects of 18th-century London, with an emphasis on stock market manipulations and multiple murders, was lauded as creative and original. It received the coveted Edgar Award for Best First Mystery Novel for 2000.

Books
Bernard Baskin

Now, *A Spectacle of Corruption* once again plunges the reader into 18th-century English political intrigue and compelling mystery. It should find a widespread and enthusiastic readership.

Historical novelists must get things to look and sound right. They must create a world of the past that functions believably, sentence by sentence, and build an environment for their characters that is more than an artificially decorated set.

Benjamin Weaver, the protagonist in both novels, is a memorable character. He is a "thief taker" by profession, the man to hire if you are eager to retrieve a stolen item, locate an elusive criminal or make sure a debt is repaid. As a tough Jewish, one-time pugilist and risk taker, Weaver is a classic outsider.

The novel begins with Weaver on trial for a murder he did not commit. He and his friends are shocked when he is quickly convicted and sentenced to an even quicker hanging. As he is led to Newgate Prison, he is surreptitiously handed a lock pick and file by an unknown courtroom spectator.

With these tools and the aid of a friendly fellow-inmate, Weaver is able to escape from his fetid, dungeon-like imprisonment.

The author, a historian with a popular touch, indicates that in the year 1772, England was embroiled in a Parliamentary election, properly viewed as a referendum on the rule of King George III. Rival political parties include the Whigs, who favour business and electoral reform, the Tories who are patrician advocates of a strong monarchy and the Jacobites who despise King George and want to replace him. Before the story runs its course, the reader learns much about the bizarre and turbulent political scene.

Weaver disappears into London's dark and dangerous streets, evading those who would collect the substantial bounty on his head and eager to unravel the two mysteries: Who are those who sought his death and who is the benefactor who provided the tools that led him to freedom?

Eventually, Weaver disguises himself as a wealthy planter, newly arrived from the West Indies. As a gentleman, at home in society, he gradually discovers that the scheme to see him hanged has its roots in a much larger and dangerous cabal: the safety of the entire realm may be in question.

Liss brings to life a teeming, brawling London where decorous society coexisted with public hangings and where filth and disease were everywhere. Adherents of political parties gathered in taverns to witness cruel cockfights.

Crucial to the unfolding story is Weaver's Jewish heritage. At every turn, he is confronted with ignorance and bias. He finds it impossible to avoid the label that perverse elements in English society would apply to him. How Jews were to be treated was a source of controversy between the political parties with the Whigs hostile and anti-Semitic.

Protean Weaver encounters religious prejudice and overcomes the menace of both colourful rogues and dangerous toughs from the city's docks. The hazards are manifold, but our hero is up to the challenge.

This is a suspenseful, cleverly plotted novel and also a knowledgeable explication of the intricacies of English political life three centuries ago.

Jewish MP3s, part 2: Music

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Drop by your local Judaica store and you're bound to find some interesting Jewish music for sale. But chances are they're not stocking much Jewish rap or Jewish reggae or the latest Jewish recording from the Czech Republic. That's where the Internet comes in handy. There's a world of music on the web waiting to be downloaded. Artists actually *want* you to download some of their work, no strings attached. Actually, there is a tiny string. They hope that after you listen to a cut or two, you'll shell out for the entire disk. Today, I'll point you toward some great Jewish MP3s.

Who wouldn't want Robin Selinger as their teacher? Selinger is a music teacher at Temple Sholom in Chevy Chase, Md. She has scoured the Internet for Jewish music for kids and the result is her Tot-Shabbat website **[www.totshabbat.com]**. You'll find recommendations to free music from dozens of artists including Craig Taubman, Carol Boyd Leon and Cantor Marcelo Gindlin. Most songs are in RealAudio format, but there are also MP3s as well as links to sheet music pdf's that can also be downloaded. (Highly recommended for teachers planning ahead for September!)

One you're done at TotShabbat, switch over to its companion HotShabbat website **[www.hotshabbat.com/]**. You'll find even more links to wonderful Shabbat and Israeli tunes such as *Henei Matov*, *Torah Tzivah Lanu Moshe*, and *Oseh Shalom* (reggae version). By the way, there's an entire subgenre out there devoted to Jewish reggae and ska music with its own website **[www.irielion.com/israel/jewishreggae.html]**.

While I was at Tot-Shabbat, I was lucky to chance upon a reference to a women's choir named Adash. Adash is an acronym for "*Ivrit derech shirim*" (Hebrew through songs). The Adash choir was created through the efforts of Tomas Novotny of the University of Ostrava in the Czech Republic. Novotny uses song to teach Hebrew and the results are remarkable. You can download more than a dozen full-length songs by this charming choir including *Lu Yehi*, *Dror Yikrah* and *Rad Halaylah*. Rarely has Havah Nagilah sounded so kitsch-free **[www.osu.cz/adash/prvnieng.htm]**.

Who knew there were rap and hip hop sub-genres to Jewish music? The Jewish Rapper presents tunes such as *Recognize the Miracles* and *Kid With The Lid* **[http://tinyurl.com/2r3x3]**. And Kid Kosher presents more traditional fare, such as *Spin the Dreidel* **[www.kidkosher.net/]**.

Unfortunately, neither Kid Kosher nor the Jewish Rapper gives you full tracks, but after sampling their work, you'll get the idea whether you want to buy more.

If you like your Jewish music with a New Age twist, then you'll love Kabbalistic Music: Melodies of the World. You'll find a large selection of downloadable melodies, many of which border on the melancholy. As the site explains, "The kabbalist, in his perception of existence, apprehends two opposing situations: distress from his separation from the Creator, and pleasure at nearing the Creator. This feeling of distress gives rise to a sad melody which expresses spiritual distress and prayer. Even though the melody may bring one to tears, one loves to hear it because the melody expresses distress that has been mitigated, and has received its fullness. That is, that in particular they are able to bring one nearer to spirituality" **[http://kabbalah.info/engkab/mmedia.htm]**.

Looking for more songs to download? Take a listen at Adama's Hebrew Love Songs, including Sh'nai Shoshanim and Bashanah Habaah **[www.adamamusic.net/songs.html]**. Jacob Richman has amassed dozens of Jewish Music Hot Sites, many with downloadable MP3 tunes **[www.jr.co.il/hotsites/j-music.htm]**.

How to properly finish this column? With *Adon Olam*, of course. You can fill your hard drive with several versions of the famous prayer including Chabad Brazil's traditional version **[http://tinyurl.com/yvlzs]**, another by Moshe Skier **[www.mosheskier.com/music.htm]** and one by Portland, Ore.'s Neveh Shalom **[http://tinyurl.com/34sez]**. Or take a listen to the students at Pennsylvania's Haverform College sing it à la Billy Joel's "For the Longest Time" **[http://tinyurl.com/3y72m]**.

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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Fighting for the legitimacy of Israel

Journalist says world Jewry must stay updated on Israel's rights

By WENDY LAMPERT
UJA Federation

The clock is ticking backwards in Israel's fight for the right to exist, says a prominent American-Israeli journalist.

"We've rewound Jewish history to the point that once again, we're fighting for the legitimacy of the state," Dan Diker told community members at a series of briefings sponsored by UJA Federation last month. Diker is the Knesset Affairs correspondent for Israel's Channel One English News.

"The legitimacy of the Jewish Zionist enterprise is under attack by the Arab world, but also by much of the western world," said Diker.

And it's the United Nations that is leading the charge by passing resolutions that de-legitimize the State of Israel, Diker added. What's worse is that there is no international response to these actions.

"[UN Secretary-General] Kofi Annan calls Israel the poison of the Middle East, and there's no backlash. The level of defamation of Israel is so high that its legitimacy as a country is now in question."

The only way to counter this worldview on the international stage is to stay informed and speak out, he added.

"Staying updated about Israel's rights is crucial to fight the battle for Israel's existence as a sovereign state with secure and defensible borders."

The Israeli government's recent decision to enter Gaza provides a perfect example of how the world views Israel's actions, Diker noted.

"Since the mid-1990s there has been a massive increase in terror infrastructure, much of which has not been reported internationally in the media," he said. Despite "wall-to-wall support" in Israel for the fight against Palestinian terrorism and an Israeli Supreme Court ruling that the Israeli Defense Forces were justified in entering Gaza, Amnesty International calls Israel's moves "war crimes," Diker said.

But Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's efforts to unilaterally withdraw from Gaza were voted down by his own Likud party because of fears that the IDF's ability to act from within Gaza would be eliminated.

"It would empower the Palestinian Authority to create a hornet's nest of terrorism in Gaza, even worse than it is today," he said. "It lets them know that terrorism works."

A unilateral withdrawal from Gaza would also likely lead to international pressure for Israel to do the same in the West Bank, Diker added.

Dan Diker

And ironically, said Diker, an Israeli pullout from Gaza would lead to the creation of the first contiguous Palestinian state. "The Arabs had three opportunities to do this, and didn't."

legacy of life

Jordan Propas 1980 - 2001

The life legacy of Jordan Propas resides in the thrill of a child who explores summer camp for the first time and the bonds of friendship created there.

On March 16, 2001, Jordan came home from Huron College at the University of Western Ontario as he often did, to spend Shabbat with his family because his mother Lolly was terminally ill with cancer. He knew that these times with his father Lorne and his sister Brandi always brought a smile to his mother's face. On March 16, 2001, the family shared a wonderful evening filled with joy and laughter. Saturday morning Jordan was returning to school to participate in a charity event when he was killed in a car accident. Sadly, 12 days later, Lolly passed away.

The short life of Jordan Propas has touched so many in a very profound way. Jordan was passionate about camp, having spent his summers as a camper and a counsellor at Camp White Pine. The friendships that are built at camp are treasures that remain strong through distances and years.

David Brand, who came to camp from Pittsburgh and spent 10 summers with Jordan, has such incredible memories not only of camp, but of the "warmth and laughter" that were foundations of the Propas home. He, along with seven other friends, created the Jordan Propas Camp Scholarship Fund in Jordan's honour to send economically disadvantaged children to recreational camps each summer. David Brand, David Chottiner, Joel Goldbach, Alex Iscoe, Josh Kornblum, Jon Persofsky, Mark Salsberg and Rick Siger are original founders of the Fund, who along with Dan Whitefield, one of Jordan's oldest friends, continue to oversee, manage and direct its intricacies. It is a heartwarming tribute to Jordan to realize how many people from camps and universities participate in co-ordinating and organizing fundraising events that contribute to the Fund, says Joel Goldbach. "The number of people who were friends with him is remarkable! The response to the Fund is overwhelming. He was really close with a lot of people; he was a good friend." This is a formidable and diverse group of young men in their early twenties whose careers and educations have spread them across North America.

Jordan with cousins Michal and Debra at Camp White Pine, Summer of 1998.

The group has developed a wonderful relationship with the professional staff at the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto who administer the endowment monies raised by the Fund and, in turn, facilitate sending children to various recreational summer camps eligible under this program. Including this coming summer, five children will have been beneficiaries of the Fund.

Alex Iscoe, one of the founders, relates, "In a very short period of time we have quadrupled our assets. We have put the money in a very safe place and are letting the Foundation's investment committee work for us. We conservatively just use the interest generated by the Fund and let the principal accumulate. We contribute to it from annual fundraising events."

Lorne Propas, Jordan's father, comments, "I think it is great that these young men connected with the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto and its resources to have access to the right agencies to identify the children who will benefit the most from this opportunity. It is quite an accomplishment that they actually got it going and have maintained it. The Fund has also become a very unique link between these young men. Although none of them are at camp anymore, they continue to work together on various fundraising events that keep them connected to each other and, through this, to Jordan. They see it as a legacy to Jordan," says Lorne.

Jordan was passionate about life. He had that special quality that endeared him to both a wide circle and an intimate group of friends and he is poignantly missed by all whose lives he touched. Today, the Jordan Propas Camp Scholarship Fund stands as a resounding testament to the deep-rooted connections Jordan forged with his friends during those golden summers. This was the motivation behind the Fund; his friends knew that Jordan would have loved this idea.

The Jordan Propas Camp Scholarship Fund is an inspiring fulfilment of friendship and a magical gift enabling children to experience summers at camp. With this loving legacy, the name Jordan Propas will stand forever amongst his friends, his family, his community and the number of children whose lives will be touched.

If you would like additional information on the Fund, please contact Angela D'Aversa at 416-631-5833 or adaversa@ujafed.org.

JEWISH TORONTO IS PUBLISHED AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

Walk with Israel draws thousands

Keeping it in the family

By TAALI LESTER
UJA Federation

The crowds have gone home and the celebration has ended, but spirits remain high as the 34th annual UJA Federation Walk with Israel ended with incredible success. On Sunday, May 30, thousands of community members turned out to walk in solidarity with Israel and against the forces of hate in an effort to show Toronto, Canada and the world their commitment to Israel and to fighting antisemitism.

During this time of uncertainty and challenge, Jewish communities around the world are striving to find ways to show their strong bond with Israel and Jews across the globe. The UJA Federation Walk with Israel is the world's largest solidarity walk on Israel's behalf. Toronto's most popular annual event raised several hundred thousand dollars to help Israel's most vulnerable.

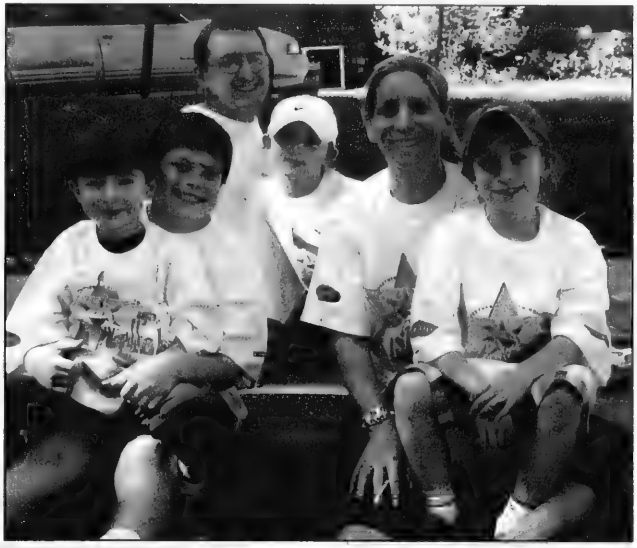
For the Cohen family, their first experience at the Walk with Israel was thrilling. Shira and Steven Cohen, with their three children - Dalya, 10, Sarit, 8 and Gilli, 5 - woke up early on Sunday morning, eager to get started.

"Especially with all the antisemitic incidents that have been happening around our city in the last couple of months, I really felt it was important to bring our kids out and let them be a part of this day," Shira enthused. "It's a wonderful way for a family to participate together in celebration of something as important as supporting Israel and standing up to hatred. I want my kids to understand the impact they can have as part of a community and that they can make a difference, even in their own small way."

Other families chose to express their solidarity with Israel by volunteering at the event and encouraging others as they made their way through the checkpoints.

Max and Ivy Eisen have been volunteering at the Walk with Israel, with their two grown sons, Eddie and Larry, for years. The family members take turns sitting at various checkpoints cheering on the walkers and offering kind words of support.

"We all know how difficult and trying these times are, both here at home and in Israel, where people are really struggling," Ivy said emotionally. "But it is encouraging to see all these people contributing in this way. It's just so important to my family to do what we can and show the world how strong we can be when we all come together. I wouldn't be anywhere else."



The Cohens joined family and friends to participate in last Sunday's Walk with Israel. Pictured (l-r) are: Gilli Cohen, cousin Sam Strelshik, Steven Cohen, Dalya Cohen, Shira Cohen and Sarit Cohen.

A sense of the Jewish community

UJA Federation to undertake major survey

With a rapidly growing and diverse Jewish population of more than 180,000 in the Greater Toronto Area, planning for the future of Toronto's Jewish community is crucial.

That's why UJA Federation will be conducting a comprehensive survey to understand the attitudes, beliefs and behaviour of the Jews who make up our unique community in order to better assess its varied needs and expectations.

The survey will include interviews with more than 1,000 Jewish community members about a range of subjects, including Jewish identification, antisemitism, Israel, community services and other relevant topics.

UJA Federation will be conducting a survey this summer to identify the future needs and expectations of Toronto's diverse Jewish community of more than 180,000.

The study promises to be the most comprehensive ever undertaken by the Jewish community, and undeniably one of the most significant planning tools for community workers, said Charles Shahar, Chief Researcher for the National Jewish Demographic Study and lead consultant on this survey.

"In these challenging times, it is critical that the Jewish Federation system stay in touch with its constituency. We need to know what Toronto Jews are thinking, what they are concerned about, what their needs are and how we can best serve them. We want to be as informed as possible when making decisions that will influence the community in the coming decades."

In contrast to past surveys, Shahar said this analysis will also work to represent those individuals who may express their Judaism in less obvious or traditional styles, in an effort to discover the varied ways Toronto Jews identify with their culture and heritage.

As a planning tool, this survey will be invaluable in gauging the various barriers to Jewish practice and community participation and what programs could improve conditions for those feeling distanced from the community, Shahar said. It will also outline the important efforts already being made in the community that work to encourage Jewish affiliation and identification, he added.

The survey will be conducted throughout the summer, with a major report on the results expected in October or November. Shahar hopes that all those in the community who are contacted for the survey will be willing to participate in a full, honest manner.

"The benefits for the community will be immeasurable," he said.

Rebuilding a school and a community

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto is reaching out to help Jews in Montreal affected by criminal acts of hate through its United Talmud Torah Library Fund. Created to help one of Montreal's oldest Jewish community institutions rebuild its library following a firebombing on the eve of Passover, UJA Federation recently presented a cheque for $66,000, the first installment from the Fund to Montreal's FEDERATION CJA. Pictured left to right are: Danyael Cantor, Executive Vice-President of FEDERATION CJA, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto Campaign Director Jeff Springer and Sylvain Abitbol, President of FEDERATION CJA.

Any questions concerning information or photos that appear on these pages should be directed to jewishtorontonews@ujafed.org

JEWISH TORONTO IS PUBLISHED AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

Students celebrate Yom Yerushalayim via satellite

By CARA EDELL
CJN Intern

Grade 8 students from the United Synagogue Day School (USDS), Bayview branch, gathered May 19 at York University for a Yom Yerushalayim simulcast video conference centred at Israel's Western Wall.

37th year since city's reunification

Celebrating the 37th year since the unification of Jerusalem, classes from Bialik Hebrew Day School and the Jewish Day School in Allentown, Pa., also took part in the interactive session.

Glitches in the satellite system caused the program to be cut from an hour to 15 minutes for the USDS participants, but they nonetheless had an opportunity to experience the event.

The event allowed the North American students to broadcast presentations relating to the Israeli flag and Jewish historical objects.

"Each school chose an item," said Ricky Dahan, a Grade 8 teacher at USDS. "We chose the menorah."

The program involved an Israeli paratrooper pulling each represented item from a sack. Pretending to be unaware of what the objects symbolize, the soldier relied on the students for help.

The USDS students sang, "The menorah stood in the temple/ The southern wall was its place/ The menorah had branches/ Which glowed day and night."

Dahan said the kids "worked very hard in small groups" to write the lyrics themselves, and they did it in the midst of exams.

Despite their disappointment at the conference's late start, the USDS students made the most of the time they were allotted to present their compositions.

Prior to the event, Israeli flags were sent to Jerusalem with signs of each school attached to them. The USDS flag was purchased through the donation of a USDS parent and was held on screen in Israel by a student's uncle and cousin.

Before leaving the session, a group of male students from USDS sang about the Israeli flag to the music of their classmate's guitar:

"A flag of peace/ A flag of love/ Blue like the sea/ White like a dove."

YOM YERUSHALAYIM: Netivot HaTorah students celebrated Yom Yerushalayim with songs and presentations. [Rebecca Ansel photo]

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On Campus

Zionists face abuse on campus, panel told

By JESSICA HELLEN
CJN Intern

Paul Cooper is accustomed to being called "racist" and "fascist" for his support of Israel.

The York University undergraduate says students involved in activism of any kind are used to being called names, but outspoken Zionists are particularly targeted.

"Being a supporter of Israel on campus, inevitably I'm called a racist, likely a fascist. It's happened to me many times," said Cooper, who is president of the York Federation of Students, as well as president of Betar-Tagar at York and a co-founder of the Young Zionist Partnership.

Cooper was speaking May 20 on a panel of three Toronto-area students – two Jews and one Muslim – at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Congregation in a symposium titled "Israel and Today's Campus."

"I think campus remains a mystery to many people," said moderator Elliott Malamet, a professor at Queens University and a teacher at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto.

"They read about it, they see things about Concordia [University in Montreal], they see things about San Francisco State, they see things about York University, but they don't really know about it."

Rana El-Sayed, a Muslim student at the University of Toronto and president of the University College Literary and Athletic Society, said it has been "easy and fun" being a Muslim on campus. She said she even received positive feedback when she was chosen to go on a student leadership trip to Israel last year.

El-Sayed said she has been in many classes related to the Middle East where professors have steered clear of any discussion or debate when the topic turned to Israel and the Palestinians.

In one of her Middle East studies classes, she said, "the professor didn't let us get into anything beyond facts and beyond history."

This leads to problems, El-Sayed said, because students go outside the classroom to get information and end up joining extremist groups.

"That's really unfortunate," she said. "There are so many groups who put out so much information, but the problem is that a lot of it's not sourced and you don't know where it's coming from."

Daniel Roth, a University of Toronto student and president of Hashomer Hatzair on campus, said that being active doesn't necessarily mean being extreme.

"I'm not an extremist and I'm one of the most active people I know," Roth said.

He said most Jewish students get their information about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict from the *Globe and Mail*, the CBC, friends and the groups they join.

"There's a small minority of people who really know all the history," he said.

The panelists discussed the importance of visiting Israel and what it can do to a person's outlook.

El-Sayed said going to Israel was a "life-changing experience" for her.

"It brought everything into perspective," she said. "It opened my eyes to where bias sits."

Cooper agreed.

"I've been there over 20 times," he said. "Going there makes the learning more real. It creates a sense of objectivity."

Malamet asked the panelists about the value of listening to other peoples' opinions, which Roth said was very important, whether they be "polar opposite or slightly different" than his own.

"You can define your own views better by hearing what other people have to say," he said.

"There's no sense educating unless you're willing to be educated."

The students then spoke about the changes they would like to see on their campuses.

"More accurate information," said El-Sayed. "Knowing where things are coming from and what's the background."

Roth said there are many campus groups that need to open themselves up to debate.

"There are too many who would like to silence debate," he said. "I find that disgusting and anti-democratic."

Cooper said he thinks Jewish and Muslim campus groups need to take principled positions "and inspire students to act."

The panel discussion was presented by Beth David's continuing education and Israel committees.

ASSOCIATED STUDENT PLACES FIRST: Associated Hebrew Schools student Josh Satok, bottom row fourth from right, recently placed first in Canada in the Hebrew division for Grade 7 at the National Chidon Hatanach Contest. Elizabeth Friedman, top row fourth from left, placed third in Canada for Grade 8. This year, 22 Associated students advanced from the regional competition to the national contest. Pictured with the teachers who helped them prepare are, top row from left, Chaim Lax, Yonatan Lipsitz, Shirlee Solomon, Elizabeth Friedman, Daniel Hershkop, Raphael Zipori and Gideon Berger; and bottom row, from left, teacher Rabbi Saar Rozen, Ari Cuperfain, Neil Newman, Ari Feinberg, Danielle Ripsman, Josh Satok, Ari Satok, Talia Sudai and teacher Lily Zorer.

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You And Your Money

A monthly feature by Michael Korman of Raymond James Ltd.

Higher Income in Uncertain Times

With the availability of a wide variety of bonds — from mortgage to convertible to real return and government bonds — your advisor can help you select those bonds most suitable for your investment objectives and income stream requirements. Income funds, managed by managers from Dynamic Mutual Funds and Acuity Investment Management, have given investors consistent high income and diversification in one investment. For example, the Dynamic Dividend Income Fund will offer investors a mix of higher income corporate bonds, preferred shares, and select income trusts, dividend common shares, and other short term debt obligations.

Same bond, different ratings

Income diversification may be a foreign concept to many investors, who typically think of diversification for stock investments but not for income products. For example, one type of bond that is often overlooked and best advised by an investment professional is the *high yield bond*. Unique in the investment universe, high yield bonds combine some of the best characteristics of income and equity products. These investments could help diversify your bond holdings and enhance your income potential.

Bonds can be separated into two categories: *investment grade* and *high yield*. Both classes have a coupon rate and a maturity date. The difference between the two types resides in their credit rating, which is best determined by a bond rating agency. Mutual fund teams usually have a dedicated credit analyst in bonds to assist the fund manager in deciding which investment grade and which high yield bonds should be owned in a fund. For this reason, you may be better off paying for the expertise of a fund manager rather than attempting to buy and sell corporate and other high yield bonds individually.

Ratings range from AAA for the highest quality bonds to D for the lowest quality bonds that are in default. Dominion Bond Rating Service (DBRS), Moody's, and Standard and Poor's Ltd. are among the well-known rating services that most bond fund managers monitor carefully.

If you're thinking about bonds, consider looking for those with a rating of BBB and higher, as these are rated investment grade by the rating agencies. Those below BBB are considered high yield. Be aware that the same bond can carry different ratings by different agencies. The ratings themselves can differ, such as AA, AA-, or AA+. Some investors may ignore bond ratings (Air Canada) in the belief that the familiarity of the company name will support the prices of their bonds and the higher yields these bonds may offer. You may find it easier to let a mutual fund manager buy and sell bonds on your behalf to diversify your income. Acuity, for example, adds a twenty percent Income Trust component to their fixed income fund so that some of the "fixed income" you receive is tax deferred through select income trusts. In 2003, this strategy yielded investors a remarkable 14.87% return including the fund manager fee.

Let's take a closer look at what happens when bonds are downgraded. If an investor owns a bond that is downgraded, it may be easier to sell if it was purchased at higher than the minimum BBB investment grade rating. Since bonds that are downgraded often see their principal value decline, an investor who buys an AA bond that is downgraded to BBB may still sell the bond and potentially receive much or all of his original principal. You may consider the use of a bond mutual fund or bond pool since several downgrades could occur at once, thereby affecting your principal value. A diversified basket of securities may offset several downgrades and better safeguard your principal. Meanwhile, your income stream may remain unaffected.

High Yield Bonds. Aside from the credit rating, the obvious difference in high yield bonds is the higher level of interest income they generate. Like investment grade bonds, high yield bonds pay interest income and have a maturity date that will result in a return of the par value of the bond. Both provide a constant stream of income to the bond holder during the life of the bond. However, due to increased lending risk, the high yield bonds will give you higher interest than investment grade bonds. High yield bonds funds, such as the Dynamic Canadian High Yield Bond Fund and the Guardian Canadian High Yield Fund, may increase in value in rising Canadian equity markets. These funds typically hold 25 or more bonds from differing industries, making diversification easy for the investor.

Lower default risk with investment grade bonds

High yield bonds also have a greater potential for capital appreciation, a trait they share with equities. The increased price appreciation potential is usually due to changes in default risk. Conversely, investment grade bonds such as government and high-grade corporate bonds have much less chance of defaulting on their bond obligations. Because high yield bonds do not have the same direct relationship with interest rates, they can also be influenced by specific company events.

Past High Yield Returns. In 2001, a difficult year in the equity markets, the U.S. price return for high yield bonds was -3.9%, the income return 10.09%, for a net return of 6.19%. In 1991, as inflation picked up, the price return was 18.38% while the income return was 34.58%. It is possible that 2005 will see similar inflationary economic conditions to those of 1991, so I do like the idea of adding a high yield bond process to qualifying client portfolios for diversification of income.

Next time you're thinking of diversifying your portfolio, remember that income classes can also be diversified. You may enhance your income — and your money.

We welcome your opinions on this and future features. Michael Korman is an Investment Advisor with Raymond James Ltd. If you would like to share your thoughts or offer ideas on topics related to investments or financial planning, email Michael at:

michael.korman@raymondjames.ca
or call him directly at **416-777-7131**

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The CJN encourages readers to direct any queries on events to the event's organizers

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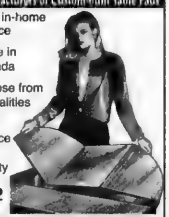
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Coast to Coast

Living with the fog of war

According to Reports
By PAUL MICHAELS

The "fog of war" is an apt image to describe the confusion that confronts journalists trying to file a report from a conflict zone. Under constant deadline pressure, a conscientious journalist will make the best effort to be accurate and fair.

When accuracy may not be possible because of circumstances – no access to the scene, lack of credible sources, or conflicting information with little time to sort it out – the reporter should be prepared to admit these limitations. James Bennet in the *New York Times* (May 21) referred to this state of confusion as the "war of fog."

Two weeks ago during a demonstration in Rafah in the Gaza Strip, eight Palestinians were tragically killed (among them children and teenagers) and scores injured when tank shells were fired by the Israel Defence Forces. Some reporters were quick to pass judgment, while others took a more cautious approach.

Mark MacKinnon's May 20 *Globe and Mail* article "UN deplores deadly attack in Gaza" began: "Ten Palestinians, mainly children and teenagers, were killed yesterday and 50 people injured when an Israeli tank shell ripped through a crowd in the Gaza Strip."

MacKinnon provided no verifiable evidence that the shell "ripped through" the crowd. His lead paragraph gave the impression, however unintentional, that the IDF deliberately aimed at the crowd. It is only later in the article that we read the Israeli account: "Israeli defence officials said the incident was under investigation, but acknowledged it was 'possible' that tank fire intended to deter the demonstrators from moving forward caused the deaths. They said the tank fire was directed at an abandoned structure at the side of the road."

In a May 20 Associated Press story, Khalil Hamra put Israel's response to the events closer to the lead: "Israel apologized for the deaths, saying its troops did not deliberately fire on marchers. A preliminary army investigation concluded that a warning shot fired by a tank flew through a building and hit the crowd, security sources said on condition of anonymity."

On CBC TV's *The National* on May 20, reporter Adrienne Arsenault described the devastation to the Palestinians, but also included a statement from IDF spokesperson Sharon Feingold, who said: "Tank shells were fired towards an empty building, not towards the crowd, in order to deter the Palestinians from approaching. As a result of this fire, it seems that Palestinian civilians were injured and killed. We express our deepest sorrow for the incident."

Significantly, towards the end of her report, Arsenault said: "Really, the facts of what happened today are still murky."

While the facts may have been murky, the damage to Israel's image was clear. Several leading Israeli commentators noted that whatever the precise details, the fact was that many innocent Palestinians were killed by IDF fire.

Ze'ev Schiff, in his May 20 *Ha'aretz* column headlined "End of the Rainbow," wrote: "In any case, Israel with this one action has lost international understanding."

And Danny Rothschild, a former army general and former co-ordinator of Israeli operations in the West Bank and Gaza, when interviewed on Israeli TV, was blunt: "You don't disperse demonstrations using tank shells."

It is true that, as Israel Defence Minister Saul Mofaz said while expressing regret at the loss of innocent lives, "no other army in the world could have conducted similar warfare against terrorists for 3½ years with so few civilian casualties." However, Israel – and her supporters – are rightly concerned about how best to safeguard Palestinian civilians who may be caught in a conflict zone, and who are often cynically misused by their own leadership.

Indeed, the *National Post*, in an unusually harsh editorial rebuke ("Reckless in Gaza," May 21), criticized Israel for failing to "conduct its anti-terror campaign with due regard for the safety of Palestinian civilians."

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

NCJW to hold program on depression

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

The National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto section, is sponsoring a symposium called "Demystifying Depression" at Council House, 4700 Bathurst St., June 10 at 7:30 p.m.

Admission is $10 and reservations are encouraged.

The event is being planned by the organization's health issues committee, headed by Honey Mostyn.

Its last program, held in the fall, was on infectious diseases. "Very *a propos*, as it turned out," Mostyn said, referring to the SARS crisis of last year.

When the committee was discussing what to do for its second program, "we kept coming back to depression, how common it is, its identification, its characteristics, the treatment," she said.

Response so far has been wonderful, Mostyn said.

Guest speakers will be psychiatrist David Goldbloom from the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, who will outline the medical and psychiatric characteristics of depression, as well as symptoms, treatments, and myths; Karen Liberman, executive director of the Mood Disorders Association, who will discuss the impact of depression on families and their role in recovery; and Carolyn Kirk, a psychologist in private practice, whose subject has not yet been announced. Moderator will be *Toronto Star* journalist Robin Harvey.

Participants will be given an information package that includes such things as community resources for those suffering from depression, and they will be asked for suggestions for future programs.

Both men and women are welcome.

Coast to Coast

Cantor celebrates 50 years at Winnipeg shul

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — As he approaches his 90th birthday in June, Winnipeg's beloved cantor, Rabbi Louis Berkal, continues to lead services Monday and Thursday mornings at the Shaarey Zedek Synagogue, and he regularly attends Shabbat services.

He is also teaching a neighbour Hebrew, his daughter Harriet Berkal-Sarbit says, and he has begun taking violin lessons again.

Berkal-Sarbit notes her father is still doing Tuesday afternoon concerts with Rabbi Neal Rose at the Sharon Home's Simkin Centre in south Winnipeg. He also performs concerts with his teenage granddaughter, Sophie Berkal-Sarbit.

On Monday, June 21, the Shaarey Zedek Congregation, will hold a special evening of music and reminiscences in celebration of Rabbi Berkal's 50-year association with the synagogue.

Continues to lead services as he approaches his 90th birthday

"We will be highlighting Rabbi Berkal's contributions to our synagogue," says event chair Evelyn Hecht. "He will be singing along with the synagogue choir and some alumni who used to sing in the choir when he was at his peak. There will also be two short audio-visual presentation and a skit about a chazzan applying for a job."

Hecht says Shaarey Zedek's celebration of Rabbi Berkal will not be a fundraiser.

"There have been tributes to Rabbi Berkal in the past, but ours will be different," she says. "There will be no admission charge. This is an opportunity for everyone in the community whom he has touched to come and honour him."

Both Hecht and Harriet Berkal-Sarbit note that during his 50-year tenure at the Shaarey Zedek, the cantor has touched the lives of a large number of people whose life-cycle events he has officiated at. Hecht also points out that Rabbi Berkal is the longest serving cantor in western Canada and, she believes, anywhere in Canada.

Rabbi Berkal came to Canada and Winnipeg with his family in 1927. On arrival, he continued the yeshiva studies he had begun in Lithuania. Here he studied with Winnipeg's chief rabbi Israel Kahanovitch. He also joined the Talmud Torah Choir, becoming a tenor soloist under Cantor Benjamin Brownstone.

In 1939, Rabbi Berkal accepted his first pulpit in Grand Forks, N.D., a small city about 200 kilometres south of Winnipeg. He met his wife to be, Sara Ginsberg, in Grand Forks, where he served the Jewish community for 16 years before accepting the position of assistant rabbi and cantor at the Shaarey Zedek.

Hecht says one of the most remarkable features about Rabbi Berkal's career at the Shaarey Zedek has been his ability to get along with all the rabbis he has had to work with, and to bridge different eras and philosophies.

Over the years, he has helped prepare hundreds of children for their bar and bat mitzvahs and has spent countless hours visiting the sick at home and in hospital. He also played an important role in establishing the Ramah Hebrew School, the first day school in Canada to be affiliated with a Conservative congregation.

In the wider community, Rabbi Berkal was a leader in developing interfaith relationships and served several terms on the Interfaith Council.

"What is remarkable is that I have never heard anyone say anything negative about my father," Berkal-Sarbit says.

In addition to Rabbi Berkal celebrating his 90th birthday in June and 50 years as the chazzan at the Shaarey Zedek, Rabbi Berkal's wife, Sara, is turning 87 at the same time, and he and Sara are celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary. To celebrate the latter event, Berkal-Sarbit notes that the family is also planning a Berkal family reunion to coincide with the other celebrations – with cousins coming from as far away as South Africa.

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Family Moments

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Mazel Tov to Derrick Abraham and Mercedes Benayon on the birth of their daughter, Sierra Rami. Grandparents, Fred & Marcella Abraham and Jaime & Rami Benayon. great-grandparents, Leah Nadler and Lucy Sahovaler. Aunts and Uncles: Naomi Abraham, Elisa Benayon, David Kirsh & Lucy Benayon, and Rory Berman & Racquel Benayon.

Happy fourth birthday Dara Meagan. Hugs and kisses, grandmother Goula, mommy Marsha, daddy Michael, Annette, Meir, Joel, Shana, Michael and entire family.

Mazel tov to Rosa & Balfour Genah on their 50th wedding anniversary, with lots of love from your children and grandchildren.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

Label the back of all photos and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Send all your photos to: The CJN, Family Moments, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, ON, M3B 3K4.

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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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What's New Deadlines: Monday, June 14 for the June 24 issue and Monday, June 21 for the July 2 issue. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Thursday, June 3

SILENT ART AUCTION

The Winchevsky Centre will hold its first silent art auction in support of the Morris Winchevsky School and Camp Naivelt featuring works by many artists including **Carole Conde**, **Karl Beveridge** and **bh yael**. 7:30 p.m. Free. 416-789-5502.

Saturday, June 5

EMUNAH SHABBAT

Emunah Women of Toronto's annual City Wide Seudah Shlishit will take place at six locations: BAYT with **Idit Zehavi** at 5 p.m., B'nai Torah with **Naomi Arram** at 6:15 p.m., Beth Jacob with **Rifka Sonnenberg** at 5 p.m., Yeshivat Or Chaim with **Shoshana Helfenbaum** and **Michal Lixenberg** at 5:30 p.m., Shaarei Tefillah with **Sarah Stern** at 5:45 p.m. and Shaarei Shomayim with **Atarah Grysman** at 5 p.m. and Couvert $18. Sponsorships $36 or $54. Call 416-636-0036.

Sunday, June 6

ISRAEL DAY FESTIVAL

Celebrate Israel with the Canadian Zionist Federation, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Mel Lastman Square, 5100 Yonge St. The festival includes live stage shows, an Israeli marketplace, food, activities for kids and a live auction at 12:30 p.m. 416-633-3988 or email czf@bellnet.ca.

CHORALAIRS CONCERT

The Choralairs invite the community to their closing concert at the Earl Bales Park Community Centre social hall featuring a program of Broadway, pop and folk songs. 2 p.m. No charge. For information call **Brian Slepchik** at 416 631-0029.

CANTORIAL CONCERT

Shaar Shalom holds their "30th Anniversary Celebration" with **Cantors Ben Silverberg**, **Ben Maissner**, **Shneur Bielak**, and 11-year old, **Jakie Young** singing Hebrew, Yiddish and English songs. 7:30 p.m. Tickets, $20 at the door. Call 905-889-4975.

SUNDAY VICTORIAN TEA

Join National Council of Jewish Women for a Victorian Afternoon Tea with guest speaker **Barbara Rusch** speaking on "Scandals of Queen Victoria." 1:30-3:30 p.m. at 4700 Bathurst St. 416-633-5100.

FEMINIST BOOK GROUP

Feminist Book Discussion Group, Older Women's Network, is discussing the book *Stella in Heaven* by **Art Buchwald**, 1:45 p.m., Barbara Frum Library. Call **Marge Mintz** 416-630-5049.

A HEALING SERVICE

The Toronto Healing Project offers a healing service with **Rabbi David Bauman** and **Judy Shier Weisberg**, musician and holistic practitioner. This is an opportunity to experience hope, comfort, faith and support in the face of whatever difficulties you may be experiencing. 3-4 p.m. at Lipa Green Building. Wheelchair accessible. Free. For information call **Etta** 416-944-3359.

Wednesday, June 9

JWI GALLERY TOUR

Join Jewish Women International's Lively After Fifty Group for a tour of "Provincial Asylums" at the Gallery Market in St. Lawrence Market followed by lunch. To reserve call **Lucy Alt** at 416-667-8474.

KABBALAH CENTRE

The Kabbalah Centre offers an introductory lecture to Kabbalah. 7 p.m. 678 Sheppard Ave. W. 416-631-9395.

BETH TZEDEC CONCERT

Join Beth Tzedec Congregation for "Israel In Our Hearts," a musical evening of celebration with performances by **Cantors Meir Finkelstein** and **Chayim Frenkel**, The Beth Tzedec Youth Chorus and guest artists from Israel. $36 and $50. 7:30 p.m. For tickets call 416-781-3511.

Continued on page 21

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What's New

Continued from page 20

POMEGRANATE GUILD

The Pomegranate Guild is having their last meeting before the summer, "Show, Share and Kvell." Members will show finished pieces made during the year and works in progress. 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. Guests welcome.

Other news

D-DAY DISPLAY

Jewish Canadian Military Archives is hosting a D-Day display at Toronto City Hall through Sunday, June 6. Jewish War Veterans will be on hand to share personal stories of their experiences. For information call **Bunny Bergstein** 416-491-5525.

DEMYSTIFYING DEPRESSION

National Council of Jewish Women invites the public to a symposium entitled "Demystifying Depression" with **Dr. David Goldbloom**, professor of psychiatry at the University of Toronto, **Karen Liberman**, executive director of Mood Disorders Association of Ontario, **Carolyn Kirk**, psychologist, and **Robin Harvey**, Toronto Star journalist who will moderate the discussion. Thursday, June 10, 7:30 p.m. $10 416-633-5100.

SHABBAT DINNER

The Winchevsky Centre for Secular Culture and Education is hosting a traditional Shabbat family dinner Friday, June 11 at 6:30 p.m. Adults $15, children $10. Register by June 4 by calling 416-789-5502.

CFHU FAMILY FUN DAY

Join the Canadian Friends of Hebrew University for a family fun day at Camp Robin Hood. Enjoy canoeing, low rope course, beach volleyball, face painting, BBQ and more and support pediatric research at Hebrew University. Sunday, June 13, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Family pass $65, adults $20. Call 416-485-8000 or visit www.cfhu.org.

ZAREINU MOVEATHON

Zareinu Educational Centre, a day school and treatment centre for children with physical and developmental disabilities, will host the 7th Annual Zareinu Moveathon on Sunday, June 13, at Earl Bales Park. The fundraiser will feature 50 km and 100 km bike rides, a 20 km family ride, a 10-km run, and a 2-km family fun loop, followed by a community picnic and carnival. For information or to register visit www.moveathon.com or call 416-661-1800.

HIP AND HYPNOTIC

Aliyah Chapter of Toronto Hadassah presents "Hip and Hypnotic: An Out of this World Evening," featuring **The Incredible Boris**, a hypnotist, a silent auction, a balloon burst, refreshments and desserts. Sunday June 13 at the Pride of Israel Synagogue, 59 Lissom Cres. at 7 p.m. Money raised at this event will benefit children in Israel who are in need social and educational assistance. $25. Call 416-630-8373 for tickets.

USDS GOLF DAY

United Synagogue Day School Parents' Association Golf Day will take place Monday, June 14 at the Station Creek Golf Club. For information or to register call the Golf Day Hotline 416-224-8737 ext. 1602.

MOUNT SINAI FUNDRAISER

Mount Sinai Hospital's second annual 5k run/walk and 10k run will take place Sunday, June 20 at Queen's Park. Proceeds will benefit the hospital and the Marvelle Koffler Breast Centre. The day offers great fun for the whole family. To register visit www.mtsinai.on.ca or call 416-586-8749.

NESHAMA CARLEBACH LIVE

Emunah Women of Hamilton presents **Neshama Carlebach** in a concert for women, singing her own songs as well as her father's. Sunday, June 21, at Adas Israel Congregation, 125 Cline Ave. S. Hamilton. Mother in Israel reception at 6:30 p.m. Concert at 7:30 p.m. Sponsorships available at $79 and $120. For tickets call 905-508-0039.

YIDDISH SCHOLARSHIPS

Friends of Yiddish of Toronto invite applications for grants from individuals who require financial support in order to study Yiddish during the coming year for scholarly or professional purposes. For information and application forms call **Eda** at 416-781-8331.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service Information/registration call 416-638-7800, ext. 215. Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St.

When You're About To Separate: What to Tell the Kids? A one session workshop for parents about to separate or in the early stages of separation. Monday June 7, 6:30- 8:30 p.m. Promenade Mall, suite 313.

Developing a Successful Parenting Plan For Your Children: A one-session workshop emphasizing the importance of establishing a business-like relationship with an 'ex'. Monday, June 14, 6:30- 8:30 p.m. Promenade Mall, suite 313.

Cancer Support Group for Women will meet during the day in June. Call for information.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 18

FOR SENIORS

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Casino Rama, June 9; Casino Niagara, June 24. Saturday dance, June 12. Sunday dance, June 6. 416-395-7881.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the boardroom at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Call 416-630-9444.

The Association of Jewish Seniors presents "To Our Good Health" with **Paula David** of Baycrest Centre, Thursday, June 17, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Earl Bales Park Community Centre. Lunch and entertainment. Members free, guests $3. Register by June 9 with **Tammy** at 416-635-2860.

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

Wisdom of the Ages: a one-hour weekly writing and discussion seminar examining life's timeless wisdom. Share your thoughts and feelings or just come to listen. Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to noon. For information contact Mara Swartz ext. 2275.

Stroke Recovery Awareness session on Thursday, June 10 from 10 a.m. to noon. Find out how to reduce the risk of stroke and about life after stroke. Ext. 2263.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

Making Everyday Living Safer and Easier This Summer, a lecture by public health nurse **Janice Ferris**, Thursday, June 3, 1 p.m. Question and answer period follows.

Older & Wiser, an entertaining look at fire safety for older adults, Wednesday, June 16, 1 p.m.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speaking seniors meets Tuesdays at 2:30 p.m. June 8, lecture; June 15, summer party. Call **Anna**, ext. 110.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or wwwmilesnadaljcc.ca

Toronto Jewish Film Society presents *The Komediant*, a film about the late **Pesach'ke Burstein**, one of the most acclaimed Yiddish theatre actors of his day. Sunday, June 6 at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Al Green Theatre.

A Sense of Toronto, A Walking Tour of Historic Jewish Toronto with **Cyrel Troster**. Meet at Congregation Anshei Minsk, 10 St. Andrew St. Sunday, June 13 at 10 a.m. $10 includes bagel brunch at the Miles Nadal JCC following the walk.

MNJCC Community Choir 8th Annual Spring Concerts, Sunday, June 13, 3 p.m. and Wednesday, June 16, 8 p.m. with **Harriet Wichin**, conductor, and **Jack Gelbloom**, pianist, at the Al Green Theatre. Tickets: $20 family, $10 adults, $5 seniors/students.

Registration for children's summer programs: Tiny Tumblers, Monday and Wednesday, 9-11 a.m.; Start with Art, Tuesday and Thursday 9:30-11 a.m.; Wild & Free, Tuesday and Thursday, 12:30 - 2 p.m.; Now You're Two, Friday 9:30-11 a.m.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

Koffler Music open house, Sunday, June 6. Meet the teachers, observe the lessons. For schedule and information call ext. 228.

The Koffler School of Music presents "Resa's Pieces," The Koffler Band in its year-end performance, Monday, June 7 at 7:30 p.m. Leah Posluns Theatre. Tickets $5, call ext. 228 for details.

Koffler School of Music Student Recital, Sunday, June 13, 2:30 p.m. in the Koffler Loggia.

The Koffler Gallery presents Norman T. White, Norm's Robots, through June 27.

Prenatal class offered in conjunction with Mount Sinai Hospital, Sunday June 6 and 13 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. $136 per couple. Call ext. 390.

MEETING THE MAYOR: During a recent visit to Toronto City Hall, grade five students from the Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School met with Mayor David Miller in his office.

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OBITUARIES
and Related Notices

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
Mildred "Mickey" Bisgould ז"ל
loving mother, grandmother & great-grandmother
will take place
Sunday, June 6th at 12:30 p.m.
Dawes Road Cemetery
Sons of Jacob Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

To my family and friends,

Thank you for your kind expression of sympathy and support during the Shiva sitting for my mother Mania Bielak. It is deeply appreciated and gratefully acknowledged.

Natalie Langer

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of
Herman Gottesman ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 6th at 10:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Bathurst Street south of Steeles
Adath Israel Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
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Dawes Road Cemetery
Goel Tzedec Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
DANIEL KLINGER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 6th, 12:00 noon
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Toronto Independent Benevolent Association Section
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will take place
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Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Bathurst St., south of Steeles
Adath Israel Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
AIDY ABRAMS COHEN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 6th, 11:30 a.m.
Beth Tzedec Memorial Park
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
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will take place
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Old McCaul Section
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ש'שאר ב'נ'נו
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תשובה לג'ורג' יעקובוביץ"

לפני כחודש כתבתי כאן שכל עוד חיילים בני שמונה עשרה ומילואימניקים בני ארבעים יֵהרגו על חגנת ילדים עם פיאות בחברון-תמשיך ירידה מאסיבית של ישראלים צעירים. ג'ורג יעקובוביץ, במכתב למערכת באנגלית כתב: "איך הוא (קורן) מעז להפוך למפלצת את אחת הקבוצות הכי פטריוטיות של החברה הישראלית-המתנחלים הדתיים. משפחות אלה, שמסכנות את חייהן עבור האדמה, ואשר בניהן מצטרפים ליחידות העילית של צה"ל ומקדישות את חייהן לערכי התורה-הם מקור לגאווה. להאשים אותם בירידתם של ישראלים "מערביים" היא לא רק מוטעית-אלא גם גורמת לפירוד בזמן שצריכה להיות אחדות".

ראשית-מעולם לא כתבתי או סברתי שהמתנחלים, דתיים או חילוניים , הם מפלצות. לדעתי אלה הם אנשים מצויינים שחיים באמונתם. יתירה מכך- הינו אלה ממשלות ישראל ששלחו אותם לגדה ובנו להם יישובים. אבל מה לעשות- כיום אפילו ממשלת ימין מכירה בכך שהיתה זו טעות גדולה. יתר חשוב אפילו-למעלה משבעים אחוז של ישראלים סבורים שיש לפנות את השטחים , וישראל היא, כזכור, מדינה דמוקרטית.

יש הרבה פאתוס בדבריו של יעקובוביץ'. אני מקבל את זכותם של המתנחלים להקריב את חייהם שלהם עבור אדמות שהם מאמינים בקדושתן. אבל רוב מוחלט של ישראלים אינם מסכימים שבניהם החיילים יקריבו את חייהם על התנחלויות שהדתיים ומר יעקובוביץ' מאמינים שהן קדושות. רוב הישראלים מאמינים שהחיים יותר קדושים מן האדמות הקדושות. אם לא תושג פשרה בין שני העמים שחיים בארץ הקודש -לא יהיו חיים נורמאלים בארץ הקודש. כמו שאמר השבוע עמי אילון: בעזרת המתאבדים הצליחו הפלשתינאים ליצור מאזן אימה-מטוסי אף 16 לעומת מתאבדים,- כדי שיהיהודים יסבלו כמו שסובלים הפלסתינאים. ועמי אילון, כראש השב"כ, עשה לערבים טרור יותר מכל ישראלי אחר.

הטיעון של מר יעקובוביץ' על כך שהדברים נורמים לפירוד העם בזמן שצריך אחדות- הוא אחד הטיעונים הכי מאוסים שיש, ושמשמע בעיקר על ידי אנשי ימין שרוצים אחדות בתנאי שהיא תומכת בדיעה שלהם. ישראל תהיה דמוקרטית רק כאשר דיעות תושמענה בחופשיות (כולל דעתו של יעקובוביץ')'. אבל שישאר בינינו.

סחר חופשי ישראל-ירדן

אני מתפש אובססיבי של ידיעות טובות מישראל, לפעמים בזכוכית מגדלת ולפעמים אפילו במיקרוסקופ. או בעמוד פנימי, בצד, כתוב שישראל וירדן חתמו על הסכם סחר חפשי, עם הקלות במיסים לסחורות שיפתחו תעשיות בצד הירדני, מקום שבו משלמים על שעת עבודה עשירית ממה שמשלמים בישראל. כשמסתכלים במפה-ירדן רחבה מישראל פי כמה, אך התוצר הגולמי של ירדן הוא מספר אחוזים קטן מהתוצר הישראלי. זוהי מדינה עניה ממש, ופתיחת השוק הישראלי בפניה יכולה לעשות להם הרבה טוב. גם המלך עבדאללה וגם שר המסחר שלו הביעו את דעתם השלילית מהיחס שישראל נותנת לפלשתינאים, אבל הודו שקשרי המסחר חשובים מאוד למדינתם. משמח לב.

וזהב באירופה

זוהי אליפות אירופה השלישית שבה זוכה הג'ודאי ואבי במדלית הזהב. בהפסקה של שנה אחת, שבה זכה במקום השני המכובד-הוא משכיב, תרתי משמע את כל ג'ודאי אירופה. יודעי דבר אומרים שיש מה לחכות באולימפיאדה הבאה לטובה ביותר. כשחושבים על זה, כל ישראלי חולם שישראל תזכה באישהו תואר בכדורגל, אבל ישראל מדורגת מקום ששים בעולם. והינה סוף סוף זוכים בספורט הכי ישראלי שיכול לחיות-בללכת מכות...אבל שישאר בינינו.

Skill at the Grill!

By NORENE GILLETZ

Few things can make our mouths water like the smell of wood smoke and food grilling in the open air. Besides the casual ambience and camaraderie of good friends and family, food somehow tastes better cooked on an open fire.

When it comes to barbecues, Canadians continue to sizzle, according to the 12th Annual Weber Canadian Barbecue Survey (TM). According to the survey of 1,000 Canadian residents who currently own a gas, charcoal or electric outdoor grill, steak is now the No.1 grilled item, beating out last year's most grilled item, hamburgers. Chicken pieces remain No. 3.

It should come as no surprise that 35 per cent of Canadians think it is very important to own an outdoor grill

It should come as no surprise that 35 per cent of Canadians think it is very important to own an outdoor grill to use in case of emergencies. Birthdays top the list of grilling celebrations, followed by Canada Day, Labour Day and Victoria Day. Canadians continue to brave the outdoors – 41 per cent have grilled at below freezing and 48 per cent of all respondents say they grill year-round. Twenty-six percent of respondents admitted to serving something they dropped on the ground! (I wonder how many weren't so honest?)

Most people think that barbecuing and grilling would be ideal for the low-carb dieter because the focus is on large quantities of meat, poultry and fish. But did you ever check the label on that bottle of commercial barbecue sauce? Simply put, most barbecue sauces and marinades are loaded with sugar. Most brands range between 8 and 14 grams of carbohydrate for a 2-tbsp. serving. Homemade barbecue sauce recipes start with sugary commercial ketchup, and then add a cup or more of sugar.

Dana Carpender has come to the rescue with her newest collection of low-carb recipes, which is hot off the press. *The Low-Carb Barbecue Book* (Fair Winds Press; $24.95 Cdn) contains more than 200 mouthwatering recipes that will make your summer sizzle!

Carpender is a nationally syndicated columnist and appears frequently on radio and television. She publishes *Lowcarbezine*, the popular Internet newsletter. Dana has been eating a low-carb diet for the last nine years and is the author of four other books, including *500 Low-Carb Recipes* and *How I Gave Up my Low-Fat Diet and Lost Forty Pounds.*

Each chapter focuses on a specific component of barbecue, including marinades, rubs, mopping sauces, side dishes, meat, poultry, grilled vegetables – even dessert. This is not a kosher cookbook, but many recipes can be adapted for the kosher kitchen.

Here are some recipes from *The Low-Carb Barbecue Book* that will turn your barbecue into a summer feast. You don't need to be on a low-carb diet to enjoy them!

APRICOT-ROSEMARY GLAZED CHICKEN BREASTS

Very speedy, especially if you have a gas grill, and very good!

2 tbsp. low-sugar apricot preserves
2 tsp. ground rosemary
2 tsp. lemon juice
2 cloves garlic, crushed
4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts –1½ to 2 lb.

First, light your charcoal or start heating your gas grill. You'll want medium heat.

Simply combine everything but the chicken breasts in a bowl and mix well. Cut your chicken breasts into serving-sized portions if needed. Start the chicken breasts grilling over medium heat, brushing the side that's up with apricot mixture. After about 7 minutes, brush with apricot mixture again, turn, and brush with the glaze again. Grill another 7 minutes or so, brushing a couple of times with the apricot glaze, but stop basting with a few minutes of cooking time to go, so as not to reintroduce raw chicken germs to your dinner!

When the breasts are done through, serve. If there's any apricot glaze remaining, you can heat it thoroughly in the microwave – make sure it boils hard! – and spoon it over the breasts before serving. Yield: 4 servings.

Each serving will have 4 grams of carbohydrate and a trace of fibre.

Assuming 1½ lb. of chicken, each serving will have 38 grams of protein.

EASY GRILLED ZUCCHINI

Carpender suggests using smallish zucchinis only because they look nice. If you've got big zucchinis, feel free to cut them up! You can also use yellow summer squash if you prefer.

6 smallish zucchinis
½ cup bottled Italian dressing (not creamy style)

Split your zucchinis lengthwise and cut off the stems. Put them in a big zipper-lock bag and pour the dressing over them. Press the air out of the bag, seal it, and turn it over a few times to coat the zucchinis. Now stash them in the fridge until dinner.

When suppertime rolls around, pull out the bag, pour off the dressing into a bowl or pan, and throw the zucchinis onto the grill. Baste them with the dressing and grill them until they are getting soft, with brown stripes; then serve. Yield: 6 servings.

If you consumed all the salad dressing, each serving would have 8 grams of carbohydrate and 2 grams of fibre, but you'll discard most of the dressing. Figure closer to 4 grams carbohydrate per serving, with the same 2 grams of fibre, for a usable carb count of around 2 grams per serving and 2 grams of protein.

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D-Day 60th Remembrance

They threw themselves against Germany's Atlantic Wall

Continued from page 1

Many were in that first wave of soldiers who cracked the Nazis' defences and began the liberation of western Europe. Eddie Goodman, who later became a prominent Toronto lawyer, was a tank commander on D-Day in the Fort Gary Horse, a Winnipeg-based cavalry regiment that hit the beaches in specially adapted tanks.

Goodman had enlisted in the army early in the war, right out of law school, ready for a fight. He and his comrades saw the Germans as "no good sons of bitches," and after several years of training in Canada and England, "you want to fight," he said.

Canadians soldiers were "excited, but not nervous" in the days leading up to the invasion, he stated.

At the time, they did not know that the landing was almost called off because of poor weather but when a weather window opened on the morning of June 6, Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, the supreme commander of the Allied forces, gave the invasion a green light.

Goodman's unit was among the first Canadian forces to hit the beach, and they faced mostly small arms fire from the German defenders. As they fought their way inland, Goodman was conscious of his D-Day objective, a town about one mile inland where he was to hook up with another regiment.

A captain on D-Day, Goodman's tank lost a tread in a minefield before he commandeered a sergeant's vehicle and pressed on towards the unit's objective.

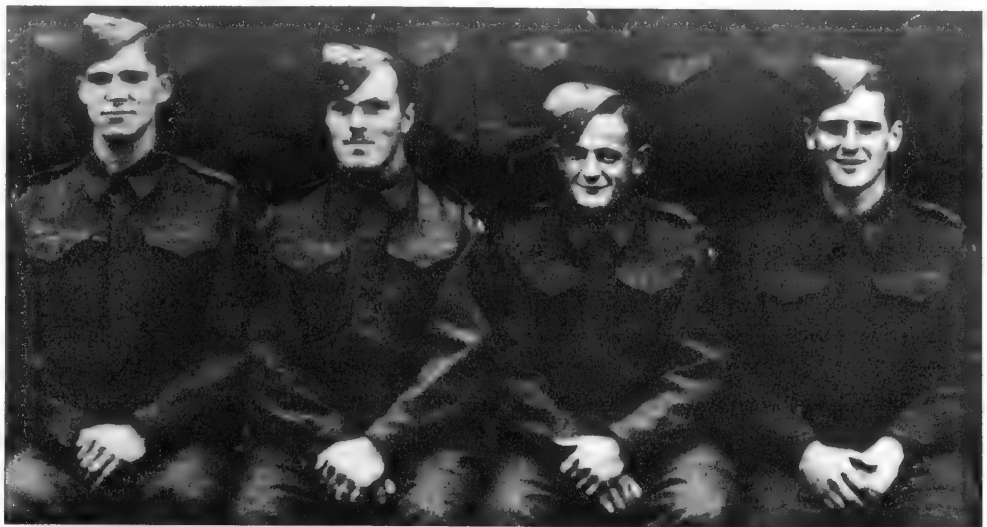
Goodman recalls that his tank would fire on German positions when they revealed themselves, and the toughest fighting came in occupied French towns when German soldiers rained down fire from the top floors of buildings. Goodman, who was promoted to major a few weeks after D-Day, was wounded twice in the battle for Normandy that followed the landings. The first time occurred when he was shot in the leg while outside his tank. After convalescing for a few weeks he rejoined his unit and was later hit in the other leg. He returned to action a few weeks later and recalls that he was one of the luckier ones. "I lost a lot of men in the war."

Eddie Goodman

* * *

Of all the battles fought by the western Allies during World War II, the D-Day invasion is one of the most well known. Immortalized in films such as *The Longest Day* and Steven Spielberg's acclaimed *Saving Private Ryan*, it marked the opening of the long-anticipated second front in Europe.

Following the German conquest of France in the spring/summer of 1940 and the British evacuation of its expeditionary force at Dunkirk, the bulk of the land fighting took part on the eastern front, where massive German and Soviet armies clashed in monumental battles.



In September 1941, these young soldiers were full of hope. All except Barnett Danson (far right) were to be killed before the end of September 1944 while fighting in Normandy. Seen here are (from left): Lt. Earl Stoll, Lt. Gerry Rayner and Sgt. Freddie Harris.

In 1942, British forces stemmed the German advance in North Africa at El Alamein and began the long push to free the continent of Axis forces. In 1943, Allied troops from Britain, Canada and the United States invaded Sicily and followed that up with the invasion of mainland Italy.

Meanwhile, Soviet leader Josef Stalin urged the western Allies to launch an invasion of western Europe to take some of the pressure off the beleaguered Soviet army. Soviet troops barely stemmed the German invasion at the gates of Moscow in late 1941, and German units held most of Stalingrad until repulsed in an epic battle in late 1942 and early 1943 that many historians cite as a turning point in the war.

In August 1942, units of the 2nd Canadian Infantry Division took part in the raid on Dieppe, a heavily fortified port city in Normandy. Of 4,963 Canadian troops, 1,005 British commandos and 50 U.S. Rangers, 2,600 were killed or captured.

By the middle of 1944, Canadian troops in Britain were eager to see action. As part of the D-Day invasion plan, the 3rd Canadian Division was assigned a stretch of Normandy beach, code named Juno. On the Canadians' right and left flanks, British units were assigned beaches named Sword (to the east) and Gold (to the west). Further to the west, American troops came ashore at Omaha and Utah beaches.

Military planners had ambitious objectives for the Canadian assault. The 3rd Infantry Division, supported by the 2nd Canadian Armoured Brigade, was to head inland to the city Caen and even beyond to the airfield at Carpiquet, 11 miles from the coast.

They faced three battalions of the German 716th Division, with the 21st Panzer (tank) Division and the 12th SS Panzer Division nearby, ready to reinforce the coastal defenders.

The plan of attack was for the Royal Winnipeg Rifles, the Regina Rifles, the Queen's Own Rifles and the North Shores to be among the first wave, supported by the Fort Gary Horse and the 3rd Hussars (tank units) and the Canadian Scottish. In addition, the Régiment de la Chaudière and the Canadian Scots took part in the early stages of the invasion.

After meeting stiff resistance, Canadian forces pushed up from the beach. In July, they participated in the battle to take Caen and later in the summer, they were part of the battle to close the "Falaise Gap" and prevent the partially encircled German army from escaping near the town of Falaise.

By June 11, 1,017 Canadians had been killed in action and 1,814 wounded.

By late August, the Battle of Normandy had been won, but at considerable cost. The Canadian Army incurred 18,444 casualties, including more than 5,021 dead. The 3rd Division suffered greater losses than any other division within the 21st Army Group, while the 2nd Canadian Infantry Division, which arrived in France on July 7, incurred the next highest. All told, battle casualties slightly exceeded 3,000 in June, 5,500 in July, and 7,400 for the period Aug. 1 to 23, according to the CBC's *The Valour and the Horror* website.

D-Day display at city hall

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

The Jewish Canadian Military Archives will mount a display in the rotunda of Toronto City Hall to commemorate the 60th anniversary of D-Day.

The display, which will run from May 30 to June 6 (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.), will focus on the contributions of Jewish Canadians to the Canadian military during World War II. Jews served in the Canadian forces in greater percentage than any other ethnic group. "During World War II, there were 170,000 Canadian men, women and children of the Jewish faith in Canada, of which 17,000 proudly served in the four branches of Canada's armed forces," the archives organization states.

"The contributions of Jewish Canadian veterans to Canadian military history and to Canadian society are an important part of our heritage and future legacies, and must be recorded, preserved and displayed to the community at large," said Brigitte Levine, exhibit director and project coordinator for the archives organization.

The archives was established in 2000 and houses a collection of war memorabilia. It is also home to the Memorial Book of Remembrance which honours the more than 550 Jewish Canadians military personel who gave their lives during active duty.

The rotunda display is part of a number of events marking D-Day. On June 6, Nathan Phillips Square will host "Toronto Remembers D-Day, 1944," a series of activities that includes a commemorative ceremony at 2 p.m.

At 3 p.m., a "Toronto March of Remembrance" will proceed to Queen's Park from Nathan Phillips Square.

At 4 p.m. a "Grand Commemoration" will take place at Queen's Park.

D-Day 60th Remembrance

Jewish war veterans recall D-day invasion

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

In 1939, the year Canada joined Britain in declaring war on Germany, Arthur Robbins was 14 years old. Although Canada had developed a sterling military reputation during the Great War, the regular forces remained small. Still, Robbins loved "the pipes" and when war finally came, he was a drummer boy with the Black Watch Regiment in his native Montreal.

Two years later, still only 16, Robbins left home intent on joining a fighting unit. He travelled to Toronto where he planned to enlist in the Toronto Scottish Regiment. His parents got wind of his plans and phoned ahead to alert the recruiting officer. Turned down because of his age, Robbins was hitchhiking back to Montreal when he stopped in Kingston and decided to give his underage efforts another go. Presenting phony ID, Robbins was accepted into the Canadian forces, no questions asked. Joining the Stormont Dundas and Glengarry Regiment, composed of youths from eastern Ontario, Robbins soon found himself overseas in a basic training course in England.

Though being Jewish wasn't an impediment to his service, there were some in the unit who made life difficult, "but I straightened them out," he said.

At around the same time, Lionel Mernick was working in a lady's clothing factory on Spadina Avenue when "I got a letter, an invitation, to report to North Bay," he recalled.

"At the time, I was glad to get out of the factory" and he found he was quite adept at the military's training program. In fact, he was so successful he was asked to remain as an instructor of future recruits.

Many of the young soldiers, he learned, were Jewish kids. On Sundays, they were given the worst kind of duties at the time when the gentile soldiers strutted their stuff on "Parade Sunday."

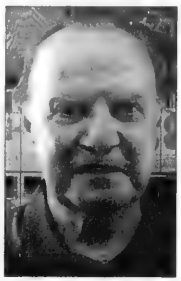
Lionel Mernick

Mernick, now 84, arranged for the Jewish soldiers to be given the opportunity to do the same, and the Army instituted the "Jewish Church Parade" involving some 20 to 25 recruits, later in the day on Sundays. The parade would culminate in a visit to a store on Orillia's main street owned by the Bader family. There, the boys would enjoy a little food and drink, he recalled.

Mernick remained a basic training instructor until 1943. "At the time, we heard scraps of news about what was happening to the Jews of Europe. It was suppressed, but we had a good idea."

Asking to be transferred overseas, he was initially placed with the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders, but he found the unit quite cliquish. Instead, he asked to join the Queen's Own Rifles, a regiment with lots of Jewish lads, including his brother Gerald.

The regiment was made part of the 3rd Division (three regiments make up a brigade and three brigades make up a division) and was one of the first to hit the beach on D-Day.



Arthur Robbins

Mernick was attached to a field dressing unit that was on the Canadians' forward lines.

Before the war, Harold Goldman was a bugler in the Boys Club Band. Though only 16 in 1940, he remembers "a lot of kids were joining up."

Still too young to enlist, he joined the 48th Highlander Rotary Youth Training Club, a group that was supposed to receive military training but where the boys "marched, saluted and played basketball," he recalls.

At 18, Goldman entered service in the Royal Canadian Artillery and was trained by Mernick in Orillia.

In March 1944, he was sent overseas as a replacement and was assigned to the 12th Field Regiment, an artillery unit that he proudly states "was the first artillery regiment to open fire in Normandy on D-Day."

Sam Romberg, 81, was one of those underage youths eager to enlist and who was not completely forthright when giving his age. He was only 17 when he enlisted at a recruiting post on Bay and Front streets in Toronto. It was another case of no questions asked, and that same day he was on a truck to Camp Borden for basic training, he said.

He started his military service as a medical orderly, but quickly transferred to the 1st Hussars, a tank regiment that historically had been a cavalry unit.

Because of the shortage of working tanks, early training was done on trucks, motorcycles and by employing other tank stand-ins, he said.

He was transferred overseas in 1941, joining the 2nd Canadian Armored Brigade. His unit trained along the south coast of England until June 1944.

Murray Jacobs was working as a watchmaker for Peoples Credit Jewelers when the war began. "I joined because I felt that if the country was good enough to live in, it was good enough to fight for. And we knew what was happening against the Jews," he said.

He was sent overseas in January 1942 and was assigned to the 4th Armored Troop Workshop, a unit that consisted of mechanics and technicians responsible for maintaining and repairing everything from vehicles, tanks, guns, motors and watches to upholstery. It was one of only two such units in the Canadian army.

* * *

Early on D-Day, Robbins found himself at Southampton on the south shore of England. The invasion had already been postponed one day due to bad weather, but "we were all ready to go. We had spent two years training in assault landings," he said.

His unit boarded landing craft number 299, a vehicle whose number "is indelibly in my mind."

After a bumpy Channel crossing the forward ramp on the landing craft dropped down "and we went right to the beach, knee-deep in water.

"We were getting artillery fire, mortars, machine gun fire, sniper fire. We lost 48 men on the beach" out of a unit of about 170 soldiers, he said.

Despite the years of training, first combat is a frightening experience, Robbins continued. "The minute I heard those mortars and shells coming down and explosions that sound so terrible, my mouth just dried up. I never had that again. But you carry on because you're trained to carry on."

Mernick, whose unit hit the beach early that morning, said they were under orders to skip over German strong points when they could. "We had to keep going, so we just bypassed the thing. A few got hit on the beach, but the rest just fanned out as fast as we could."

"You know what saved us?" he said. "The training. Your feet knew where to go, not your brain. Even if you see some guys fall, you keep going."

Goldman recalls that his artillery unit came ashore after the infantry had advanced off the beach.

The weather was horrendous, he said. "I was sick all the way over."

Sam Romberg

The landing craft he was on carried several tanks and they were equipped with a "Mae West" flotation device to make sure the they didn't founder in the water when they disembarked.

The regiment landed around noon on "Mike Green," the code name for a stretch of beach whose French names might have confused the Anglo soldiers.

The unit was equipped with 25-pounder field guns/howitzers and the "Priest," a turretless self-propelled 105 mm gun in a tank body that "nobody liked. It was too cumbersome," he said.

Their orders were to break through the seawall and move ahead, not stand and fight. Luckily, the unit suffered no casualties that first day, he recalled.

Romberg was serving at headquarters when his unit, the 2nd Canadian Armoured Brigade, arrived in Normandy a few days after the invasion. He recalls that on the Channel voyage, the landing craft bumped into some mines, but they had been rendered harmless by frogmen, who prior to D-Day had surreptitiously removed their detonators.

Murray Jacobs

The regiment moved ahead quickly. "When we got to outside Caen and near the town of Ifs, the U.S. bombed the hell out of us. I got wounded there."

Despite stopping some shrapnel with his shoulder, Romberg does not appear angry at the friendly fire incident. Canadian pilots also bombed their unit in August, he pointed out, adding the army was moving so fast that pilots attacked areas thought to be controlled by German forces but which were occupied by Canadians.

Harold Goldman

After convalescing in France, Romberg rejoined his unit for the push north.

Jacobs' regiment didn't enter Normandy until June 10, but news filtering back to England was that "we were in a mess and were only one to 1¼ miles in from the beach and there were a lot of casualties."

When departing the landing craft, he recalls how a soldier ahead of him froze and could not obey orders to disembark. "No one knows how they will react when they're shooting at you," he said.

After driving the vehicle on shore the unit set up camp in an open area. On their second night in Normandy, the group was raided by German aircraft and "we lost 25 to 28 guys." Jacobs blames officers for not insisting the soldiers dig slit trenches to get them below ground to avoid the shrapnel and explosions of German bombs.

Jacobs recalls many soldiers didn't want to dig into the earth as just below the surface you could find hastily buried German soldiers.

How did they endure that sort of trauma?

"The key thing is, you're fighting for a cause and you were trained for a cause and you're young," Jacobs, 83, said.

"You're alive," added Robbins, now 79. "You're sorry about the guy who got killed, but 'I'm alive'.

"You also become very blasé."

The veterans believe Canadian troops acquitted themselves well – in fact, were among the toughest fighters in the Allied armies on D-Day and the fastest moving.

Canadians advanced so far beyond the British forces to the east and west, that their flanks were exposed, forcing them to pull back, they said.

Following D-Day, heavy fighting continued at the battle for Caen and at Falaise.

Later, Canadian troops fought their way north, cleared the Scheldt estuary, a key part of the battle to open the port of Antwerp to Allied shipping. They continued north through Belgium and liberated Holland, with some units ending the war in northern Germany.

To a man, the veterans, all members of the General Wingate Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, say they are better treated by the Dutch than by their fellow Canadians. "Holland treats us like kings," said Mernick.

But when they look back at what they accomplished, they quickly dispel any notion they should be considered heroes. "I just did the job I was trained for," said Robbins.

"As Jews, you wanted to do your best and fight those bastards," added Jacobs.

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PMO sources: No compromise on pullout plan

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Officials in the Prime Minister's Office said Sunday night there would be no compromise on Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's revised disengagement plan, despite Justice Minister Yosef Lapid's earlier announcement that he would work to get an agreement in the cabinet.

Lapid said Sunday he was trying to achieve an agreement between Sharon and Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on the revised disengagement plan in an attempt to get it passed in the cabinet.

"I offer my services as an agent between the two so as to prevent the collapse of the government," Lapid said at the weekly cabinet meeting.

However, the PMO officials later said no talks were underway and there would be no compromise. They said the plan that would come to a vote would be the four-phase plan Sharon presented to the cabinet last week.

Under the plan, all settlements in the Gaza Strip and four in northern Samaria will be evacuated. The settlements earmarked for evacuation were divided into four groups and the dismantling of each group will be brought for cabinet approval separately.

The evacuation is slated for completion by the end of 2005.

The Likud faction in the Knesset will convene Monday to discuss the disengagement plan. The meeting is expected to be tense in the wake of the rift that deepened Sunday between Sharon and Netanyahu, who opposes the plan, and because the plan's opponents are insisting that all ministers and members of Knesset abide by the results of the May 2 party referendum that defeated Sharon's proposal for an Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip.

Sharon told the cabinet Sunday that he was ready to fire ministers in order to pass the plan, and said holding the referendum had been a mistake.

Likud faction chair MK Gideon Sa'ar will decide Monday whether to give in to the demands of those opposing the plan and call for a vote on a bill approving the referendum results. Sa'ar is due to meet with Sharon before the faction meeting. Sharon plans to reiterate comments he made Sunday, according to which the interests of the country must supersede party interests.

Lapid said the Likud members' defeat of the pullout plan does not mean his Shinui party should stop supporting it. He said the positions of Sharon and Netanyahu must be brought closer, especially since the finance minister has agreed to the first stage of Sharon's revised plan, which calls for the removal of three isolated settlements in the Gaza Strip.

Lapid proposed a specific compromise to Netanyahu's aides outside the government meeting, according to which the government would decide on evacuating only the three settlements – Morag, Netzarim and Kfar Darom – and Sharon would tell the cabinet he intends to bring for approval his plan to dismantle all the settlements in the Gaza Strip.

Netanyahu's aides said the compromise would be carefully considered, adding that it was similar to a compromise proposal Netanyahu had previously brought.

Sharon warned the cabinet Sunday that he was willing to change the makeup of the coalition so as to pass the plan.

Speaking during the cabinet debate on the new version of his plan, Sharon warned that he was ready to take "unprecedented political steps," including the dismissal of ministers.

The prime minister has brought "an evacuation in stages" – the revised disengagement plan distributed to ministers Friday – to the cabinet despite the fact that only 11 ministers were in favour, while 12 ministers opposed the initiative.

"I am determined to pass this plan, even if I am forced to change the make-up of the government or to take unprecedented political steps," Sharon said.

The prime minister decided to present the "graduated plan" after failing to obtain Netanyahu's support for the overall plan.

Netanyahu is firm in his objections, as are Education Minister Limor Livnat, Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom and Health Minister Dan Naveh.

Netanyahu's objections to the plan drew criticism from Sharon, but, referring to the Likud referendum, Netanyahu said, "A month ago there was a Likud vote and we must honour it. If there is democracy, it binds all of us."

Sharon said, however, that the good of the Israeli public must take precedence over that of Likud members.

"In the conflict between the duty toward the entire public and the duty to Likud registered members, we have no choice. We must prefer the good of the general public, we must approve the plan."

Likud central committee members called on Sharon to adhere to the results of the party referendum. The committee members said the Likud would disintegrate if the referendum results were not honoured and that 2,000 members have signed a petition calling on Sharon to accept the poll results.

Israel Defence Forces Chief of Staff Moshe Ya'alon reviewed before the cabinet the security implications of the plan. "Failure to decide signifies a diplomatic freeze, which could encourage Palestinian extremists," he said.

Shin Bet chief Avi Dichter said withdrawing from Gaza would lead to a reduction in the number of terror attacks, and Fatah would not allow Hamas to take control of areas evacuated by Israel.

Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz on Sunday supported the prime minister's plan, telling Israel Radio that remaining in Gaza would not advance Israeli security.

Vanunu: Exposing Israel's nuclear secrets was not betrayal

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — In his first interview since his release last month after 18 years in jail for revealing Israel's nuclear secrets to a British newspaper, Mordechai Vanunu told the BBC in an interview aired Sunday night that he did not feel he was a traitor to the country.

"I felt it was not about betraying; it was about reporting. It was about saving Israel from a new holocaust," he said. Speaking to the BBC's *This World* program, Vanunu said he had "no regrets, despite the fact I have paid a heavy punishment, a large price."

"What I did was to inform the world what is going on in secret," he said. "I didn't come and say 'We should destroy Israel, we should destroy Dimona.' I said, look what they have and make your judgement."

The interview sparked controversy in Israel ahead of its airing, after the British journalist making the program, Peter Hounam, was arrested by the Shin Bet security service on suspicion of violating Vanunu's terms of release, which include a ban on meetings with foreigners.

The interview was facilitated by an Israeli, Yael Lotan, thereby bypassing the ban.

Days before his 1986 exposé of Israel's nuclear capability appeared in the *Sunday Times*, Vanunu was seized by Israeli agents from an apartment in Italy, where he had been lured by a female agent nicknamed "Cindy."

The BBC program also included comments by Justice Minister Yosef Lapid, who argued that Vanunu still posed a threat to Israel's security.

"We think he still knows secrets and we don't want him to sell them again," Lapid told *This World*.

"We think there are things he knows that he hasn't divulged yet. He may do so – he's hell-bent to harm this country. He hates this country."

The arrest of Hounam and the apparent smuggling of the Vanunu interview to London have sparked more tensions between Israel and the BBC.

Foreign Ministry officials charge that the BBC is a "communications organization whose goal is to undermine the legitimacy of the state of Israel. It promotes hostile coverage of Israel… and the Vanunu affair proves that the BBC is a communications entity which shows complete disregard for journalistic standards and ethics. Their journalistic culture can be compared to that of media outlets in Arab states, or in the Palestinian Authority."

One Foreign Ministry source said the ministry will now reevaluate Israel's relations with the BBC. Israel had boycotted the BBC for five months leading up to November 2003.

The ministry is furious about what it regards as the BBC's shirking of responsibility for the Vanunu interview.

"The BBC baldly lied to us after Vanunu's release," the ministry official said. "It lied when it denied having any connection with the apartment which was about to be rented for him in Jaffa. Hounam worked for the BBC, and they are simply lying on this matter."

The same ministry official charged that the BBC failed to submit the recorded interview to Israeli censors, even though it is obliged to do so under Israeli law. The BBC's official statement about this charge is that the film of Vanunu was produced by an independent outfit, Magnetic North, for the BBC.

Speaking on the condition of anonymity, BBC representatives unleashed a series of counter-charges.

"It's not true that we lied," they said. "Hounam has never worked for the BBC. He works for the *Sunday Times* and for a private company that sold us the film, and what he does as an independent journalist is of no concern to us."

IDF warns Syria

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Maj.-Gen. Benny Gantz, the head of the Israeli army's Northern Command, has warned Syria that it would pay a "heavy price" for any escalation in Hezbollah activity along the Israel-Lebanon border.

In an interview with Channel 2 television that aired Saturday afternoon, Gantz said that under the presidency of Bashar Assad, Syria has greatly strengthened its ties to Hezbollah and is directly transferring weapons to the terrorist group, which it allows to operate freely in Lebanon.

Although Hezbollah has kept the border area relatively quiet since Israel left south Lebanon in May 2000, that could change at any time, Gantz said.

"Assad is taking a risk, which could blow up in his face, [because] if we reach the situation where we clash, we won't be looking at just Hezbollah," he said.

Syria is investing in the guerrilla group as a way of continuing "the struggle with us without physically fighting," Gantz added.

When asked about the possibility of a strike on Hezbollah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, Gantz replied: "Nothing is impossible. It is advisable for him not to sleep too soundly."

In October 2003, Israeli warplanes struck targets near Damascus after an Islamic Jihad suicide bombing at a Haifa restaurant that killed 21 people.

The targeted area was later identified by the Israel Defence Forces as a training camp that had served fighters recruited by a host of groups, including Islamic Jihad, Hamas and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

IDF pulls out of Rafah

Israel Defence Forces troops completed their pullout from the southern Gaza refugee camp of Rafah last week. Troops left the Tel Sultan and Brazil neighbourhoods, lifted the siege north of Rafah and renewed traffic flow to other parts of the strip. IDF Gaza division commander Brig.-Gen. Shmuel Zakai said the army killed 41 terrorists and demolished 56 Palestinian homes during its incursion.

Madonna cancels Israel tour

Pop superstar Madonna recently cancelled concerts scheduled in Israel as a result of death threats by unknown Palestinians, the British tabloid the *Sun* reported last week. The singer had scheduled three concerts for September in Tel Aviv. According to the report, she cancelled the dates when she received letters containing detailed information about her two children, aged 7 and 3.

Too early to clear Sharon

Israel's Justice Ministry denied reports that the nation's top prosecutor has decided to clear Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in a corruption case. After Israeli media reported that Attorney General Menachem Mazuz likely would close the case against Sharon, the Justice Ministry said a decision is still pending. Mazuz is expected to decide by June 15 whether to indict Sharon in connection with a case in which a businessman is suspected of trying to bribe him in exchange for help in buying a Greek island resort.

PA officials use deception

Palestinian Authority officers posed as sick patients to infiltrate Israel in fake ambulances, Israeli police said. Some of the officials are members of Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's security guards, the police said. The police added that some terrorists also may have been smuggled into Israel using this method.

Shrine of the Book reopens

The Shrine of the Book in Jerusalem is reopening. The Jerusalem museum housing the Dead Sea Scrolls is due to open in June after undergoing repairs for more than a year. The texts, more than 2,000 years old and written in Aramaic and Hebrew, were discovered between 1947 and 1956 in 11 caves near the Dead Sea.

Israeli wine guide soon

A guide to Israeli wine-making is due out this summer. Daniel Rogov, wine critic for *Ha'aretz*, wrote the first guide to both kosher and non-kosher Israeli wines, which is to be published by Toby Press in August. The guide covers the recent blossoming of the Israeli wine industry, reviewing more than 1,000 wines from both large and boutique wineries.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

European Jews confer, plan future

By RUTH ELLEN GRUBER
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

BUDAPEST — European Jews are struggling to find an effective way to assert their identity and articulate a coherent, collective voice in a rapidly changing Europe.

This challenge, European Jewish leaders say, is breaking stereotypes and fostering a positive sense of self-definition in the face of looming challenges that have put recent optimistic models of Jewish integration to the test.

"One of the biggest challenges we have is to get Jews generally and the world at large to recognize that we are not just defined by the three elements of anti-Semitism, the Holocaust and defence of Israel," said Jonathan Joseph, the incoming president of the European Council of Jewish Communities.

"It is obvious that 90 per cent of our lives is not defined by these elements, but 90 per cent of our image is," Joseph said. "I cannot sit and watch while we define ourselves and allow the world to define us in just those terms."

Joseph was elected president of the European Council of Jewish Communities at the conclusion of the third General Assembly of European Jewry, a three-day shmooze-fest held in Budapest on May 20 to May 23 that gathered a record number of Jews from across Europe.

Sponsored by the European Council of Jewish Communities and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, the G.A. provided an opportunity for more than 1,000 Jewish activists from more than 40 countries to party, network and assert their commitment to the ideal of a European Jewish identity.

Delegates came from all walks of life and ranged in age from students to octogenarians.

They converged on Budapest from established communities in Western Europe and from tiny outposts in post-Communist states – and from every type of community in between. There were even Jews there from Malta and Kosovo.

"It's been a real opportunity for communities in Europe – especially in a Europe that is trying to unite, expand and grow – to get together, get to know each other and start generating joint activities," said Zdravko Sami, the president of the 208-member Jewish community of Macedonia. "For small communities like us, it's really important."

But a series of uncertainties cast a shadow on the otherwise exuberant celebration. These included external questions, such as the impact on Europe's Jews of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Islamic fundamentalism and international terrorism, which all have become acute since the last European G.A., held in Madrid in 2001.

Indeed, Israeli author A.B. Yehoshua shook up the conference with an appeal for European Jews to take the lead in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, calling on them to help draw the new border between Israel and a Palestinian state.

He called U.S. policy in the Middle East "useless" and chastised European countries for not having played a more active role in helping settle conflicts such as the Balkan wars of the 1990s.

Conference participants also focused on deep-seated internal challenges, such as articulating a coherent Jewish voice in Europe, strengthening European Jewish leadership, evaluating a Jewish role in European affairs – and even defining whether a European Jewish identity really exists.

"Are European and Jewish interests compatible?" Paris-based historian Diana Pinto, long a champion of asserting a European Jewish identity in Europe, asked delegates. "In the past four years, a feeling has emerged that the answer is no. Some forces in the Jewish world think that Europe is tone deaf, and even inimical."

But, she said in an interview, part of the blame lies with Jewish leaders who are unable to get a clear message across even to sympathetic non-Jewish interlocutors.

"Back in the 1930s, the Jewish leaders in Europe were capable of formulating Jewish needs and concerns but had no one to speak to," Pinto said. "But now, when there are so many ears open to Jewish concerns, I sometimes feel that the leadership seems only capable of mumbling."

The Budapest gathering took place just three weeks after the European Union expanded eastward to embrace Malta, Cyprus and eight former Communist countries, including Hungary.

Holding the meeting in Budapest was a deliberate recognition that the Cold War divide that for decades had split Europe – and Europe's Jews – no longer exists.

But European Jews are looking forward to the effects of EU expansion with a mixture of eagerness and anxiety. And the conflicting emotions, combined with worry over anti-Semitism and the continuing conflict in the Middle East, had an noticeable impact on the G.A.s atmosphere.

"We are looking at a politically united Europe for the first time ever," Joseph told delegates. "We are experiencing a reawakening of Jewish life and culture in Europe on a scale not seen for 100 years."

At the same time, he said, "We are living at a most delicate moment in global Jewish terms, with the Middle East in turmoil again, an intermingling of anti-Zionism with anti-Semitism and the physical manifestation of this uncomfortably close to us. How we respond over the next few years will be one of the most significant things we will do as a Jewish people, and particularly as a European Jewish people."

"Anti-Semitism will never disappear," Joseph said. "But the best antidote to anti-Semitism is a positive presence of Jews. Jews have got to stand tall – and never have we had such an opportunity to do so."

A number of participants said that despite pledges by European Jewish leaders to develop a strong Jewish voice, the G.A. appeared to be inward-looking – to the point where one Italian delegate spoke of a "self-ghettoization."

"We are turning inward," she said. "The threats from outside are making people wary. We see families who want to put their children into Jewish schools because they are afraid to have them sit next to the children of Muslim immigrants in public schools."

The European Council of Jewish Communities, funded in large part by the JDC, is a service organization that aims to facilitate co-operation and communication among Jewish communities and organizations, as well as to promote initiatives fostering Jewish culture and heritage, Jewish education, social welfare and communal development.

A new mission statement prepared for the G.A. stressed that it also aims to represent Jewish interests at EU headquarters in Brussels on issues that could affect Jewish communities.

These issues include moves in some countries to limit or ban Jewish ritual practices, such as kosher slaughter and ritual circumcision, on the grounds of animal or children's rights.

They also include ensuring Jewish input in the promotion of civil society and democratic ideals in the new Europe.

Henry Grunwald, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, warned that as European citizens, Europe's Jews must define their own identities in positive terms and must resist the temptation to circle the wagons.

"If we don't," he said, "we risk falling into the trap of letting ourselves be defined by our attackers, by anti-Semitism."

"We must be proud to be Jews, be confident to be Jews," he said. "Let's not make the mistake of thinking that everyone out there is out enemy. We have many friends, and we are not doing our job if we don't go out there and keep up our friendships and make new ones."

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extends its heartfelt condolences
to our colleague and friend
Frances Pellatt
and her family
on the passing of
her beloved mother
Mary Goodman ז"ל
May the family be comforted
among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

Father and daughter leave Canada to serve in IDF

By JENNY HAZAN
CJN Israel Bureau

JERUSALEM — As far back as Torontonian Lisa Lidor can remember, Israel has been a part of her consciousness.

"My family has always been very connected to Israel," says the 22-year-old, who estimates she has been to visit family there more than 12 times in her life.

Although Lidor was born in Toronto, her father Dov was born in Israel to parents who fled there from Poland in 1936. Dov met Lisa's mother Marilyn, who is from Ottawa, while she was studying at the University of Tel Aviv. The couple married in Israel and moved to Canada in 1975, settling in Thornhill before starting a family.

When Dov decided to return to Israel to volunteer for 24 days of army reserve duty two years ago, Lisa realized she wanted to follow in her father's footsteps.

"When my dad decided to go to Israel to join the reserves, he just came down to the dinner table one night and said, 'I booked my flight,'" Lisa recalls. "No one argued, because when it comes to helping Israel, it's not an issue that's up for discussion."

Dov learned about the volunteer reserve program on the Israel Defence Forces' website.

"The IDF was looking for volunteers to help regular army soldiers at roadblocks and patrols where they need mature soldiers who are experienced in handling the Palestinian civilian population," explains 53-year-old Dov, who fought in the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

"Being from Israel and living abroad, you always have the feeling that you are not doing enough," he says. "So here was an opportunity to do something to help."

Lisa was inspired by her father's commitment. When she returned from a trip to Israel with the University of Toronto chapter of Hillel after her first semester of studies, she told her family she intended to enlist in the IDF.

"My dad just looked at me and said, 'Why did you come all the way home? Now, I have to buy you a ticket to go back!'" recalls Lisa. "That's the attitude my family had about it, because we understand that as Jews, even if we live abroad, Israel is our place and we would never tell each other 'No' when it comes to Israel."

In December 2002, almost a year after declaring her intentions, Lisa entered basic training. "I did a special basic training for new immigrants," she explains, saying that after taking only a first-level language course at U of T, she had a lot of Hebrew to learn.

"At the very beginning, the biggest challenge was the Hebrew, because people would talk to me and I had no idea what was going on," she says.

"After the language barrier, the biggest challenge was being in Israel and being alone. To be a lone soldier when everyone else goes home on the weekend to their families is really hard."

Lisa Lidor and her father Dov

According to Lisa, who joined the air force after basic training, another challenge involved finding out who were her true friends and who were not.

"Only my Jewish friends have kept in touch with me," she says with disappointment. "A lot of people who I thought were my friends don't write and don't call, and I think it's because they don't support my decision to be here."

Lisa says anti-Semitism and anti-Israel sentiment are increasingly prominent in Canada.

"Things have changed. We have a huge problem now," she says.

"My whole first year, I don't think anyone in my class knew I was Jewish. It wasn't until the last day of class that I wore a Magen David charm to class and someone in my political science class said, 'What are you, a Jew?' and I just said, 'Yes, I am.' It went silent in the class for a minute, and the teaching assistant didn't want to get into it. It was awkward.

"With that awareness, came the awareness that I had to be part of Hillel and I had to attend pro-Israel rallies because no one else was going to go," she adds, saying there is a lack of support for Israel among Jewish students.

Dov, who is in Israel for another round of volunteer service, says he also had a first-hand encounter with anti-Semitism in Toronto. When he returned from reserve duty the first time, he was fired from his job of 19 years.

He settled out of court for two years severance. "It was a clear case of anti-Semitism, although they would never admit to that."

He says the experience was a wake-up call.

"The word 'Zionism' is slowly disappearing from our vocabulary and it needs to come back if we want to ensure the future of the State of Israel. A lot of Jews take it for granted that Israel is here, but I do not take its existence for granted," he says.

He says not enough Israelis living in Canada return to do reserve duty.

"For Jews who can't come and serve in the army, they can do lots of other things for Israel," he says, naming fundraising and vacationing in Israel among the options available to Jews in Canada.

"[Canadian Jews] have to be united. We are too divided right now," he says. "I know that there is division in Israel. But, in North America we can't afford to have that. Jews who live abroad should be unconditionally supportive of Israel."

Although Lisa says she plans to move to Israel eventually, she wants to return to U of T to finish her studies after she completes her service in six months. "It has been the biggest adventure of my life," she says. "But, when I finish, it will have been 2½ years that I have been alone and I want to go home and be with my family for a bit."

Until then, father and daughter are spending as much time together as they can. "What we're hoping to accomplish is to encourage Israelis living abroad to come here to do their duty for the IDF and for Jewish people in Canada to be more supportive of Israel," Dov says.

"I don't think it's important what you do or how you do it, just that you do it. Jewish people need to support Israel. This is the time. There is never a better time than now."

Report: Iran establishes unit to recruit suicide bombers

By YOAV STERN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Iran has set up a new unit to recruit suicide bombers from around the world, the London-based Arabic newspaper *A-Shark al-Awsat* reported last week.

According to the report, the secretary-general of the new unit began by drawing up a list of names of people who support suicide attacks in Iraq, Lebanon and the Palestinian territories.

The newspaper reported that the bureau, called "The martyrs of the resurrection of the Islamic world," replaces a unit of the Iranian Republican Guard that was known as the "department for the revolutionary freedom movements."

The report says those behind the establishment of the unit are extremist Islamists members of the Iranian regime who are opposed to the moderate steps taken by President Mohammed Khatami.

Hollinger Group fires *Jerusalem Post* CEO

By ANAT BALINT
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Hollinger International, the owner of the *Jerusalem Post*, fired the paper's publisher and CEO Thomas Rose last week after months of turmoil for Israel's first English-language daily.

The decision to fire Rose comes ahead of the expected sale of the newspaper in the coming weeks and may indicate a dramatic change in direction for the paper, which has had a dedicated right-wing slant for a decade.

Mark Ziman, the *Post*'s chief financial officer, has replaced Rose, although the appointment is expected to be temporary until a buyer is found for the paper.

Two groups in the running to buy the paper are the Israeli-American media giant Haim Saban, and the Canadian media organization CanWest, founded by the late Jewish Canadian media magnate Izzy Asper and run by his sons, David and Leonard.

Rose's termination comes after his six years as publisher of the *Post*, which have been marked by endless conflicts with senior editors and journalists, especially after Bret Stephens joined the paper as editor-in-chief two years ago.

Last week, Stephens met with the interim CEO of the Hollinger group, Gordon Paris, and briefed him on the situation at the paper, after which Rose was given notice.

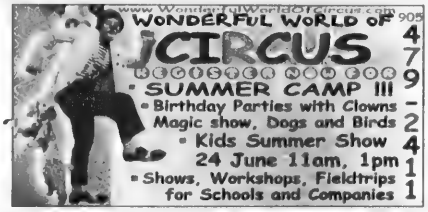
Changes at the *Post* come against the background of the shock waves at Hollinger International, which is now up for sale. The crisis began in November, after Hollinger uncovered financial irregularities and brought its audit committee into a special probe of the company.

The Toronto-based and NYSE-listed company was already under fire from shareholders for its complex corporate structure and executive compensation. Hollinger CEO Conrad Black resigned in November and the company removed him as chairman in January.

In March, he was stripped of his post as chairman at the British Telegraph Group, whose papers include the *Daily Telegraph*, the *Sunday Telegraph* and the *Spectator* magazine.

Rose said last week he was sure Ziman would deal successfully with the challenges at the *Post*.

Amotz Asael, the acting editor of the *Post*, said people at the paper view Rose's departure as the end of six traumatic years and look forward to a new era of financial, political and psychological stability.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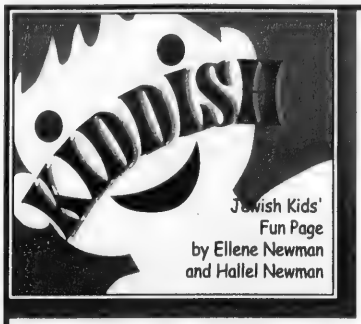

Cabbages

"I'm so nervous, Saul! I've never eaten at the rabbi's house before."

"Jacob, what are you afraid of? Rabbi Akiva has been our teacher for years now. You're close with him."

"But still, I feel...oh, I don't know. I guess you're right."

Saul and Jacob continued down the cobblestone road that led to Rabbi Akiva's house, accompanied by around 50 other students.

"Jacob!" rang out a voice behind them. Jacob turned around, and saw Azarya, another student in their class. "I've never been to the Rabbi's before," he said excitedly. "I can't wait! Is this your first time too?"

"Yes, it is."

"My older brother told me that the food there is amazing. And the house itself! It's a virtual palace!"

"Are you serious? Wow, I can't wait either," said Jacob enthusiastically. "The food had better be as good as you say. I'm really hungry."

"That's what you're going for? Food?" demanded Saul incredulously. "MY brother told ME that as wonderful as the food is, the 'words of wisdom the rabbi says after the meal are the crown of the evening.' You know what else he told me? 'Just watching the rabbi eat is in itself a lesson in politeness.'"

"OK, I didn't say I'm NOT going for that too. How soon will we be there?"

"That's his house right there."

"Really? That house? You're right, it does look a palace!" gasped Jacob. "In fact, it IS a palace!"

"Not so loud, the rabbi might hear you."

Rabbi Akiva stood in the doorway, welcoming his students. "Leave your coats over there," he directed, and led the way into the dining room.

Jacob gaped in awe at the high-ceilinged chamber, lavishly decorated with ornate draperies and beautiful tapestries. The large table in the middle seemed dwarfed by the immensity of it all. The students washed their hands and silently took their places at the table.

Servants brought in trays of bread. Jacob ate only a little. He was waiting for the good stuff he had been promised.

The servants reappeared, bearing plates of...cabbage? *Cabbage?*

Jacob couldn't believe it. And it wasn't even fully cooked! The outside was soft enough to eat, but the inner part was so tough he couldn't even cut off a piece.

Saul looked surprised too. After futilely trying to cut his cabbage, he resigned himself to a meal of bread.

Bread? thought Jacob. *That's all I'm going to have tonight?* He decided to try cutting the cabbage again. It was a hopeless endeavour.

Then he noticed some other students gnawing on their cabbage. *Hey, that's a good idea!* realized Jacob. He picked up the cabbage and tried to bite off a chunk.

"My sons," laughed Rabbi Akiva. "That's not the way to eat raw cabbage! For maximum leverage, you're going to have to stomp on it while you bite!"

Jacob dropped his cabbage, humiliated.

Rabbi Akiva snapped his fingers. Once again the servants entered, but this time they were bent under the weight of huge trays of roasted lamb.

Jacob forgot his embarrassment as he started to eat, discovering to his delight that the meat was fully cooked.

Rabbi Akiva's eyes twinkled. "I'm sorry if I embarrassed some of you. I just wanted to make sure all my students know how to eat like civilized human beings. Well, at least you do now!"

Rabbi Akiva was born in Israel about 2,000 years ago to a poor family that had converted to Judaism. Although he didn't learn to read until he was 40 years old, he immersed himself in study for many years, and became the greatest Torah scholar of his time. This story was adapted from Derech Eretz Rabbah 7.

Hidden Pictures

Can you find all eight objects hidden in the picture?

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Write to us at ENewman613@aol.com

CJ Kids

We hear God's word in many ways

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Everybody knows that animals can't talk. At least, real ones can't. It's fun to hear them speak, argue and sing in movies and books, though, isn't it?

Artists can make animals talk for pretend, but sometimes, it seems, God can really do it.

The Angel and the Donkey, by Katherine Paterson with illustrations by Alexander Koshkin (Clarion Books, 1996), tells the story of a donkey belonging to a soothsayer (that's like a fortune teller) named Balaam, who lived in a city called Pethor. When someone wanted to wish for good luck for himself or for someone else, or for bad luck for an enemy, he called for Balaam.

Balaam would come with his donkey, and for a fee (it was his job, you see), he would do what you wanted him to.

At the time of the story, the Israelites had escaped from Egypt where they had been slaves (you remember the story from the Haggadah that we read on Pesach). They were wandering in the desert, when they came near the land of Moab.

The king of Moab was a very powerful king, but when he heard that the Israelites, led by Moses, were coming near and would demand safe passage through his country, he panicked.

He decided to call Balaam to curse them, so that his army would be able to defeat them.

Although Balaam had a dream in which an angel warned him that God didn't want him to curse the Israelites, he decided (for a very large fee) to go anyway.

Balaam started off on his trip, riding on his donkey. Suddenly, the donkey, who had always been co-operative and obedient, started to act up. He kept swerving off the path, squeezed Balaam against a wall, and finally sat down and refused to move.

The soothsayer kept beating him with a stick, but nothing helped. All of a sudden, the donkey started talking. As you can imagine, Balaam was a little surprised. The donkey showed him that an angel, the same one who had appeared in Balaam's dream, was "guarding the narrow passage with a great flaming sword in his hand."

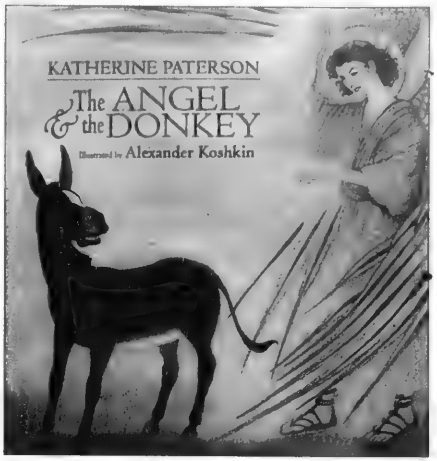
The angel ordered Balaam to go to the king, but only to say what God told him to.

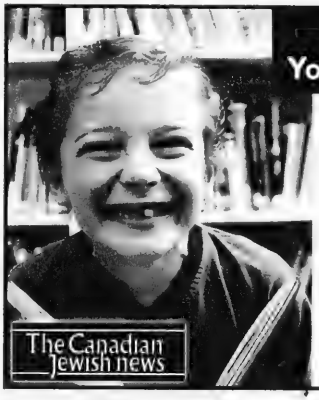
Instead of the curses Balak wanted from him, Balaam could only bless the Israelites. In fact, the angel said, "Blessed is everyone who blesses them, and cursed is everyone who curses them."

Needless to say, Balak was absolutely furious, especially when Balaam said, "Behold, a star shall rise out of Jacob, and a sceptre shall rise out of Israel. It shall crush the boundaries of Moab." That's not the kind of thing a king likes to hear.

The colours and pictures in this book are wonderful – strong reds and greens and blues, and more delicate browns and earth tones. The angel is especially beautiful, in bright gold, scarlet and yellow.

Balaam had a dream in which an angel warned him that God didn't want him to curse the Israelites





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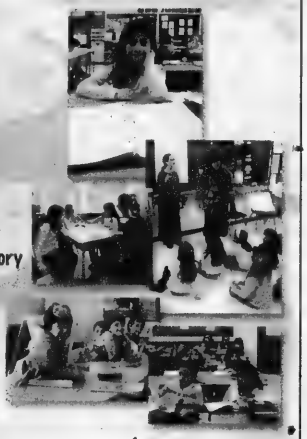

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Documentary recounts the life of great photojournalist Robert Capa

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Robert Capa was a crack photojournalist, one of the best of the best, and this year marks the 50th anniversary of his untimely death.

Capa's stark, dispassionate, velvety photographs of pre-war Berlin and Paris, of the Spanish Civil War and of the battles of World War II and the Arab-Israeli conflict, set the gold standard.

Steven Spielberg said he had Capa in mind when he was plotting out pivotal scenes for *Saving Private Ryan*, his powerful movie about the 1944 Allied invasion of Nazi-occupied France.

Capa, whose technical skills and esthetic sensibilities were on a par with those of the renowned French photographer Henri Cartier Bresson, is the subject of Anne Makepeace's intriguing biopic and celebration of his relatively brief life, *Robert Capa: In Love and War*. It will be aired by TVOntario on June 10 at 10 p.m.

Born in Budapest as Andre Friedman, Capa left Hungary to 1930 to pursue a newspaper reporting career in Berlin. A leftist, his goal was "to fight fascism with words."

He arrived in Berlin desperately poor, with nothing more than a camera and a surfeit of hope in his possession. He did not become a reporter, but through sheer persistence, he landed a job with Dephot, the famous newsreel company.

On his first assignment, Capa's strongly vertical photographs of Leon Trotsky, the banished Soviet politician, were widely published. But his career in Germany fizzled when the Nazis assumed power.

Fleeing to Paris, Capa found himself at a loss. No one would hire him. His girlfriend, Gerda Taro, a Jewish refugee from Germany, found a practical solution. She submitted his photographs under an assumed name: Robert Capa. The inference seems to be that, with a surname like Friedman, he had no chance of success.

The ploy worked. Capa was soon in demand. "It's like being reborn," he wrote his beloved mother.

Capa's iconic photograph of a soldier toppling backwards after being fatally shot during a battle in the Spanish Civil War established him once and for all.

In the next few years, Capa covered the Japanese invasion of China, the German bombing of London and the Allied campaigns in Sicily, Tunisia and France. Appearing in *Life* magazine, his riveting photographs highlighted mud, misery and death.

Robert Capa accompanied the first wave of American soldiers on the beaches of Normandy.

Personally courageous, Capa accompanied the first wave of American troops who stormed Omaha Beach in Normandy and parachuted into the Rhine Valley with a group of intrepid commandos.

For Capa, the most important moment of the war was the liberation of Paris in the summer of 1944.

He was 32.

Capa, a confirmed bachelor, had a steamy affair with the sultry Swedish actress Ingrid Bergman soon after the war. When he met her, she had just won an Academy Award for her performance in George Cukor's *Gaslight*.

According to Bergman's daughter, Isabella, she was ready to marry Capa at the drop of a hat. But he was not "the marrying kind." And besides, he loathed Hollywood's artifice.

In 1947, Capa and a few associates formed the Magnum Agency. Its photographs were published far and wide and burnished Capa's reputation as a craftsman of the first degree.

Capa, having lost relatives and friends during the Holocaust, turned up in Tel Aviv to record the British departure from Palestine and David Ben-Gurion's declaration of Israeli statehood. Done with that, he produced a series of expressive photographs of Jews battling Arabs in the Negev.

Toward the close of his stay in Israel, a bullet pierced his thigh during a skirmish in Tel Aviv. He promised himself he would never again cover another war, but this was just rhetoric.

Capa's fortunes declined when the United States, at the height of the McCarthyist hysterics, withdrew his passport, making it impossible for him to travel abroad on assignments. Capa, having gone to the Soviet Union for a magazine, was accused of being a Communist sympathizer.

Retaining the services of a smart, expensive lawyer, he managed to extricate himself from this mess.

In 1954, breaking a promise to himself, he travelled to Vietnam to cover the war there. During a routine patrol with the French army, he strayed off a well-marked path and stepped on a land mine. He thereby became the first U.S. war correspondent to be killed in Vietnam.

Capa left behind a portfolio of 70,000 negatives – indelible, imperishable photographs of times and places history has not forgotten.

In the annals of commercial photography, he was clearly a giant.

The Canadian Jewish news

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Wednesday, June 16, 2004, 7:30 p.m.

The Barbara Frum Library Auditorium, 20 Covington Road

Lachan choir presents early Hebrew art music

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Rarely performed music from the 12th to the early 19th century will be featured at "Baroque & Beyond," a concert presented by Lachan, Toronto's Jewish chamber choir June 8, 8 p.m., at Leah Posluns Theatre in the Bathurst JCC, 4588 Bathurst St.

"This concert is a celebration of early Hebrew art music," says Cantor Benjamin Maissner of Holy Blossom Temple, conductor and music director of the Lachan choir, which was formed in 1993 by a group of experienced, Toronto-based musicians.

Maissner says there is a relatively small area between Rome and Milan and between Genoa and Venice, where "from the 14th century through the 16th century, there was an efflorescence of genius, of vitality and versatility, coupled with a universality of esthetic expression such as the world has perhaps never known at any other time. This dazzling process was the Italian Renaissance."

During this period, this area was the seat of numerous Jewish communities. In a liberal atmosphere, he notes, Jews were affected in an exceptional degree by the prevailing literary, artistic and humanistic tendencies. This had an influence on the music of this period.

One of the Jewish musical figures of the Renaissance period was Salamone Rossi, violinist and composer at the court of Mantua from 1587 to 1628.

Some 200 years later, Baron de Rothschild, on a trip to Italy, stumbled on a strange collection of old music books bearing the name Salamone Rossi Hebreo. He handed the music over to the cantor of the Great Synagogue of Paris, and in 1876, the first modern edition of Rossi's music was published.

Other composers represented at the upcoming concert include Abraham Cassares, Louis Saladin and Carlos Grossi.

Nadia Adler, pianist, arranger and editor, will accompany the choir. Adler, who came to Toronto in 1990, has worked with Lachan since its inception. She holds a master's degree in musicology and journalism from the Moscow Conservatory.

Also on the program will be Nota Bene, a 10-piece orchestra that will use authentic Baroque instruments. Based in Kitchener-Waterloo, Nota Bene performs exclusively with period instruments under the direction of Dan Zondervan.

Soloists performing the early Hebrew art music will be Cantor Gershon Silins of Temple Sinai and Cantor Anna Trubashnik of Temple Emanuel. Bassoonist David Klausner, who has played with the Toronto Symphony and Montreal Symphony orchestras, will be featured. He is an English professor at the University of Toronto and the director of the university's centre for medieval studies.

Ben Steinberg, composer, conductor and lecturer, and the composer-in-residence at Temple Sinai, will narrate the concert and provide the background information about this unique period in the history of Jewish composers.

Tickets are $25. For more information about the concert or to purchase tickets, call 416-782-3241 or e-mail www.lachan.org.

'Lapsed Catholic' wins Jewish Book prize

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

Many novelists write fiction as though it were thinly disguised autobiography, said Kate Taylor, author of *Mme. Proust and the Kosher Kitchen*, as she accepted the Martin and Beatrice Fischer fiction prize and a $1,000 cheque last week at the Jewish Book Awards ceremony in North York.

"That's how I came, as a lapsed Catholic, to be writing a novel about Jews and Protestants," said the Toronto-based author, who is a *Globe and Mail* arts writer currently on maternity leave.

Since the novel has numerous Jewish characters, including the mother of French writer Marcel Proust, Taylor told *The CJN* one of her biggest challenges was to accurately depict Jewish customs and the Jewish community of postwar Toronto, where the book is partially set.

"It was very important for me to get that right, obviously, and recognition with a Jewish book award is a wonderful confirmation that I did get that right," she said.

A total of nine awards were handed out during the ceremony, which filled the Leah Posluns Theatre almost to capacity. As a highlight, Toronto author-journalist Arlene Perly Rae read a section from Taylor's novel dealing with problems around home-catering a kosher wedding.

At a catered reception afterwards, audience members schmoozed with authors and got them to autograph copies of their books.

"It was very nice," said Montreal journalist Joel Yanofsky, who won the biography/memoir prize for *Mordecai & Me: An Appreciation of a Kind* (Red Deer Press). "I spoke with people who had met Mordecai Richler and had anecdotes to tell about him."

As in previous years, Holocaust themes dominated the evening. Five of the nine winning titles, including two aimed specifically at young readers, deal specifically with some aspect or aspects of the Shoah.

Lillian Boraks-Nemetz and Irene N. Watts won the Yad Vashem Holocaust studies prize for editing *Tapestry of Hope: Holocaust Writing for Young People* (Tundra). Yad Vashem representative Dr. Joel Dimitry praised the anthology as "an extraordinary tapestry of writing" that was equally accessible to non-Jewish and Jewish children.

The prize in Holocaust literature went to Ruth Mandel for her book of poetry, *How to Tell Your Children About the Holocaust* (McGilligan), which is also geared for young readers.

As MC Adam Fuerstenberg explained, its title initially gave members of the awards committee the wrong impression about its contents.

"When we first saw this book, we said, 'We don't have a category for how-to books or for psychology,'" he said. "But when we opened it, each of us was deeply moved by it."

The prize in children's literature went to Aubrey Davis for his popular volume *Bagels From Benny* (Kids Can Press). The award was sponsored by *The Canadian Jewish News*, a first-time sponsor of the Jewish Book Awards.

The Holocaust memoir prize went to Henry G. Schogt for *The Curtain: Witness and Memory in Wartime Holland* (Wilfrid Laurier University Press).

Continued on page 36

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

MICHAEL BURGESS, ZEMMER SINGERS & ISRAELI HEROES HEADLINE BEIT HALOCHEM CONCERT, JUNE 3

"A Celebration of Life," the annual benefit concert for Beit Halochem Canada, features **Israeli Heroes**, **the Zemmer Singers** and special guest **Michael Burgess**. Proceeds go to aid disabled veterans of Israel. Tickets $50 and $100. Toronto Centre for the Arts, Main Hall, 5040 Yonge St., North York. Thursday, June 3, 7:30 p.m. 416-787-8950.

* * *

Bloomsday Centenary: Devotees of *Ulysses* will be "re-Joycing" this month at the 100th anniversary of Leopold Bloom's fictitious pub crawl through Dublin on the weekend of June 16, 1904, in the famous novel by **James Joyce**. Several events have been organized in Toronto to celebrate the occasion.

In "Bloom's Dublin – Bloomusalem," raconteur **Theo Garb**, who like Bloom is a Dublin Jew, tells his hilarious story of growing up Jewish in Dublin. The evening also includes a screening of *Shalom Ireland*, a documentary film about Jewish life in Ireland by **Valerie Lappin Ganley**, followed by a discussion. Adults $12. Studio Theatre, 235 Queens Quay, Harbourfront. June 14, 8 p.m.

Dress up in your bowlers, boaters and big hats for "Bloom On The Beaches," a joyous re-creation of Joyce's *Ulysses* with Toronto's Beach neighbourhood substituting for Dublin. Actors, musicians and singers lead a free literary and musical walkabout on June 16, 8:30 a.m. to noon, with readings at various venues and a concert at Kew Beach bandstand at 10:30 a.m. Assemble at Queen Car terminus at Neville Park at 8:30 a.m.

Readings from *Ulysses* take place at Chapters, 110 Bloor St. W., from 2 to 2:30 p.m.

On the evening of June 16, the "Bloomsday Gala" – "a rollicking, ribald, irreverent yet elegant Edwardian soiree" – features "dramatized readings from Joyce, parlour music, opera, ballads and a sing-along, performed by a superlative cast of actors, singers and musicians." Tickets $25 (including reception). St. Lawrence Hall, 157 King St. E. at Jarvis. 8p.m. 416-365-7877. www.pathcom.com/~livia

* * *

Strad in the Attic: If you have a violin, piano, guitar or other instrument collecting dust in your basement or attic, the Royal Conservatory of Music would like to hear from you. Instead of being neglected, donated instruments will be lovingly restored and placed into the hands of deserving students, to be played and treasured by a new generation of talented musicians.

Since it was launched last September, the Conservatory's "Strad in the Attic" program has already attracted instruments collectively worth more than $100,000, according to administrator David Visentin. Gifts so far include two Steinway grand pianos, a 300-year-old Amati violin from Italy, two 19th-century German cellos and a century-old European double bass and German accordian. Donors receive a tax receipt based on current market value as appraised by an independent local expert. Contact Visentin at 416-408-2824 ext. 725, or e-mail davidv@rcmusic.ca

* * *

Names in the News: As reported in last week's column, actor-director **Richard Benjamin** was a special guest at both the Toronto and Vancouver Jewish film festivals in May. In Vancouver, Benjamin and wife **Paula Prentiss** attended a screening of *My Favorite Year*, his 1982 directorial debut starring **Peter O'Toole**. Other big names to grace the Vancouver fest included **Dr. Roberta Bondar**, Canada's first woman in space, who introduced *The First Israeli in Space*, director **Neil Weisbrod's** homage to astronaut **Ilan Ramon**; and Canadian film director **Ted Kotcheff**, who attended a screening of his flick *Joshua Then and Now* based on the novel by **Mordecai Richler**... Speaking of Canada's jewel on the Pacific, Vancouverites get a rare opportunity next week to hear **Neshama Carlebach**, talented daughter of the legendary **Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach**, in a concert sponsored by the Or Shalom Community. Possessing her father's gifts for soul singing and storytelling, the charismatic performer appears at the Vancouver Rowing Club, Stanley Park on June 13, with tax-receipted tickets going for $75, students $36 (604-603-9262).

* * *

Arts in Brief

• Submissions are invited for this year's $5,000 Reform Judaism Prize for Jewish Fiction. The competition is open to authors of novels or short-story collections on a Jewish theme published in English in the United States or Canada between Jan. 1, 2003, and June 15, 2004. Application deadline is June 15. Details at www.urj.org/rjprize or 212-650-4221.

* * *

At the Galleries

• More than 500 artists are participating in the 43rd annual Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition in Nathan Phillips Square, Toronto City Hall, July 9, 10 and 11. Rain or shine. 416-408-2754.

• One hundred paintings, watercolours, pastels and prints by **J.M.W. Turner**, **James McNeill Whistler** and **Claude Monet** go on view in the exclusive exhibition "Turner, Whistler, Monet: Impressionist Visions." Art Gallery of Ontario, June 12 to Sept. 12.

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Profile

Lewi still affected by the horrors of Argentina's Dirty War

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Adriana Victoria Lewi was an infant in diapers when masked intruders abducted her beloved parents, Claudio and Ana Maria, in Buenos Aires in the autumn of 1978.

She never saw them again, and thereby hangs a tragic tale, recounted in a new documentary film, *Looking for Victoria: An Argentine Story*, screened at last month's Toronto Jewish Film Festival.

After gunmen burst into their apartment-cum hiding place, Claudio and Ana Maria, fervent opponents of the military junta that had seized power on March 24, 1976, were whisked away to a secret detention centre – one of hundreds scattered throughout the country – and interrogated, tortured and killed.

By all accounts, they were thrown out of an airplane after having been sedated, a cruel and unusual punishment the regime reserved for its most ardent, incorrigible enemies.

When they were kidnapped, Claudio was 23 and Ana Maria was 27, he a Jew and she a Catholic. As well as being science students at the University of Buenos Aires, they were members of the Monteneros, a far-left revolutionary group dedicated to the overthrow of the right-wing dictatorship.

The young, attractive couple, who were married about a month after the coup d'etat in Argentina, disappeared during the so-called Dirty War – the concerted campaign launched by the government to wipe out left-wing terrorism and crush political dissidents.

Human rights organizations estimate that between 9,000 to 30,000 Argentineans vanished without a trace during this terrible, turbulent period. The abductees were known as the *desaparecidos*. Upwards of 2,000 were Jewish.

Adriana Lewi was 18 months old when Claudio and Ana Maria were seized. She was turned over to her mother's parents, Juan Carlos and Victoria Sonder.

The Sonders, embarrassed by their daughter's association with the Monteneros and cowed by the repressive atmosphere of the day, passed their granddaughter off as their niece and never spoke about the events that rendered Lewi an orphan in literally one fell swoop.

"They were afraid," said Lewi, now a grown woman of 27, in an interview to promote *Looking for Victoria*, directed by Ton Vriens.

Claudio's parents, Cesar and Paulina, did not raise the subject either.

Although Lewi eventually learned of her parents' fate, she tried to repress their memory, pushing it into the deepest recesses of her mind.

But the impact of their gruesome deaths had a profound impact on her. "I didn't have a normal childhood. I was different."

Loneliness was her constant companion and crying fits were her demons. Nightmares roused Lewi from sleep and fellow pupils at school, being aware of her family history, generally shunned her.

At 12, she ran away from her grandparents, who had brought her up as a Catholic."They were really tough and mean to me," she said. "It was too hard living with them."

Lewi, who had a much better relationship with her paternal Jewish grandparents, found refuge in her mother's brother's home for the next four years. When she was 17, she left her uncle's home. Shortly afterward, she met Pablo, her boyfriend with whom she had a son, Frederico, now four years old. They were together for about a decade, until Pablo committed suicide.

During all these years, Lewi never came to terms with the enormity of her tragedy. "I was afraid I wouldn't be able to digest it all," she mused. "In Argentina, for many years, it was too dangerous to speak of this era."

In 2001, 18 years after democracy had been restored in Argentina and a national commission had been appointed to investigate the *desaparecidos*, she broke her silence. She told her story to an Israeli commission in Buenos Aires studying the Dirty War. "I needed to talk for the sake of my sanity."

Then she met Vriens, a New York-based Dutch filmmaker who had taken an interest in the Dirty War and hoped to make a film about it.

Vriens, who describes Lewi as "strong and feisty" and as "a real survivor," convinced her to face the past unflinchingly. "I was ready to help him. I was not afraid any more."

With Vriens constantly at her side, Lewi set out to determine what kind of individuals her parents had been and how they had spent their last months in captivity.

"She wondered whether they loved their ideology more than they loved her," said Vriens. "She discovered they loved her deeply."

Lewi, having met her parents' old friends, learned they had been Marxian idealists. In the film, a former Montenero fighter is quoted as saying that Claudio and Ana Maria dreamed of "a better world" and were not averse to using violence within the framework of an armed insurrection to achieve their utopian objectives. The movie claims that Claudio, a student of physics, built a bomb and ignited it in a failed attempt to kill a general.

Adriana Victoria Lewi holds a photograph of her late father, Claudio.

"They were fighting against oppression and poverty," Lewi said in an expression of understanding for her father's desperation. "They were trying to make people stand up for their rights."

As she plumbed deeper into their lives, Lewi also learned her atheistic parents would not have raised her as a Catholic and would have allowed her to choose her own faith had she been of a religious bent.

Today, she does not regard herself as a Catholic. "For the moment, I'm a woman of the world." But seconds later, she amended her statement. "I consider myself Jewish. I know I have a Jewish background, and I'm proud of it."

Last year, she was invited to attend a ceremony in Israel commemorating the *desaparecidos*, but she declined.

"I wanted to go, but it was shortly after Paulo's death, and I was depressed and having panic attacks," said Lewi, who, as a single mother, barely supports herself as a painter and graphic artist.

Still awakened by nightmares once or twice a week, Lewi believes Argentina has fallen far short of bringing full closure to the Dirty War era. "The persecutors have been set free. How can I be pleased with that? I want these people to be sent to prison. But in Argentina, you never know."

Though she was awarded a modest stipend by the government in recognition of her suffering, Lewi remains completely outraged by the crimes of that bygone but unforgotten epoch, which tore a deep gash in Argentina's body politic.

As a result, she is seriously considering the possibility of suing her parents' torturers. "They are free. I know their names."

Lewi is pleased that Argentina's current president, Nestor Kirchner, has decided to convert the Naval Mechanics School – the site of many of that era's abuses – into a Museum of Memory in honor of the *desaparecidos*.

It comes as no surprise to her that the United States condoned the junta's bloody campaign.

Declassified U.S. State Department documents reveal that the then U.S. secretary of state, Henry Kissinger, gave the Argentine generals the green light to launch a war against leftist terrorists and their sympathizers.

"The military system was tolerated by the United States," she said. "I'm angry with them."

She has nothing but praise for *Looking for Victoria*. "I liked it. I have a good feeling about it. We've had great feedback."

But the film has yet to be shown in Argentina. "We don't know when it will be screened," said Vriens. "People, in a way, are sick and tired of this era. It is not something they want to look into. Fear haunts Argentina. The torturers are still walking around."

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Stories set in Israel of at least a generation ago

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

Darkness, the fourth story in Avner Mandelman's new collection *Cuckoo*, tells the story of an Israeli woman who opposes her sister's romance with a Yemenite Jew and attains a Yemenite black-magic remedy to put an end to the match.

Told in the first person by the woman's young son, this short and simple reminiscence seems as charming and pregnant with possibilities as any of the masterful pieces in Isaac Bashevis Singer's *In My Father's Court*.

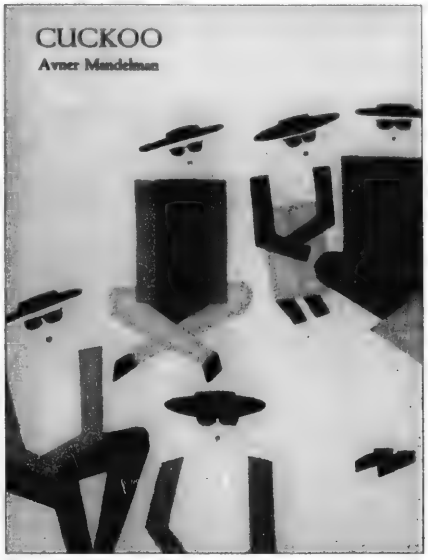
When I first read *Darkness*, the ending baffled me. After reading the story again, I called Mandelman, hoping he might illuminate it for me.

"Who knows? It's a mystery," he said. "I can guess how to resolve it, but my guess is as good as yours."

Like all 10 of the stories in *Cuckoo*, *Darkness* is set in the Israel of at least a generation ago: Mandelman was born there in 1947, served in the air force in the late 1960s (including during the Six Day War) and moved to Canada in 1973. A stock market speculator living in Toronto, he's also a prize-winning short-story writer who's been published in an impressive variety of publications.

A previous collection, *Talking to the Enemy*, won the Jewish Book Award for fiction.

Mandelman's tales usually rely on an irrepressible first-person narrator, often a son or nephew of the central character, who effervescently relates a series of remarkable happenings almost too incredible to be believed. Many revolve around relationship conundrums or triangles and quickly gather complications. The author is clearly fond of comically mismatched romances and entanglements of the sort found in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.



In *Mish-Mash*, the initial problem is stated in the opening line: "In 1958 my uncle Nathan Berkovitch married two women and went to live with them both in Haifa until, a year after the weddings, a delegate from Haifa's rabbinate caught up with him because of an anonymous snitch, and told him he must divorce one of the two or go to jail."

In this story, the comic reversals, revelations and plot convolutions spill into a rabbinical beit din and threaten somehow to undo centuries of rabbinical decisions: "Before long there was shouting and screaming, accusations and counter-accusations and digging up of ancient quarrels, and also, shame to admit, tearing of hair, and even fisticuffs."

Ultimately a legendary rabbi possessing Solomonic wisdom puts a brilliant end to this seemingly impossible dispute.

Mandelman is clearly an expert at developing complex plots and then resolving them by clever and often funny means. In *Cuckoo* (the title story) and *Take-Down*, both of which appeared earlier in the *Parchment* journal of Canadian Jewish literature, he utilizes this formula to achieve the usual dynamic and comic results, which sometimes verge on farce.

His concern with Jewish Halachah, ritual, custom, sayings and superstition is never more evident than in stories like *Curse* and *Dybbuk*, which centre around aspects of Jewish magical and mystical lore. In a few instances, however, his compression of and cleverness with plot detract from the characterizations. Since Avraham Schlein, the lead character in *Dybbuk*, seems little more than an empty cipher, is it any wonder he becomes possessed?

Two stories reveal a markedly different form. Told entirely through dialogue, *Authorization* focuses on the closed hearing of a special operative in Israel's secret service who has decided, for humanitarian reasons, not to take down a terrorist as planned. *Og*, told in the "objective" style of third-person narration, is a historical-biblical sketch about Israel's use of an alien army to commit barbaric acts. Is this a tale of ancient hypocrisy or a modern allegory? Your guess is as good as mine.

Mandelman, who earned a creative writing degree from San Francisco State University in 1993, said he can knock off a short story in a surprisingly short time. "A couple of hours or a day – it's not difficult," he said. "It's like brain surgery. You have to study 15 years first, but then the operation takes only three hours."

Getting published, however, is not always that easy. After he received a cheque from an Israeli publisher for a first novel, the publisher's female editors and translators objected strongly to some of his characters, but the author refused to make changes. "The chief editor called me and said, 'I have a rebellion on my hands. Keep the money and take back the book.'"

The experience has left him somewhat wary, he said. "The problem is, if you really agitate the reader, you also agitate the editor, and then it gets difficult finding a publisher."

Although he's presently finishing a second novel, he isn't about to give up his day job as a money manager. "I do this to supplement my writing income," he said. "Writing pays about seven cents an hour. I'm about six-foot-six and I need to eat, so I have to work."

Cuckoo, by Avner Mandelman, was published by Oberon Press. The hardcover edition sells for $38.95, the softcover for $18.95.

Simchovitch wins prize for Yiddish writing

Continued from page 33

The prize for scholarship on a Jewish subject went to Loren Lerner, editor of *Afterimage: Evocations of the Holocaust in Contemporary Canadian Arts and Literature*, published by the Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies at Concordia University.

Simcha Simchovitch won the prize for writing in Yiddish and in Yiddish translation for two books: *Dem Netzach Antkegn: Gezamlte Lider*, and *Out of the Abyss: Collected Poems* (Simchovitch Book Fund).

The poetry prize went to Merle Nudelman for her first volume, *Borrowed Light* (Guernica), which Fuerstenberg described as "a collection that is full of Yiddishkeit and love for Jewish tradition."

Fuerstenberg, who founded the Jewish Book Awards 16 years ago, was unaware that a 10th prize was to be awarded. Committee member Bernard Katz presented him with a trophy commemorating "his many outstanding contributions to Jewish books and literature."

Although the former Ryerson literature professor and current director of the Holocaust Centre of Toronto says he's ready to step down as chair of the book awards, he's still bursting with ideas about its future. For one thing, he'd like to see it raise an endowment of $1 million, so it can offer the sort of large prizes that make headlines and generate excitement. (At present, most winners receive a cheque for $500 or $1,000.)

The need to give recognition and support to Canada's isolated Diaspora of Jewish writers is paramount, Fuerstenberg said.

"Writers can't work in a vacuum. They need response. They need to see a reaction. And the reaction teaches them for the next work."

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Breast cancer survivor creates elegant fashion concept

By ELAINE COHEN
Business and Supplements Co-ordinator

MONTREAL – For a woman who has undergone a masectomy, finding an appropriate negligee can be daunting.

"There is no problem finding a bra or bathing suit that has pockets for prostheses," says native Montrealer Ann Silverstone, a breast cancer survivor.

"If the bra is worn under clothing, it looks fine and nobody can tell the difference."

Nevertheless, Silverstone, 51, laments about the dearth of alluring lingerie. "Lingerie in general is either see-through or has a place for two breasts. Most styles have to be pulled over the head and that's a strain after surgery."

Determined to overcome this obstacle, Silverstone invented a new fashion concept. She coined it the "Notti" and it's more than just lingerie.

"The Notti allows you to feel sexy without having to wear a prosthesis simply by its styling and material," Silverstone says. "After all, who wants to wear a prosthesis when they are being intimate?"

The one-piece soft, body-hugging Notti is mid-thigh length. It flatters the figure. Whether the woman has undergone a mastectomy or has other esthetic concerns, the Notti is pleasing to the eye and feels luxurious.

The washable fabric is a nylon-spandex blend. The garment is manufactured in Canada and is available online. The Notti ranges in size from extra small to extra large. Consumers have a choice of colours and styles. For information, visit the website (http://www.nottiwear.com) or phone (613) 299-3194.

"It's meant for intimate relations with your partner," Silverstone says. "It's an even playing field because any woman can wear a Notti. What's more, she can leave it on during intimacy."

The Notti ties over one shoulder. The term Notti has a few connotations. Notti is a play on words for "naughty." It ties in a "knot." Notti also means "nights" in Italian.

Diagnosed with breast cancer in 2001, Silverstone had a radical lumpectomy followed by chemotherapy. Seven months later, she had a mastectomy and radiation.

Silverstone points out that most of the literature and discussions about sexual intimacy after a mastectomy focus on two issues. One is having a communicative and understanding partner and the other is accepting your new body. What she didn't find was advice on how to "feel" sexy with a scar and a missing breast.

"My husband was extremely supportive and very understanding right from the start," Silverstone relates. "I was the one with the problem. The Notti solved the problem. It enabled me to keep my scar covered, be comfortable and feel sexy all at the same time."

As founder of Feel Sexy Again, Silverstone says it's gratifying to receive positive feedback from women of all ages. Initially, Silverstone fashioned the Notti for herself. "It worked so well for me that I decided to share my secret, so others could benefit." Without any corporate backing, Silverstone founded Feel Sexy Again, through which she sells her lingerie.

Silverstone resides in Ottawa with her husband, Jack, and their three children, ages 12-22. Trained in social work, she served two years as director of Hillel campuses for the University of Ottawa, Carleton University and Algonquin College.

Now that she has launched Feel Sexy Again, Silverstone is busy honing her business skills. Recently, she presented her "Notti" to cancer support groups in Ontario.

About Nutrition

By LISA WEINBERG

Q. I know olive oil is heart healthy. What type should I buy?

A. Buy extra virgin olive oil for use in salad dressings, on veggies, etc., because it has the most flavour. Buy the first-pressed variety (extra virgin) because it is not chemically processed in most cases. Buy olive oil that is produced and bottled in the same country. Note that light olive oil refers only to the colour or flavour. All olive oil is 100 per cent fat and contains 14 grams of fat per tablespoon.

Q. I have been reading a lot about the glycemic index (GI), and I am wondering if brown rice is a much lower GI food than white rice?

A. Actually white rice is very high, but converted rice is lowest, brown and long-grain rice fall in the middle.

Q. I have been buying more organic produce lately. Does it still need to be washed?

A. Absolutely. All fruits and vegetables should be very thoroughly washed before being consumed. Good for you for getting into organics.

Q. I drink two cups of coffee a day and really enjoy it. I am wondering if this is bad for me.

A. The real issue with coffee as I see it is twofold: if you're drinking a lot of coffee, you're not drinking other things like water or milk. Also I always ask my patients this question when they ask if coffee is okay: Could you go a day without it? If you say yes, then you merely enjoy it and it's not so bad. If you say no, then I believe it may be having an alternative effect and should be eliminated. You'll have withdrawal symptoms for about a week and then feel great.

Q. My three-year-old loves milk and I know it's healthy, but I wonder if he's drinking too much. How much is enough?

A. Sixteen ounces or two cups of milk per day will provide the necessary calcium required for children. Drinking much more than that fills kids up and causes them to eat less of other foods. Try to limit his intake to this quantity.

Q. I buy bottled water, but I wonder if what I'm buying is good quality, clean water. What should I look for?

A. The cleanest waters are usually filtered by either reverse osmosis or steamed distilled. Try these.

Lisa Weinberg is a registered dietitian/nutritionist in Toronto, in private practice and at the Genesis Professional Group. If you have any nutrition questions, please send them to The CJN.

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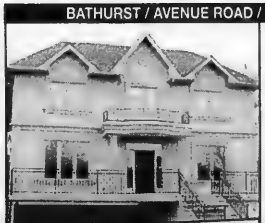

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Majority would go for two-state solution: Nusseibeh

Continued from page 3

Asked whether Palestinians are sincerely ready to come to terms with Israel, Nusseibeh replied, " I'm absolutely convinced there is a latent readiness among Palestinians for a two-state solution. The majority would go for it."

He was asked how Israelis and Palestinians can make the transition from enmity to accommodation.

"We need to generate mutual trust based on a mutual commitment to the same terms of reference. This is where our initiative comes into play. The problem has been a lack of clarity about the end game."

Asked whether he is being naive placing his faith in a campaign that, until now, has amassed but a puny number of signatures, he said,"You're probably right. But it wouldn't be the first time naive people have determined the course of history."

When asked for examples, he was, surprisingly enough, stumped.

He brightened up after being asked whom he speaks for. "The 140,000 Palestinians who signed the petition."

He does not regard the Palestinian demand for a "right of return" as an insuperable obstacle. Palestinians should be able to choose from a menu of alternatives, he remarked.

"They can go to a Palestinian state, be compensated or be provided with the means to live in dignity in their present homes."

Unlike some Palestinians, Nusseibeh is not dogmatic on the imperative for Israel to withdraw to the pre-1967 borders.

"In theory, there should no be room for flexibility on this issue. In practice, there can be land exchanges reached by agreement."

As for the status of the Temple Mount, Nusseibeh said neither Israel nor the Palestinians should exercise sovereignty over it.

"Jerusalem needs to be an open city that will be the capital of both states. A lot of work has to be done to translate that into a reality. It can be done."

In and of itself, the internationally sponsored road map to peace is insufficient, he claimed. "The end game has to be defined more clearly."

Asked why the Palestinian Authority has been lax in cracking down on the contagion of terrorism, Nusseibeh commented, "It's a major story and I don't want to get into it, though I realize it's a question that needs to be answered."

But he added that the ultimate answer to terrorism is a "reasonable solution" that respects the aspirations and requirements of both sides.

In his view, Hamas – the Islamic Resistance Movement – would not be capable of scuttling a peace accord. "But Hamas will become more powerful if there is not an agreement," he warned.

Nusseibeh dismissed a suggestion that a resumption of negotiations could be problematic due to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's refusal to negotiate with Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat.

"Arafat is the elected leader of the Palestinian people, and he has as much electoral legitimacy as any other leader."

Besides, he pointed out, political positions are not immutable. "For every problem there is a solution. Politicians' decisions are subject to change."

He can foresee the day when Sharon would put aside his qualms and negotiate with Arafat.

"I've seen situations where sworn enemies shook hands and came to an agreement," he said, presumably referring to the late Yitzhak Rabin's historic rapprochement with Arafat at the start of the Oslo peace process in 1993.

"This is not a conflict between individuals, but nations. Personalities don't enter into it. I don't see any reason why Sharon won't talk to Arafat."

Nusseibeh appeared encouraged by Sharon's plan for a unilateral Israeli withdrawal from Gaza.

"It's generated a debate among Israelis, which is very helpful. It's also defined some of the major issues and highlighted the need for Israel to withdraw. By itself, it's not sufficient. But it can be a step in the right direction."

He was confident that Sharon will press ahead with his disengagement scheme, the opposition of Likud members notwithstanding.

Nusseibeh was philosophical about the newest wave of violence to engulf the territories – the fighting sparked by Israel's latest raid into Gaza.

"It's a tragedy and I feel extremely pained by what I see happening. Security can't be achieved by force. Security is planted in another person's heart."

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JVS holds annual business awards luncheon

By JESSICA HELLEN
CJN Intern

People who have overcome personal barriers to achieve success in the business world, and Canadian corporations that provide work for people with disadvantages and disabilities were recognied at Jewish Vocational Service of Toronto's (JVS) recent second annual Strictly Business Awards luncheon.

Master of ceremonies, Gord Martineau of CITY TV, presented the awards, including entrepreneur of the year, employee of the year, employer of the year, and awards for inspiration and business leadership.

The entrepreneur of the year award went to Jonathan Vanir, who volunteers for JVS Toronto's CanadaInfoNet e-mentorship program. He used the program before he came to Canada, after moving to China from Israel.

With the help of his mentor, Vanir set up a retail furniture store, Ante, in July 2003.

He is now passing on his skills by helping other newcomers to Canada.

Tracy Chen, who received the employee of the year award, participated in JVS Toronto's Women in New Roles program in August 2001.

She said when she was looking for work and became discouraged, her JVS counsellor would help her "bounce back and keep going."

Ata Moeini of Gold Line Telemanagement, the largest producer and distributor of calling cards in Canada, received the employer of the year award.

She has given job opportunities to many of JVS Toronto's employment assistance services clients.

Kathy Rudan, aWendy's employee since early 1994, was presented with the inspiration award.

Gary Williams, winner of the business leadership award, was general manager of the store that hired Rudan. He said she consistently shows reliability, loyalty and perseverance.

Richard Waugh, CEO of Scotiabank, delivered the keynote speech.

"JVS aligns very well to our goals at Scotiabank," he said.

Karen Goldenberg, president and CEO of JVS Toronto, said Scotiabank has a commitment to employment equity, and creating a workplace that provides opportunities to everyone.

"We've been delighted to be working with them to find positions within the bank for people with disabilities, for people from the aboriginal community and for people who are newcomers to Canada and trying to have an opportunity to be successful here," Goldenberg said.

The money raised from this event will help JVS create new programs.

MEET THE MINISTER: Board members of Canadian Friends of Peace Now meet with Public Health Minister Carolyn Bennett to seek the federal government's endorsement of the Ayalon-Nusseibeh principles for Israeli-Palestinian peace. The principles, which have been endorsed by thousands of Israelis and Palestinians and by key U.S. officials, were drafted by Ami Ayalon, a former head of Israel's Shin Bet security service, and Sari Nusseibeh, a former Jerusalem representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization. From left, Issie Lyon, Bennett, Sheldon Gordon and Tamar Ishaky.

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Israeli bobsled team picks final member

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

RAMAT GAN — He's never been on ice, with the exception of a skiing trip, but Moshe Horowitz, a 25-year-old Jerusalem native, has been named the fourth member of Israel's first-ever bobsled team by his new teammates, former San Francisco 49er John Frank and ex-U.S. fighter pilot Aaron Zeff.

Horowitz, who beat out 12 other athletes for the job, has strong sporting credentials. The Columbia University political science major plays for Jerusalem flag football team Jump Gym and recently represented Israel at the Flag Football World Cup in the Dominican Republic. Horowitz also plays rugby for Jerusalem and was invited to join the Israel Seven's team, an invitation he will have to turn down now that he is due to commence training overseas with Frank and Zeff.

"The reality and euphoria of the win only hit me on the ride home," Horowitz said. "John and Aaron are serious athletes and serious competitors, and it's a pleasure to have been chosen to race with them."

At last month's trials, held at Kfar Hamaccabia in Ramat Gan, the candidates were tested for speed and strength. Horowitz lifted 140 kg on the bench press and more than 100 kg on the power clean before running a 30-metre sprint in 3.8 seconds and jumping 70 cm on a vertical leap.

The hopefuls were narrowed down to five and at the finals of the trials at the Wingate Institute, Horowitz beat his rivals in a 30-metre sprint pushing a bobsled on wheels packed with weights.

"We were very impressed by the skills and strength shown by the participants," Frank said.

Moshe Horowitz

In fact, Frank and Zeff were so impressed they announced the creation of a secondary squad made up of the defeated trial finalists: Israel shot put champion, Shai Shalev; shot put runner-up Shahar Mozer; Russian arm wrestling championship bronze medalist Valery Tomilov; and Horowitz's flag football teammate Aryeh Bauman, a former runner-up in the World Arm Wrestling Championships.

Horowitz has been named the team's alternate brakeman and will be joining Zeff, the team's pilot, Frank, its first brakeman, and David Greaves, also an alternate brakeman, for training in Calgary this summer.

In the meantime, Horowitz will be busy four times a week with a personal workout prepared by the team's coach Ross Dominikovich, a former athlete and coach with the New Zealand team.

Following the summer training camp, Horowitz will be sent on a bobsled-piloting course in Canada in September. After that, the season runs from November through February 2005, and the team will compete at the America's Cup, the World Cup and the World Championships, where Israel is eligible to compete in the two-man and four-man races.

Zeff and Frank only set up the bobsled team in 2002, but they have already registered impressive achievements, finishing fifth out of 14 teams in last season's America's Cup two-man bobsled standings.

Horowitz may have only just joined the team, but he is already infected by their enthusiasm and is looking beyond his first season. "Ultimately," he says, "our goal is to reach the Winter Olympics in 2006."

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Gymnastics club founder coached Israeli national team

By ELI SHUPAK
Special to The CJN

It's no surprise that the Discovery Gymnastics "Dream Team" finished as the top group at the recent provincial championships in Kingston and Sarnia.

Led by Jeff Soroksky, the former head coach of the Israeli national and Olympic teams, the North York club returned home with 19 medals from its 19 kids, including five golds.

Among the club's Jewish athletes, Sarah Spitz finished third in bars and third in vault for a third-place overall finish, while Emilie Attia was fifth. Natalie Gerchtein missed the competition with a hyper-extended knee, but was expected to be OK in time for the National Artistic Gymnastics Championships last month in Montreal.

Soroksky, the founder of the Discovery School of Sport and Art, says Spitz and Gerchtein are two of the four girls he expects to coach at next year's Maccabiah Games in Israel.

Soroksky's gym is a training centre for children 18 months old up to 18 years of age. Since opening its doors nearly eight years ago, the multi-sport facility, which specializes in recreational and competitive artistic and rhythmic gymnastics, has added dance and trampoline programs.

Its modern, 10,000-square-foot gym is fully equipped with Olympic-standard gymnastic apparatus for boys and girls.

Before coming to Canada in 1985 on what was to have been a one-year sabbatical, the Moscow-born coach had spent the previous 10 years coaching in Israel. He moved to Israel as a 20-year-old in 1972, working for a couple of years with the Israeli Gymnastics Federation before getting involved with the national program.

Prior to leaving what was then the Soviet Union, Soroksky coached for five years at a special boarding school, training artistic gymnasts for the Soviet national team.

He also competed in the sport himself from age nine, reaching the national level with Club Dynamo.

Now a national level coach, Soroksky came to Canada nearly 20 years ago after being invited to work at Gemini Gymnastics in Oshawa, a high level club that placed athletes with the provincial and national programs.

While content that Canada has given him a nice home and a good job, Soroksky still longs for Israel.

"I'm a Jew, and a Jew needs Israel every time," he said. "I miss Israel, but I'm very much happy in Canada."

ספרותנו

יעל זליגר

ויחי בוקר מאת: סייד קשוע

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המספר הוא עיתונאי ערבי שנחל אכזבה בעיר היהודית שבה התגורר. בניגוד לעצת אשתו, ששונאת את חיי הכפר, מחליט הגיבור לשוב לכפר הולדתו ולבנות מחדש את חייו עם אשתו ובתו. עם שובו לכפר שממנו ברח לפני שנים, מתברר שסדרי החברה הערבית אשותה חכיר השתנו מן הקצה אל הקצה; "מדהים מה שעשר שנים יכולות לעשות. בעצם אני כבר לא מכיר את המקום הזה... אני חוזר חביתה, למקום חדש." והמקום החדש מאיים ומנוכר.

מטעו של קשוע אל העבר וחזרה לחווה מפוכח ומחווה עבורנו מקור מידע ראשוני בחשיבותו על החברה והתרבות הערבית. בכתיבתו המעניבה אך גם משעשעת סייד קשוע הוא מורה דרך מעולה.

ההחלטה לעזוב את העיר ולוותר על עבודתו כעיתונאי ערבי מטעם עיתון ישראלי נרקמת אצלו במהלך כשנתיים. בעצם התהליך החל ביום בו הוא נשלח לסקור את הפגנות הערבים בוואדי שארה לאחר עליית שרון למסגד אל-אקצא. בשל היותו ערבי לא הייתה לו בעיה לצפות בכל מקרוב. שני ימי המהומות שינו את חייו וגרמו לו לחוש זרות לשפה העברית, מקום עבודתו ולחיי העיר. יותר מכול הוא חש שזהותו מבולבלת; הוא מגנה את ההנהגה הישראלית אך גם את התנועה האיסלאמית. הוא מצטער על כל הרוג יהודי בפיגועים, מקלל את המתאבדים אך גם את הישראלים, צבא הכובשים. בעיקר הוא מקלל את עצמו ומשתכנע שיהיה יותר נכון לגור בכפר ערבי; "איכשהו היה נדמה לי שאם כולם במקום מגורי יהיו דומים לי, הדבר יקל עלי."

כל ערבי ששומע על החלטתו לא מאמין. אשרף, ידידו אומר "שנושבי הגדה הם העם הכי דפוק בעולם. מאז התחילה האינתיפאדה אין להם מה לעשות בחיים." ומה עושים כל היום? מתקשרים בטלפון הנייד! "פשוט מתקשרים לכל טלפון שירות שהשיחה היא בחינם." לכולם צלחת טלוויזיה על הגג. מאה ותשעים ערוצים. כשיש ארוע צבאי-פוליטי כולם צופים באל-ג'זירה ואח"כ גם זה נמאס. נושא חשוב בחיי הכפר הוא 'יהדאוי', כלומר אנשי השטחים. אלה ישנים בכפר בסתר, הם מעמד הנחות שעושים עבודות שחורות שאנשי הכפר אינם רוצים לעשות. "יהודי מזדחים עם הפלסטינים שרואים בטלוויזיה, אבל כאילו היו אנשים אחרים לגמרי...". קשוע אינו מחמיא לדמות הערבי החי בישראל. אשתו שהיא מורה במקצועה מתארת את ילדי בית-הספר בכפר כילדים שמחציתם רוצים רק להשתייך לכנופיית פשע. המהפך העלילתי מתרחש כאשר הצבא הישראלי מטיל סגר פתאומי סביב לכפר. מים, חשמל, קווי טלפון - הכל מתנתק והביוב עולה על גדותיו. החום והסרחון חונקים את דיירי הכפר. תוהו ובוהו שורר בכל, כולל מתקפה שעורכים בני הכפר על בית המספר ובית אחיו הבכור לשדוד אוכל ומים. בשלב מסויים, בסצינה סוריאליסטית ראשי הכפר (מקורבי מפלגת העבודה) מפשיטים כמה פלסטינים מהשטחים ומגישים אותם כקורבן חי לחיילים, לרצות את האלים. השפיות נעלמת והגיבור שונא את עצמו עוד יותר על אי-יכולתו להיות חזק, גבר עם כבוד.

חסיטואציה המסיימת את הסיפור כל-כך מדהימה שכמעט חבל לגלותה לקוראים; ובכל זאת.. בוקר אחד הכל חוזר לקדמותו; יש חשמל, יש מים, יש טלפון אלא מה, לאט, לאט מתברר תמונת החלם: במהלך ימי הסגר, חתמה ישראל על הסכם שלום סופי עם העם הפלסטיני וכפרי המשולש הערבי הם עכשיו בתוך מדינת פלסטין! רוצה לומר: תמכתם במאבק הפלסטיני לשחרור!! בבקשה, תאכלו אותה!

ויחי בוקר הוא ספר מומלץ לכל מי שרוצה (ובמיוחד לאלה שלא רוצים..) בשיעור עזר להבנת מימד נוסף למצב הבלתי-אפשרי שבו כולנו חנוקים.

LIME CILANTRO SWEET POTATOES

- 2 lbs. sweet potatoes, peeled & cut into 3/4" pieces
- 3 tblsps. extra-virgin olive oil
- 3/4 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. cayenne pepper
- 1/2 tsp. finely grated fresh lime zest
- 1 tblsp. fresh lime juice
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro

Put oven rack in lower third of oven & preheat oven to 425°F.

Toss sweet potatoes with 2 tblsps. oil and 1/4 tsp. salt in a shallow baking pan. Arrange potatoes in a layer and roast, stirring halfway through roasting, until tender, about 25 min. total. Stir together cayenne, zest, and remaining 1/2 tsp. salt in a small bowl. Whisk together lime juice and remaining tblsp. oil in medium bowl, then add potatoes. Sprinkle with cayenne mixture and cilantro, stirring gently to combine. Makes 4 servings.

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Money Matters

Rabbi Jay Kelman

We are most fortunate to live in a country where the religious rights of workers are protected. Despite the hardships it may cause employers, workers cannot be let go for observing religious rituals, including taking days off for the various yamim tovim. In fact, Canadian law may go even further than Jewish law in this area. Halachah has always maintained that religious practices should not be allowed to interfere with a worker's obligations to his or her employer. One dare not be religious on somebody else's account. To do so distorts the true definition of piety, as serving God is only meaningful if it causes heightened sensitivity to our fellow human beings.

Employees are to devote their full energies to their employment tasks, including limiting their activities outside the workplace. It is not only highly paid athletes who (usually contractually) must refrain from high-risk activities. Any and all activities that might cause even small amounts of financial harm to one's employer are prohibited. One may not stay up late, diet or take a second job if it would result in lower productivity than the norm. One may even require permission from the boss to watch late playoff games (sorry Leaf fans).

While it is understood that the employment culture of today allows, and even encourages, outside interests, one must be careful to ensure that the limits are not unduly extended. Failure to adhere to these restrictions is legitimate grounds for dismissal in the eyes of Jewish law. More significantly, even religious observances must at times be curtailed if they interfere with worker productivity. This includes not only religious stringencies and customs such as fasting for a yahrzeit or davening at the crack of dawn, but also basic religious requirements. Thus Jewish law orders employees to shorten their davening and curtail *Birkat Hamazon* (grace after meals). While these specific laws were formulated at a time when workers were expected to work from dawn to dusk, the principles are, of course, still relevant.

So, while we do expect that one should begin one's day with davening and Torah study, and perhaps even a morning jog, one must be careful to ensure that these mitzvot don't come at the expense of an even more fundamental religious obligation: putting in an honest day's work.

My friend with the 'Don King' coif

URBAN WRITER

I met a man 15 years ago at a Passover seder at the home of Julius Ciss, the director of Jews for Judaism. The man was Marty Galin. He was thunderous and jovial in appearance, and his interest in the seder had little to do with the meaning of the paschal lamb but more to do with the personalities sitting at the table.

Our friendship grew and I discovered Marty's goals in life were simple: to give as much as he could, to party as if tomorrow would never come and to create a big legacy.

Since those days, Marty and I have hosted a radio show called *Marty & Avrum: The Food Guys*, produced three television shows – *The Moveable Feast, Beer Buddies* and *We're Talking Homemade*, and recently signed a deal with CityTV to produce a coffee show.

Marty is unique in his character and his look. He stands about 5-foot-10, is heavyset with pinchable jowls, and his long, Don King-like, frizzy hair bobs above the crowd, eliciting attention the way Eugene Levy's eyebrows might. He is sweet and childlike in nature.

Marty was born on McAllister Road in the Bathurst Street- Sheppard Avenue area. He claims he is proud to be Jewish, but I often kid him on the radio that he is the most assimilated Jew I know, with more memories of the Santa Claus parade than of the High Holy Days, Strangely, he insists all of our food products be kosher so that Orthodox Jews can enjoy them as well.

Marty is a highly communicative man who phones many of his friends dozens of times a day, just to say hello. For years, I did my utmost to hide from his bellowing laughter and salutations when I would walk into a room crowded with high-profile people celebrating a food event.

He would drag me over to world-class chefs like Michael Stadtlander or successful restaurateurs like Peter Oliver and hug all of us, creating or perhaps forcing an atmosphere entirely void of smugness and pomposity. I think he just wanted everyone to be friends.

To this day, my friend Marty will call me and tell me about the lunch meeting he had with the president of a major corporation, or play me the phone message from Richard Simmons, the diet guru, wishing him good luck on his lifestyle changes.

These things may not seem that strange – after all he's in the entertainment business – but Marty does not have a scheduler, lives in a tiny bachelor apartment with two little white schnauzers, has a propensity to stain everything he wears and has little need for or interest in money.

Despite this, last week Marty met with three different television networks, two major corporate sponsors, the stars in our shows – and never missed a beat. He is launching a food line for a major franchise and opening a Marty & Avrum store. He wants to sell chicken.

Today, Marty writes a weekly column for the *Metro News* and is flown around the world by tourist associations to establish cooking schools and food businesses.

I love and admire Marty deeply. He has taught me how to be a better friend and to be gentler with people. He has a benevolent soul and has befriended the homeless, the wealthy, the famous and the downtrodden – but all in the same way – with an open heart, an enormously warm smile and a heaping portion of love and respect.

Marty is a living legend and deserves all the accolades, applause and hugs that come his way. In a Jewish community of close to 200,000, you won't find another Marty Galin.

Thank you for being there!

To thousands of walkers, sponsors and volunteers at this year's UJA Federation Walk with Israel, thank you! Your participation was a giant step toward telling the world how much we care.

A salute to our Walk with Israel Cabinet

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National

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Gissin spells out Israel's conditions for peace. **Page 5**

Oberlander judgment throws war crimes process into question. **Page 12**

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Federal Election '04

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Birthrighters land in Israel

Some 11,000 young adults are expected to visit Israel this summer on the Birthright Israel program. The group that arrived last week was greeted by Israel's minister for Diaspora affairs, Natan Sharansky, centre, and Charles Bronfman, third from right, one of the co-founders of Birthright Israel. *[Israel photo]*

Change marriage law in Israel, urges former chief rabbi

By AMIRAM BARKAT
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Former chief Sephardi rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron last week advocated dismantling the Orthodox rabbinate's monopoly over Jewish marriages – the first time any leading rabbi associated with the rabbinical establishment has publicly urged such a step.

Speaking at a rabbinical conference in Jerusalem, Rabbi Bakshi-Doron urged the repeal of the law, which says marriages in Israel must be conducted according to religious law.

Continued on page 40

Jews most targeted by hate crimes

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

A recent survey of hate crimes that found Jews to be the most targeted religious group in Canada was not a surprise, but its findings underscore the contention that a quicker response from political and community leaders might have nipped the problem in the bud, says a spokesperson for Canadian Jewish Congress.

Manuel Prutschi, temporary national executive director for Congress, believes the survey's findings for 2001 and 2002 were foreshadowed by a spike in anti-Semitic incidents in 2000, corresponding to the outbreak of the Palestinian intifadah. Even then, as Jews increasingly became the victims of racist attacks and harassment, and afterward as the incidents increased, Congress' pleas to political leaders to speak out went unheeded, he said.

Political leaders criticized for slow response

It wasn't until a spate of incidents in the Greater Toronto Area this spring, involving swastikas on homes and vandalism of cemeteries and synagogues, followed by the firebombing of a Montreal Jewish school library, that the top political echelon spoke out clearly, he said.

Continued on page 20

Parsha: Shelach
Candlelighting: 8:
Havdallah: 9:46

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ıred to your door every week.

Israel's cabinet approves Gaza disengagement plan — please see page 39

Canada

Primate Won CJC Prize

ST. CATHARINES, Ont. — The Anglican Church of Canada last week chose Andrew Hutchison, the Archbishop of Montreal who once received a humanitarian award from Canadian Jewish Congress, as its new primate at its triennial national meeting. In 1999, CJC gave Hutchison, a theological liberal, its Alan Rose Award for advocating the removal of references to Jews as "lost sheep" in the church's Good Friday liturgy. He also received the Jerusalem Prize from the Canadian Zionist Federation in 1995. He became Archbishop of Montreal in 1990.

Euro-MP Decries Terror

LONDON, Ont. — A member of the European Parliament spoke out against rising anti-Semitism in Europe and the European Union's support for the Palestinians in a speech last week at the University of Western Ontario. Ilka Schroeder, a 26-year-old former Green party member from Berlin, says EU funding to the Palestinians has been used to finance anti-Semitic terrorism. Her talk, titled "European Nationalism and Anti-Zionism," was hosted by the London Jewish Community Centre as part of a Canadian speaking tour.

Voting Dates Questioned

TORONTO — B'nai Brith Canada has asked Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty to delay his proposal for fixed election dates to ensure the dates don't conflict with major religious holidays. B'nai Brith notes that fixing votes for the first Thursday in October every four years will regularly conflict with the High Holy Days, and that Oct. 7, 2007, the first vote date, is Shmini Atzeret. President Harold Davis said B'nai Brith is not against fixed dates, but prefers one in November. In tabling its proposal, the government said it would allow the chief electoral officer to postpone a vote by a week if it falls on a religious holiday.

World

Al Qaeda Plotter Jailed

PERTH — An Australian recruited by Al Qaeda was jailed for planning to bomb the country's Israeli Embassy. A court in Perth sentenced Jack Roche, 50, to nine years in jail last week after he confessed to the plot. Roche, a British-born Muslim convert, joined Osama bin Laden's group during a 2000 trip to Afghanistan. Australian authorities arrested him in 2002.

French Comic Acquitted on Racism Charge

PARIS — A French comedian who performed a sketch dressed as a haredi Jew making a Nazi salute is not guilty of racial incitement, a Paris court has ruled.

Dieudonné M'Bala M'Bala did not attempt to represent all Jews, the court found May 27, but rather "uniquely, a certain category of people in the expression of their political views."

The case was brought by some Jewish and anti-racist organizations after Dieudonné performed the sketch on live television in November 2003. The groups said they would appeal.

Dieudonné had already been found guilty of racial incitement and fined $6,000 by a court in the south of France for an interview earlier this year in which he said that "Jews run a very powerful lobby and control the media."

Trial Suspended

ISTANBUL — The trial of 69 members of an Islamic cell suspected to be behind suicide bombings last November in Istanbul was suspended last week after the state security court judge ruled he did not have the authority to hear the case. Two synagogues were among the targets of the attacks, which killed 61 people. Turkey is expected to set up new courts soon to deal with terrorism cases like this one.

Books Reprinted

AMHERST, Mass. — Some 700 books from prewar eastern European Jewry have been reprinted thanks to the National Yiddish Book Center. The books depict daily Jewish life before the Holocaust, through maps, illustrations, photos and Yiddish and Hebrew text. Many contain lists of townspeople murdered by the Nazis. The books, part of the David and Sylvia Steiner Yizkor Books Collection, are available online at www.yiddishbook center.org/yizkor books.

NYC Water Unkosher?

NEW YORK — Some Orthodox rabbis in New York City are saying city water isn't kosher. The water issue filtered down after copepods, tiny crustaceans, were found in the water, the *New York Times* reported. Crustaceans are not kosher. City officials say the water, long considered very clean, is not filtered but is safe to drink.

Too Much Tongue?

TOKYO — Kiss bassist Gene Simmons, the son of Holocaust survivors, backtracked last week from recent anti-Muslim remarks he made while on tour with the band in Australia. Simmons said he was only talking about extremists when he told a journalist that Islam "is a vile culture." He added that Muslims "want to come and live right where you live and they think that you're evil."

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Jewish philanthropy: reaching the next generation

With this feature essay by staff writer Frances Kraft, The CJN introduces a new occasional series of more in-depth articles on a wide range of subjects that concern our community.

Our aim will be to focus on questions and issues that affect our readers. In the process, we hope to shine a thoughtful light on many of the different facets of life that comprise our creative and diverse Jewish community.

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

It has become increasingly common to see names of Jewish philanthropists – so-called "mega-donors" – on secular institutions such as hospitals, universities and museums. Although there are no hard statistics in Canada, the trend, which has been documented in the United States, is increasingly spurring Jewish leaders to look at their own fundraising efforts in a new light.

CJN Focus
An occasional series

The trend is particularly strong among younger Jews, according to a 2001 report, titled "The Transition of Communal Values and Behavior in Jewish Philanthropy," by Gary Tobin of the Institute for Jewish and Community Research in San Francisco.

What exactly is Jewish philanthropy? According to Richard Marker – a philanthropy advisor who teaches at New York University where he is senior fellow in philanthropy – there's no simple definition. Marker, who is also an ordained rabbi, says Jewish philanthropy refers to "support for Jewish causes, defined most broadly." Jewish motivation or awareness, when giving to secular causes, also enters into the definition for some people.

Donations to secular institutions "to some degree are a reflection of a larger societal reality," he said, referring to a wide acceptance of Jews in the surrounding general society, including on the boards of institutions such as universities and museums. "You can view this as a very positive situation... If the only way we look at it is [with] handwringing, then I think we don't get the full picture."

If there is in fact a problem, Marker believes it has more to do with leadership than finances. "I think many of those [donors to secular causes] have not found it as gratifying to become involved in leadership of Jewish causes."

There are people who find the Jewish world "somewhat provincial" and want to play in a larger sphere, he said. "Those who are most judgmental would argue that the Jewish world has not made it prestigious enough."

Russell and David Goldstein

Most people, however, are involved in philanthropy because they care about things, Marker said. Prestige, he noted, can

Continued on page 36

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Greater Toronto Area

Honour in the court

From the editor's desk

At the beginning of her book, *Denying the Holocaust: The Growing Assault on Truth and Memory*, Deborah Lipstadt inscribed the following dedication:

"To the victims and the survivors/ of the Holocaust/ and to those who preserve and tell their story/ 'Remember the days of yore,/ Learn the lessons of the generation that came before you.'/ Deuteronomy 32:7"

Lipstadt and her publisher, Penguin Books were sued over that book by David Irving, a controversial British author who alleged that he had been defamed by Lipstadt's reference to him as "one of the most dangerous spokespersons for Holocaust denial."

The trial, which began in January 2002, was lengthy, much publicized by the press and closely watched throughout the world. Irving had cleverly attempted to put the Holocaust on trial, once again. But the decision by Justice Charles Gray effectively silenced him; he was defeated by the judgment and devastated by the awarding of the costs of the trial against him.

By not surrendering her ground or her integrity to the plaintiff, Lipstadt, ironically, stepped into the role of the individuals to whom she had dedicated her work, the very embodiment of those "who preserve and tell their story." Her decision to defend against Irving's accusations inspired Jew and non-Jew alike.

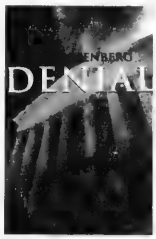
One individual who was deeply moved by Lipstadt's strength and will was Ayal Rosenberg, a lawyer in South Africa.

Rosenberg has written a fictionalized account of the trial called *Denial*, published by Seven Locks Press (ISBN - 1-931643-33-4).

Despite the wrenching subject matter, *Denial* is a cover-to-cover, single-sitting read. It was hard to put the book down. Rosenberg succeeds in getting the reader's blood to boil and heart to race. The reader's emotions are always close to the surface, especially during the scenes of the trial, which grip one's sensibilities like a tightly locked vise.

But the trial scenes are only the starting point for the author. The work is far more than the narrative of the crossing of legal swords between the plaintiff and the defendants. Indeed, as engrossing as they are, the trial scenes comprise a relatively small portion of the book.

The author constantly switches between courtroom events and reminiscence. But the reminiscences are not always the retrospective reflections of the protagonists. They are also vignettes of history concerning subjects, places and people of the Holocaust.



It is in this back-and-forth literary structure that *Denial* is at its imaginative and instructive best. Each reminiscence relates specifically to an aspect of the evidence read into the record of the trial.

For example, after Rosenberg introduces the plaintiff and his cause of action, he then creatively fills in the gaps of missing information surrounding the plaintiff's past.

Then, after he records the evidence from the trial surrounding allegations by the plaintiff about the "truth" of the gas chambers of Auschwitz, he delves into the macabre details of the history and operation of Auschwitz.

One of the most compelling depictions in the book is of Heinrich Himmler's visit to Auschwitz. Rosenberg re-creates the atmosphere of the camp and the conversations among the Nazi officers with such gut-wrenching authenticity as to be suffocating.

By contrast, however, some of the conversation Rosenberg ascribes to the Ernst Zundel character borders on the cartoonish. It is so stereotypical at times that it lacks credibility. (Toronto and Canada figure quite prominently in the novel. Rosenberg reminds us that Irving had been a prominent figure at the first Zundel trial in Toronto.)

Yet, despite the buffoonery of the Zundel character, Rosenberg is to be commended for the obviously voluminous level of research that he undertook for the work.

In one of the concluding scenes of the novel, Rosenberg gives the following statement to one of the Lipstadt character's lawyers: "It's the next generation that scares me. I know that there will be next generation Inneses [Irvings] by the dozen. Already, the man has become a celebrity of sorts. My biggest worry is that in our next generation with their CD-ROMS, there won't be a next generation Sheldon Truworth QC [the name of the defendant's barrister.]"

Ayal Rosenberg has made a major contribution with *Denial*. People should read it for its intrinsic power and educative force. But we should also read it to be reminded of the strength and the goodness of people like Deborah Lipstadt who remember the days of yore, and who have learned and impart to us the lessons of the generation that came before.

—MBD

SeeJN

SPIRIT OF THE COMMUNITY: The Beth Chabad Israeli Community Centre in Thornhill held its first annual Spirit of the Community dinner recently to celebrate the goodwill between the Italian and Jewish communities in the City of Vaughan. Seen from left are dinner honorees Michael Di Biase, mayor, City of Vaughan; Rabbi Yisroel Landa, spiritual leader, Chabad Israeli Community; Sol Prizant, community activist.

Greater Toronto Area

Chabad expanding Jewish life in Russia

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Years ago, when Russia was Communist, officially atheistic and headed by diehard Stalinists, state-sanctioned discrimination against Jews was commonplace, as was hostility towards the State of Israel.

That's no longer the case, said Rabbi Berel Lazar, chief rabbi of Russia. Today, community relations with the most senior political leadership are good, the media are generally pro-Israel, and Jews are admired for their achievements, both in becoming "oligarchs" (extremely wealthy businessmen) and in reaching out to help their fellow Russians, Rabbi Lazar said.

The public attitude to Jews has improved to such an extent that for some, Judaism has become "hip," he added.

Rabbi Lazar, 40, gave his upbeat evaluation of the status of Russian Jews prior to a "Spirit of Community" dinner in Toronto last week that honoured Vaughan Mayor Michael Di Biase and Sol Prizant, as well as the rabbi's longtime friend Rabbi Yisroel Landa, the executive director of the Chabad Israeli Community Centre. Rabbi Lazar also spoke to *The CJN* at his offices in Moscow several weeks ago.

He said the public's positive estimation of Jews was enhanced during the Chechen hostage-taking in a Moscow theatre in October 2002. The terrorists were subsequently overcome by poison gas that killed 120 hostages, but prior to that, a doctor and popular entertainer Iosif Kobzon entered the theatre and gained the release of a handful of hostages.

"Both are heroes and got people out, and it came out that they were Jewish," Rabbi Lazar said.

The reputation of Russia's Jews has also been burnished, he said, by Russian President Vladimir Putin's unprecedented attendance at the opening of the Marina Roscha Jewish Community Centre in Moscow, as well as a Chanukiah-lighting ceremony and the popularity of Israel in fighting Islamic terrorists – paralleling Russia's own conflict with Chechen Muslims.

A native of Milan who was elected chief rabbi in 2000, Rabbi Lazar heads a vast contingent of Chabad rabbis and supporters who are attempting to revitalize Jewish life in the former Soviet Union (FSU).

While another chief rabbi, Adolph Shayevich, still serves at Moscow's famed Choral Synagogue, Chabad has created an infrastructure of synagogues, schools, community centres, soup kitchens and orphanages in more than 400 communities in the FSU. Outside Moscow and St. Petersburg, Chabad rabbis co-operate with local Jewish communities to restore organized Jewish life, he said.

Since the fall of communism, religious life in general has experienced a resurgence, with interest in Orthodox Christianity and Islam growing.

Rabbi Berel Lazar

Jews have maintained good relations with Russian Muslims, Rabbi Lazar said.

The mufti of Russia, his Islamic counterpart, hails from Kazan, a city southeast of Moscow which is the capital of the republic of Tataristan. Chabad helped to lobby for the return of Muslim religious properties confiscated by the Communists, while the mufti assisted Kazan's Jews in restoring their religious life, Rabbi Lazar said.

Assimilation is the main problem facing Russian Jewry, he continued, with the generation of 40- to 60-year-olds, who grew up in an atheistic environment, virtually "lost" to Jewish life. After 70 years of communism, it is often the elderly and the young who are responsible for the renaissance of Judaism.

"Very often it is the grandparents making the connection," he said. "It's the grandparents who pick up the children and bring them to Sunday school."

Rabbi Lazar estimated that only 10 to 15 per cent of the country's Jews are involved in community activities. "The rest are Jewish because they were born Jewish.

"The thousands who [emigrated] were the ones who had a commitment to Judaism. The ones who remained were totally assimilated," and restoring them to the Jewish fold is Chabad's greatest challenge, he said.

Chabad's seven day schools in the FSU serve more than 1,000 children, while there are 85 other educations institutions such as schools, kindergartens and universities that provide Jewish content, he said.

In rebuilding Jewish life, Chabad has taken a low-key approach that attempts to make make Jewish observances "positive, interesting, exciting and [show it] belongs to them... In Russia we're dealing with the ABCs of Judaism. If the basics of Judaism stay with them, hopefully with the next generation, we'll see what we can do with them," Rabbi Lazar said.

Chabad conducts its programs and services with an operating budget of $50 million (US), while capital projects involving the construction or renovation of 80 buildings stand at $80 million (US).

Chabad relies on two primary benefactors – the U.S.-based Rohr family foundation and Tashkent-born Israeli tycoon Lev Leviev. Some Russian businessmen have also contributed to Chabad projects.

One of the major undertakings currently underway is the construction of a museum in the Marina Roscha neighbourhood that will promote tolerance and employ multimedia displays on Jewish history and the Holocaust.

"We're talking about a huge project, the first of its kind in Europe," which is aimed at a broad Russian audience, Rabbi Lazar said.

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Gissin spells out Israel's conditions for peace

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Israel's terms for signing a peace agreement with the Palestinians were spelled out last week in Toronto by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's foreign press and public affairs advisor.

At a press conference at the Royal York Hotel, Ra'anan Gissin listed Israel's three conditions:

- It will not return to the 1949 armistice lines.
- It will not accept an influx of Palestinian refugees.
- It will retain the right to defend itself.

In Toronto on the tail end of a North American speaking tour, he declared that the pre-1967 lines were militarily indefensible and that Israel would only withdraw to defensible borders.

"Israel will never go back to the 1967 lines," he said, attributing the outbreak of the Six Day War to Israel's "indefensible lines."

"Peace with security means new borders," added Gissin, who was here under the auspices of UJA Federation.

Israel is building a security fence through the West Bank because it lacks defensible borders, Gissin said, adding that once these lines are established, the barrier will no longer be necessary.

He said a solution to the Palestinian refugee problem must be found within the context of a Palestinian state and not inside Israel.

Turning to his third and final point, Gissin said Israel reserves the right to defend itself "in all its components," and will not rely on an "outside force" for its basic security.

Gissin said the United States supports these demands.

Alluding to the settlement blocs Israel wants to keep in the West Bank, he said Jewish settlements will not be removed unless they are isolated ones.

Speaking of Sharon's plan for a unilateral pullout from Gaza, Gissin said the prime minister intends to carry it out to completion as soon as possible.

"We are not going to be there," he said of Gaza.

Noting that leaving Gaza will benefit the Jewish people, Gissin said Sharon is determined to see it through.

"Israel can't afford to delay. It would be detrimental to Israel's interests."

"We must get this thing going," he said later.

Gissin warned "sinister forces" could yet scuttle the proposal if there are further delays.

Should the plan be implemented, the focus can shift back to the internationally sponsored "road map" peace plan, which calls for a two-state solution, he said.

"If the Gaza plan succeeds, we'd be willing to give more," he said in an indirect reference to the West Bank. "Israel is willing to make painful concessions for peace."

Qualifying his remark, he said the Palestinians do not have a leadership capable of implementing the road map.

"We don't have a partner."

Accusing Palestinian leaders of having adopted a "strategy of terrorism," Gissin said they miscalculated by launching an armed uprising.

Palestinians would be better off "dealing" rather than "messing" with Israel, he said.

Describing the current intifadah as the "worst disaster to befall the Palestinians" since their flight from their homes in 1948, Gissin ruled out the possibility of diplomatic progress until they crack down on terrorism.

But he expressed pessimism that this will happen as long as Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat controls PA security forces, adding that these forces practise a duplicitous policy by moonlighting as arms smugglers.

Blasting Arafat, Gissin said he should be retired and given "a nice pension plan."

He said new Palestinian leaders are afraid to come forward because they live under "a yoke of fear and intimidation."

Decrying the lack of law and order in the Palestinian autonomous areas, which Israel has occupied since 2002, Gissin said "Palestinian society" will collapse if the PA continues to sacrifice its young people on "the altar of hatred and fear."

According to Gissin, the Arab world has yet to accept the notion that Jews have a right to their ancestral homeland.

Ra'anan Gissin

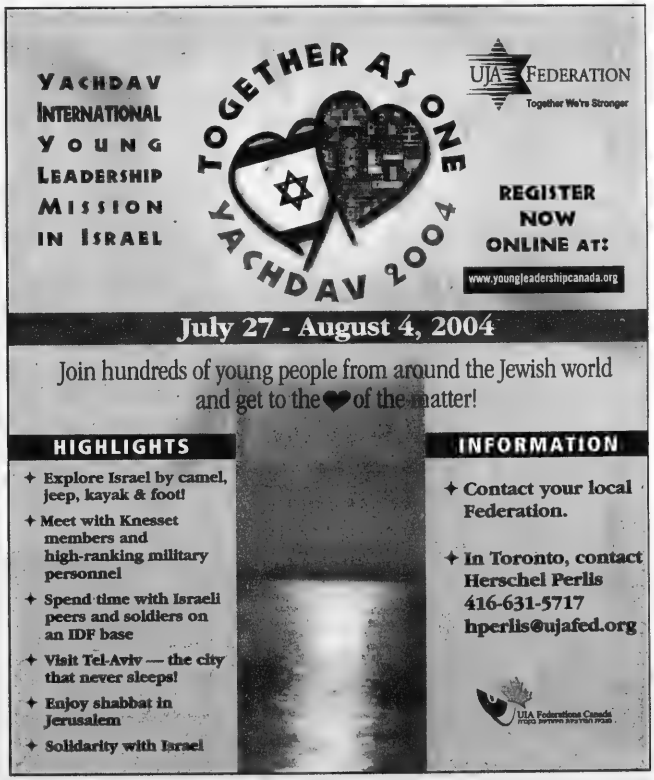
He said anti-Semitism today is disguised as anti-Zionism, and while it is not politically correct to defame Jews, Israel can be attacked.

He said Canada can play a useful role in Mideast diplomacy by moderating Europe's "hostile" and "unbalanced" attitude toward Israel.

He described Canada's relations with Israel as "very friendly."

Asked whether Israel prefers a Republican or a Democratic victory in November's U.S. presidential election, he replied diplomatically, "May the better one win."

Gissin noted that Israel's relationship with the United States transcends party politics and enjoys bipartisan support. But he acknowledged that President George W. Bush is "a great friend."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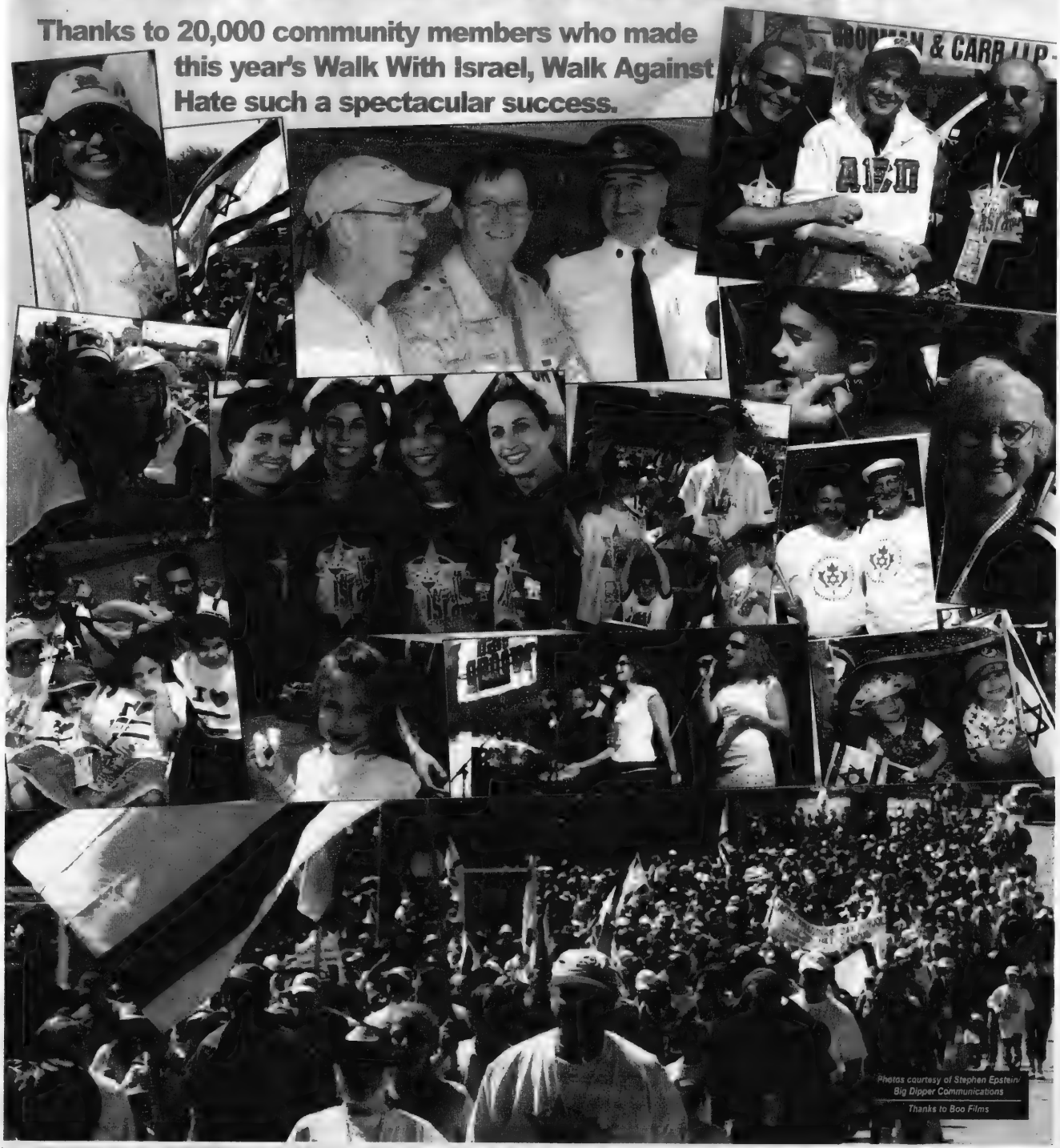

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Sharon rejects the status quo

Cabinet solidarity has never been a strong point, or even a feature, of Israel's parliamentary democracy. Nor for that matter has party discipline. Cabinet ministers and members of Knesset from the same party often squabble in public, unrestrained in airing differences over public policy and private ambitions.

The vaunted, untrammelled individuality of the Israeli personality, combined with the pure proportionality of the Israeli electoral system, create an idiosyncratic democratic system that is truly *sui generis*, one of a kind.

That unique, one-of-a-kind characteristic was much on display last Sunday when the cabinet voted 14 to 7 to approve Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan for a unilateral disengagement from the Gaza Strip. But the result of the vote was almost a side show to the high-octane, incendiary brinkmanship that preceded it.

To ensure his plan would pass cabinet, the prime minister, prior to the vote, dismissed two ministers from the National Unity party – Benny Elon and Avigdor Lieberman – both vocal opponents of the disengagement plan.

On the day of the vote, key Likud party cabinet members, and rivals for the leadership of the Likud party, Benjamin Netanyahu, Limor Livnat and Silvan Shalom, staged a mini-walkout in order to exact some key alterations to the plan. After some last-minute bargaining with the prime minister, the plan was amended and the high-profile dissenting ministers offered their support.

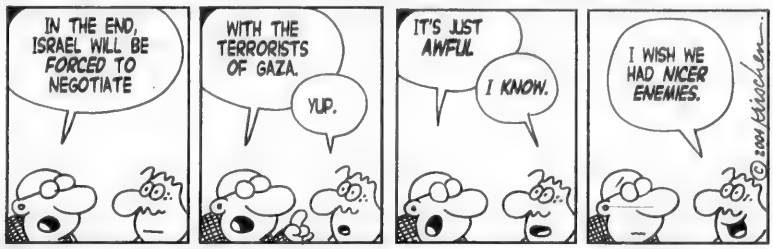
The amended plan contains no specific commitment to remove settlements. Rather, it specifies an "intention" to complete all evacuations by the end of 2005. But his last-minute adjustments to the proposal did not prevent the prime minister from proclaiming after the vote, "The government decided today that by the end of 2005, Israel will leave [all 21 Jewish settlements in] Gaza and four settlements [in the West Bank]. The state of Israel made a decisive step for its future. Most of the people of Israel understand the tremendous significance of the plan…"

Sharon was not overstating the case.

The plan is precedent-setting and historic; its repercussions will yet be felt domestically in Israel and abroad. Locally, it may lead to early national elections and possibly the dismantling and reconstituting of a new Likud party. Internationally, it may be the catalyst for positive change that has so pitifully and wastefully eluded the conflict for 25 years; for it may be the impetus for Egypt and Jordan to join more actively in the search for a solution to the conflict. The United States immediately expressed its strong support of the cabinet's decision.

Prime Minister Sharon has decided that the status quo is Israel's least palatable option. It is unclear if his fellow Likud cabinet ministers and Knesset members agree with him. But it appears the majority of Israelis do.

Dry Bones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YUP.
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I KNOW.
I WISH WE HAD NICER ENEMIES.
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Urges community to mobilize

Democracy is about intensity, not just numbers. It is no secret that our Jewish community is a small minority in Canada. Other ethnic groups are working hard at mobilizing themselves, running candidates, becoming party activists between elections and getting a very large number of volunteers out to help with political campaigns.

Israel needs Canada's support as an honest broker. As Jews, we need to work smarter, which means doing not necessarily what we like to do or what makes us feel better, but what politicians and parties need us to do. By choosing to get involved in the political process, by supporting the candidate and party of our choice, we can make a real impact where it matters most: on our country's democratically elected decision-makers.

Elections are a time to build relationships. Now more than ever, if we care about Israel and about the quality of Jewish life in Canada, we must get involved in the political process. We need to ensure that our community members, as individuals, as well as our organizations, support candidates from all parties who seek to represent our interests fairly. How do we do that? We must spread out en masse and contact the riding office of the candidate of our choice and ask, "What can I do for you?"

To learn more, go to www.cija.ca and select "Federal Election 2004." If you care about our future you must be involved in the political process.

Mark Waldman
Co-Chair, Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy, Public Affairs Committee
Toronto

* * *

Election roundup was biased

The article "New leaders present their case" (*CJN*, May 28) was very biased and very vague. My biggest complaint is about the way the NDP was portrayed. It was almost entirely disregarded as a possibility for Jewish voters. Why? Because of "the worldwide near-abandonment of Israel by the left if not its outright hostility to the Jewish state and the Zionist dream." That is disgusting. You can't lump together all political leftists and claim they are anti-Israel. This close-mindedness is the reason many Jewish people are losing faith in the Jewish community. Some writers are dividing us, saying if we vote for the NDP, we are left-wing and thus anti-Israel.

The article also states that Canada's Muslim community is finding a home in the NDP. What does that have to do with anything? Is the author trying to say that Muslims and Jews don't vote for the same parties? Or because Muslims are voting NDP, Jews shouldn't? An article like this propagates the stereotype that all Jews vote to the right (or centre-right) by voting Conservative or Liberal, and are anti-Muslim.

I have not decided who to vote for yet, but I think if someone is so trivial and ignorant as to vote against NDP just because of "the international left" or the Muslim vote, they shouldn't vote at all.

Erez Sussman
Toronto

* * *

CJN out of step with many Jews

The article on the Canadian party leaders (*CJN*, May 28) blatantly endorsed the Liberal candidates in the upcoming federal election. You seem to be out of step with the sentiments of many Canadians, especially Jewish Canadians, who have seen the Liberal government consistently line up at the United Nations with the enemies of Israel to condemn the Jewish state for trying to defend its citizens from terror.

If *The CJN* wishes to be viewed as the media organ representing the Canadian Jewish community, it must either adopt a position of non-partisanship in Canadian politics or promote those views that would enhance the welfare of the Jewish community in Canada and the world at large.

Steve Samuel
Toronto

* * *

Criticism of Landy unfair

Yaakov Roth attempts to paint Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) as biased in favour of the Liberal party ("Objects to Landy's opinion," letter to the editor, June 3). Did he not notice or did he wilfully omit CJC outgoing president Keith Landy's comment that the Conservative Party policy on Israel has been "sterling"?

CJC is a representative organization that strives to act in the best interests of the Jewish community of Canada with concern for our brothers and sisters in Israel and in the rest of the Diaspora. To do this effectively, we remain non-partisan. CJC maintains professional and cordial relations with members of all the main federal and provincial parties in this country. For a Jewish organization to do otherwise would be irresponsible and imprudent.

We are quick to praise and equally quick to condemn policies of all parties, including the sitting government. On that our record is clear. This is done on an issue-by-issue basis, not by partisanship. We also criticize and commend members of the government – including the prime minister – or opposition, but this depends on their words and actions, not their party affiliation.

I admire Roth for his passion and political activity. As a former assistant to Conservative MP Jason Kenney in Ottawa, as well as being president of the Conservative party at York University and past president of the York Canadian Alliance Association, he exemplifies the type of activism and commitment that we could use more of from this country's youth in general, and Jewish youth in particular.

Ron Singer
Director of Communications
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Perspectives

It's still good to be a British Jew

By MICHAEL COREN

North Americans have never understood Britain. Probably never will. And why should they? The British have no real understanding of North America. To the people of the Sceptred Isle, American and Canadian alike are loud, brash, dumb and rich. But nice as well.

Throw in Jewishness and the fog is so thick we can hardly see. I've long met Canadian Jews who assume that Britain is far more anti-Semitic than Canada and that being Jewish in Britain is not easy. Odd thing is, I never found this. I have three Jewish grandparents and was raised in a secular – deeply secular – Jewish home.

I'd heard some anti-Semitic drivel in Britain, but the first anti-Semitic comment I ever heard from an intelligent person was during my first year in Canada, when I was 27 years old. It came from a noted CBC producer, who told me that she had been "Jewed out of some money." I told her I was offended. She apologized.

The issue of Britain and the Jews has come to the fore because Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, the British Conservative Party, has elected Michael Howard, a Jewish man whose father was an immigrant from Romania, as its leader. The Tories were led by Benjamin Disraeli more than a century ago, but although obviously and famously Jewish, he had as an infant been baptized an Anglican by his anxious father.

This is not the case with Howard, who held high office in the last Conservative government. Indeed his Jewishness had never been much of an issue, and was never remotely likely to disqualify him from being prime minister, as would, almost certainly, homosexuality or skin colour.

Yet people reacted, or over-reacted, when one of Britain's leading television hosts, Jeremy Paxman, asked a member of the Tory party if the British people would vote for someone with origins in Transylvania. This was seen by some as evidence of anti-Semitism. Spare us!

I know Paxman a little bit and such racism would be inconceivable. If he is known for anything, it is for being an extremely bright and forceful interviewer, and also for being, well, rather rude. In fact the standard comic parody of Paxman is of someone being abrasive and not taking politicians' answers very seriously.

One could argue that to not ask such a question would have been disingenuous and unprofessional. Was "Transylvanian" a code word for Jewish? Doubtful. It was probably code for nothing more than Transylvanian. Or, to be politically incorrect, foreign. It was Howard's father's place of birth, not his religion, that was the issue. Another contender for the leadership has Spanish Catholic ancestry, and this was discussed far more often.

Similar questions were asked in the United States about Senator Joe Lieberman during his quest for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination. Would the American people vote for a Jewish president? It seemed that they would. Would the Brits vote for a Jewish prime minister? They did more than a century ago. Margaret Thatcher had Jewish ministers in most of the top positions in her cabinet, and longtime Labour prime minister Harold Wilson was very philo-Semitic.

In his partly fictitious diaries, the late Alan Clark, a junior minister under Thatcher, wrote about a comment he had heard concerning "too many Jew-boys in the cabinet," but this was strenuously denied by all concerned. Clark was a snob and a liar, and often invented a world that simply was not there.

Having said this, there surely will be people in Britain who will not vote Tory because of the ethnicity of the party's leader. But they are so tiny in number that they are largely irrelevant. The Tory MP with the largest number of Muslims in his riding is a man named Paul Goodman. A Jew and a strong Zionist, he is one of my closest friends.

Benjamin Disraeli

As with most things British, it is all very confusing. If you want to find anti-Semitism, it is there. I'm sure that a young man named Ivan who was the perennial victim at my high school believes that he was bullied because he was Jewish. He wasn't. It was because he was weak, plump and annoying. God forgive me, I bullied him too.

Yet in an area that was perhaps 20 per cent Jewish, there were a few anti-Semites at the school. So few, however, that I can remember them by name. They had a very hard time of it.

Which brings me to the Tottenham Hotspur story. Tottenham, or Spurs, is my soccer team. Always have been, always will be. They've been mediocre for years now, but that's irrelevant. I bleed blue and white. They're also known as the Jewish team, and local rivals refer to them as "The Yids." Shock and horror. Thing is, Spurs fans also refer to themselves as "The Yids," whether they're Jewish or not. Israeli flags sometimes fly, and Stars of David abound on T-shirts, often worn by Anglo-Saxon, Irish, Italian, Asian and black supporters.

It's a tribal issue, a way of identifying one team's fanatics from another. The irony is, our arch rivals Arsenal have at least as many Jewish fans and had Jewish directors and part-owners long before Spurs ever did. How to react to thousands of people chanting, "Yids, Yids?" With understanding. Put aside the neurosis and know what is going on. This is not harmful.

Michael Howard

Across London is Chelsea. Now here there is some harm. This team has as its chairman a highly objectionable character named Ken Bates. Chelsea is infamous for attracting the small number of Nazis who live in the city. Perhaps not the team's fault, but it could do a lot more to reject this malodorous minority. Yet when Chelsea played, and lost to, an Israeli team in a recent European competition, Bates made a nasty little comment about selling tickets for the game at a discount.

A demonstration earlier this year in London against Israel, one of many that have been held there by supporters of radical Islamists. [Carrie Devorah photo]

Anti-Semitic? Without doubt. But Chelsea was purchased last year by one of Russia's new billionaires. He is Jewish. A delicious irony, but it does not disguise the fact that if a major sports figure – a club chairman – made such a comment in North America, he would be in serious trouble.

Which brings us to the new reality: the increased dislike of Israel amongst the alleged British intelligentsia and the rise of Islam in the U.K. Ordinary Brits have never really changed when it comes to Israel. They give it vague support. The right has been transformed, becoming pro-Zionist. So has the left, becoming increasingly anti-Israel.

Again, nuance is vital here. The Labour Party is still overwhelmingly supportive of the Jewish state, but its left wing is sometimes hysterically pro-Palestinian. This has reached into some areas of the media and the universities. But please do not judge Britain by the odd article that appears in a Jewish or Israeli newspaper. As I said at the start, all North Americans are loud, brash, dumb and rich. Does that hurt? Is that true?

Take the journalist John Pilger, one of Britain's most famous leftist broadcasters. He is a passionate supporter of the Palestinian cause. I wrote a book with John and was his researcher for some years. He's a friend. I think he's wrong about Israel. I also know him to be as pro-Jewish as anyone I've ever met. It's just that John, like so many others on the thinking left, has managed to draw a dichotomy between Jews and Israel.

It's made all the easier, by the way, by the number of Jewish left-wingers who are anti-Zionist and often say things that no non-Jew would dare to say.

Paul Goodman, my old friend the MP, says this: "We haven't been helped by the neo-con approach that the war in Iraq is all about a new Middle East based on American foreign policy. The right in Britain agrees with the war, but to get rid of a dictator and not to be part of grand Washington plan, one that is, frankly, seen as being heavily influenced by Jewish people.

"It's not that this is anti-Semitic as such, but when the *Daily Telegraph*, the voice of intelligent conservative opinion, has columns by David Frum and Mark Steyn all the time, people do wonder what is behind it all. Has it got worse? Yes. Has it got much worse? No. It's rather like those comments that are never made unless someone is drunk. People now, as it were, don't have to be quite so drunk."

Now to the rise of Islam. Unlike France and most of Europe, Muslims in Britain are overwhelmingly from South Asia. They tend to be less vitriolic on the Middle East. Having said this, one of the thugs who arranged the murder of Danny Pearl was from my hometown. Unlike me, however, he did not go to the state school, but to the expensive local private school.

No, I'm not naïve. I was raised too poor and working class to enjoy that privilege. But neither am I over-sensitive. The Jewish road in Britain is still smooth. The difference is that a generation ago, there was hardly a genuine speed bump anywhere to be seen. Nowadays, one has to drive with just a little more care.

Michael Coren is a Toronto-based writer and broadcaster.

Opinions

The true heroes of D-Day

It is too easy to forget 60-year-old heroism. On June 6, 1944, D-Day, 175,000 Allied soldiers crossed the English Channel and stormed the beaches of Normandy. There, they encountered tripwires, landmines, flamethrowers and fortifications. By the end of D-Day, 2,500 soldiers were dead. But their sacrifice was not in vain. Eleven months later, Europe and its concentration camps were liberated from the Nazis.

Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz in Montreal

The soldiers were unlikely victors, a mixed multitude of (mostly)18-to-20-year-olds. The Allied armies took everyone, from squirrel shooting rural boys to bookish big city scholars. Inexperience made no difference. Peter Masters, a Jewish refugee from Vienna, was in the British Army's 10th Commando Brigade. When he enlisted, he was asked whether he could shoot a gun, handle a boat, or work a radio. He replied that he had once shot a BB gun, occasionally rowed a boat, and had never used a radio. The army took him anyway.

Remarkably, these amateur warriors developed into a courageous and powerful fighting force. And these average Joes are the true heroes of World War II.

The Scottish writer Thomas Carlyle advanced the "great man theory of history." According to this view, it is the exceptional people who decide the fate of humanity. The teeming masses are mindless followers, moulded by the great man in his image. Indeed, there is ample biblical evidence for this theory. Abraham, Moses, Joshua and David seem to singlehandedly start religions, win battles and even stop the sun.

However, it's usually the small, anonymous heroes who save the day. The Book of Judges is filled with marginal characters who suddenly find themselves thrust to the forefront. Gideon, Jepthah and Deborah are everyman heroes, little guys filling a void in leadership. In chasidic lore, God listens closely to the peasant woman's sigh and the ignorant shepherd's flute, and he saves the world because of their simple petitions. The grandiose prayers of the great man cannot compare to the sincere words of the little guy.

D-Day was a triumph for the little guys. They risked their lives, fought courageously and liberated Europe. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower reported on how he went to see the U.S. 101st Airborne division before they took off for D-Day. On the runway, he saw a short private, "more equipment than soldier," who turned to him and saluted. Then the private turned in the direction of Germany and said: "Look out Hitler, here we come".

It is because of privates like him that Europe was liberated.

Great men arrive all too infrequently. The rest of the time, it's up to everyone else to rescue the world. As we find ourselves embroiled in an international war against terror, it's time once again for the little guy to come to the rescue.

The trouble with Mary

When McGill University invited Mary Robinson to receive an honorary doctorate, I thought "not here, not now." I knew that, as a former president of Ireland and a former UN Human Rights Commissioner, she is an iconic figure to some. But I also knew that to those who remembered the ugly UN World Conference against Racism in Durban, South Africa, in 2001 which became, in Justice Minister Irwin Cotler's words, "a conference of racism against Jews," Robinson was a negative icon. She stood silently as the conference was hijacked, only belatedly objecting to the anti-Semitic caricatures distributed there.

Gil Troy in Montreal

Worse, during the preparations for the conference in Teheran and Geneva, she did not stop the Jew-bashing – and sometimes, she even emboldened the Islamic extremists. My historian's instincts sensed that as colleagues lionized her, they would sanitize Durban, with this failure listed as a plus on her resume. When we need lions to fight anti-Semitism, it hurt me that my university would celebrate a lamb linked with the Durban debacle, which crossed the line from merely criticizing Israel to demonizing Jews, with many "human rights" activists acquiescing.

I expected that raising these issues in the Montreal *Gazette* would trigger debate, but I was shocked by the libels that rained down on me and the Jewish people. In print, colleagues lambasted me as a "disgrace," as "selective" and "biased," and – in one revival of traditional anti-Semitism – as being among "the forces of money and greed that dominate our world."

Privately, I and other critics were demonized as "right wingers" – academic-speak for evil idiots – by people who know nothing about me beyond my zero tolerance for anti-Semitism and terrorism. Others criticized the "organized Jewish community's" campaign against Robinson, when the alphabet soup of Jewish organizations we spend so much money underwriting stayed silent. Fortunately, many others condemned McGill's inappropriate decision – both Jews and non-Jews – although more people remembered the few attacks on my integrity than the many defences, some by people who knew little about Durban, but felt the character assassins went overboard in demonizing me while not debating the issue.

I remain unbowed, uncowed, and happily tenured. The pro-Robinson attempts to sanitize Durban confirmed my worst fears. I remain a McGill patriot, believing in the university, and its mission, even if I criticize it. Defensive bureaucrats cannot demonize me. I urge people to support McGill, even as I urge people to fight oppression wherever it appears, be it through hatred or sloppiness.

Still, this ugly episode taught me a lot.

I learned that anti-Semitism, like all bigotry, cannot only be fought when ruins are smouldering or people are bleeding. It needs to be confronted proactively, wherever it festers, even in cases that might appear ambiguous.

I learned that the moral leadership question is more crucial than ever, and that more community leaders need to combat anti-Semitism forcefully.

I learned that there are too many anti-Semites out there, and there are too many "innocent bystanders" who don't fight anti-Semitism like they fight feminism, racism or other hatreds.

I learned that too many people politicize and contextualize anti-Semitism, as Robinson frequently has. To condemn anti-Semitism, we must repudiate it unequivocally. Choose another time to preach to the community about criticizing Israel, or any other imperfections.

I learned that my "slob theory of history" – people are often asleep at the switch – applies to fighting bigotry. This episode uncovered some hate mongers, but when McGill selected Robinson, when the controversy "surprised" administrators, when the university house organ published an anti-Semitic screed, most of those responsible were simply not doing due diligence and not being sensitive. They were not motivated by animus.

I learned about the intolerance of the supposedly tolerant. Our anguished cry about the Robinson award during a time of rising Jew-hatred should have elicited sympathy from human rights activists, not contempt.

I learned that universities have become entrenched bureaucracies, embarrassed by legitimate debate, preferring to squelch iconoclasm.

I also learned many positive lessons, about the many people across Canada, and throughout the world, Jews and non-Jews, who remember the Durban debacle and criticize Robinson for her failure. They also reject the double-standard of the UN human rights community – the subtext of this debate – while they mourn McGill's bad judgment and stand ready to fight anti-Semitism wherever it festers.

Women and Judaism in the True North

The rhythm of the academic year is such that, come spring, my thoughts turn eastward. One of the things I most look forward to each summer is davening at Jerusalem synagogues that I have come to know and love. Among my favourites are an Orthodox shul where women regularly give divrei Torah and girls mark becoming bat mitzvah by reading Torah on shabbat morning; a nearby Reform congregation that swells with song led by a woman each Friday night; and a Masorti minyan in which women lead morning prayer. Who would not fall in love, again and again and again, with Judaism?

Sara R. Horowitz in Toronto

In Toronto, my home, that love is harder to spark, at least for women. Particularly in traditional Judaism, but even in liberal movements, opportunities for women's active participatory experience in Jewish ritual life are slim. There are a few – a very few – women rabbis in Toronto. No major Conservative shul has a woman rabbi, despite the fact the Conservative movement has ordained women since 1985. Few synagogues offer women the opportunity to read Torah or to take an aliyah regularly, despite responsa on this in the Conservative movement, and I know of no daily minyan that counts women in the necessary 10. Toronto has a strong and cohesive Jewish community, a burgeoning day-school population and an enviable richness of Jewish life. And yet, across movements, the range of options for women's engagement in Jewish spiritual life are far greater both in Israel and the United States than they are right here in Toronto, or in Canada generally.

I respect the boundaries of Halachah, and the right of each stream within Judaism to define its interpretation. But limiting the horizons of Jewish women does not always come down to upholding an unbending Halachah. Judaism has always engaged in re-examination and redefinition. About 75 years ago, the Bais Yakov movement in Krakow began offering Jewish girls a solid grounding in Jewish texts. It may be hard for us to remember just how revolutionary this movement was, overturning the centuries-old practice of denying this education to girls. Radical as the concept was then, by now it has been mainstreamed in all branches of Judaism.

When I was in high school, I would listen to the shul president's usual shabbat morning announcements. He would urge the boys to play basketball in the shul's gymnasium during the week: Sunday evenings for the university boys; Mondays, grades 11 and 12; Tuesdays, grades 9 and 10; Wednesdays, grades 7 and 8, and Thursdays, 3 to 6.

One Shabbat, it struck me that no evening had been designated as girl time at the gym. I did not play basketball. But it rankled me that no provisions were made for girls. I decided to speak to the president and the rabbi, who raised the matter with the board. One month later, I received a phone call: "Congratulations. Wednesday is girls' basketball night, and you're in charge." It would be my responsibility to lock up the equipment and the gym. I came every week. I learned to shoot hoops.

Needless to say, basketball is a far simpler matter than active participation in synagogue ritual life. But take it as a metaphor.

You sometimes hear it argued that women are on a "higher spiritual plane" and have no need of the rituals that engage Jewish men. Yet it would be a peculiar religion, indeed, that excluded from active participation precisely those who seem most spiritually resonant.

The truth is, many Toronto women are eager for greater participation. Deeply moved by their first aliyah, first time *leyning*, first time leading tfillah in the rare opportunities to be found in Toronto, they fall in love with Judaism and want more. But increasingly, I meet young women in their 20s who have already decided that synagogue life offers them nothing of spiritual moment, and they turn off Judaism. It's a shame. In a time when Jewish organizations worry about "Jewish continuity," it seems strangely counter-productive to discourage a large number of Jews eager to embrace Jewish practice and Jewish spiritual life.

The Kirshner File

U.S. war vet tried to suppress his memories

William Shapiro suppressed his pain and anguish like a hurtful secret for more than 50 years. "None of the survivors talked about it," he mused. "To tell a story, you have to relive it. And who wanted to relive it? So you didn't want to tell it. It was a horrendous experience.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

"Besides," he added, "who would have believed it?"

On a recent Sunday morning, Shapiro opened the floodgates and released his pent-up memories. He spoke in carefully calibrated tones, and once in a while, as he paused, there was a catch in his voice and his eyes misted over. A 78-year-old retired gynecologist from Boca Raton, Fla., Shapiro is only now coming to terms with the trauma that mentally disfigured him.

Shapiro's descent into hell began on Dec. 17, 1944, a day after Germany launched a surprise offensive through the Ardennes forest. The Battle of the Bulge was Hitler's desperate, last-ditch attempt to turn the tide of World War II. Shapiro was 19, a medic attached to the U.S. army's 28th Infantry Division.

He was crunched up in a foxhole when the flash of an exploding German shell knocked him unconscious. He awoke, with a splitting headache, in a railway station that had been converted into a first-aid clinic. "Someone shouted, 'We're surrounded by SS troops!'" Amid the chaos, Shapiro received instructions to remove his incriminating dogtag, which bore the letter H for Hebrew. "I threw it into a potbelly stove."

Hopelessly outgunned and outnumbered, Shapiro's battalion crumbled. "We surrendered with our hands high up," said Shapiro, who returned to the station in 1999 and found a photo of that potbelly stove.

Taken to a nearby hotel and left there without food or water, the prisoners of war were then force marched into Germany, to the town of Gerolstein, and crammed into boxcars for a four-day rail journey. Conditions were atrocious. Prisoners had to defecate where they stood and drink their own urine. "Wounded men were wailing and screaming."

Famished, thirsty, dirty and unsteady on their feet, they disembarked at Stalag 9B, a terrifying PoW camp 35 kilometres from Frankfurt that held thousands of Allied troops. "We were relieved to get out. The stench and the overcrowding had been unbearable."

But worse was yet to come.

Six weeks later, after having been segregated in a barrack reserved for Jewish soldiers, Shapiro and several hundred of his fellow PoWs were shipped to Berga, a town in eastern Germany that housed a slave labour camp, a satellite of the notorious Buchenwald concentration camp. There, in flagrant contravention of the Geneva Conventions, the PoWs were put to work in back-breaking labour digging tunnels into the rock cliffs along the Elster River. Overworked, abused, beaten and starved, some of the PoWs died of injuries, malnutrition and disease. A few simply lost their minds.

This little-known footnote of World War II, the subject of Charles Guggenheim's remarkable documentary *Berga: Soldiers of Another War*, which was screened at the recent Toronto Jewish Film Festival, brought Shapiro to Toronto for a couple of days last month.

William Shapiro

Born in the Bronx, a New York City borough, Shapiro was the son of eastern European immigrants who had landed at Ellis Island, the gateway to America, in the early 1900s. His parents, Jacob and Dora, had five sons, of whom Shapiro was the youngest.

Drafted in September 1943, he did his basic training in Illinois and Washington, D.C. Subsequently, he was shipped to a base in Britain. On July 28, 1944, more than a month after the D-Day landings and on the eve of his 19th birthday, Shapiro was dispatched to Normandy. Within days, he was under fire. "The ground shook. The noise was deafening. I was frightened." He remembers the moans, groans and screams of soldiers who had been wounded.

In the waning days of August, Shapiro's division reached Paris, which had already been liberated. From delirious Paris, he was posted to an old farmhouse along the Our River, facing Germany's Siegfried line. It had been a quiet area during much of the war.

During that unusually frigid winter, in the deceptive calm before the storm, Shapiro enjoyed rare privileges. He was well fed, had access to hot showers and had plenty of time to write letters to his worried parents.

But then the furious Battle of the Bulge erupted. Though the Germans were eventually routed, they inflicted heavy casualties on the U.S. Army and captured scores of Americans. Upward of 2,000 American soldiers, including Shapiro, found themselves in Stalag 9B in Bad Orb. On arrival, they were interrogated. "With a name like Shapiro, it was quite evident I was Jewish," he said. Shortly afterward, the Germans placed Shapiro in a segregated barrack. "I was ghettoized," he said indignantly.

In a further violation of the Geneva Conventions, the German commandant asked the top-ranking American officer, an ethnic German named Hans Kasten, to produce a list of Jewish soldiers in the camp. Countering that a PoW was required to reveal only his name, rank and serial number, Kasten refused to abide by his demand. Kasten's integrity earned him a thrashing. Not to be denied, the Germans singled out 350 soldiers who, they assumed, were Jewish. A considerable number were, in fact, Christian. In an unmistakable sign of their special status, they were guarded by the SS with dogs.

"Our job was to clean the latrines," said Shapiro, who at that juncture knew nothing about the Nazis' plan to exterminate the Jews of Europe. They were allowed to leave the barrack for only meals, which generally consisted of bread, a gritty soup, horse meat and ersatz coffee. To pass the time, they played card games for cigarettes. Shapiro won a lot of cigarettes and traded them for additional bread rations. "I could supplement my diet. That's how I survived."

During his internment, Shapiro once escorted eight very sick PoWs by train to a neighbouring camp where British prisoners were held. "I realized how much better off they were than us." Prior to returning to Stalag 9B, Shapiro was permitted to shower and change his clothes. As well, he was given a Red Cross parcel – a cornucopia of tinned meat, powdered milk, cheese paste, candies, vitamins, candles, cigarettes and packages of sugar.

On Feb. 8, 1944, Shapiro was marched to a rail siding, having been told he would be transferred to a German hospital as an orderly. For five days, he shared a boxcar with prisoners the Germans had designated as Jews.

"I was very apprehensive. I felt lost," said Shapiro, whose symptoms of post-traumatic stress still flare up as occasional nightmares.

Berga, designed for political prisoners, was simply hellish. "I saw emaciated men in striped uniforms. This was different. We didn't know what was in store for us." They were placed in three filthy barracks with triple-tiered bunk beds, a single wash basin and a hole in the floor that served as a latrine.

By Berga's standards, Shapiro was assigned a relatively cushy job. He brought food to the political prisoners, with whom he was forbidden to chat, and worked in the dispensary. Nevertheless, Shapiro felt the sting of his confinement. "We lived in inhumane conditions. We were starved. We were covered with lice. We spent our nights crushing them."

At least 30 Americans died at Berga. "Many gave up. They had become zombies," Shapiro said in sorrow.

On April 6, with the war fast drawing to a close, the Germans evacuated Berga, compelling the prisoners to trudge southward to Bavaria in what was nothing less than a death march. At one point, they came upon the decaying corpses of hundreds of political prisoners who had been callously dumped in a field. "It was a most gruesome sight. I thought I was walking through the Valley of Death."

Shapiro, finally, was liberated on April 23 after he spotted an American tank column. He weighed 102 pounds and was skin and bones. "I remember saying, 'Thank you, thank you' repeatedly. I was so dehumanized. I was mentally destroyed."

After a six-week period of recuperation in Britain, Shapiro was flown home and reunited with his family and his girlfriend, Betty, whom he married in 1947. They had three sons, all of whom became physicians. "I could not believe I was back home," said Shapiro, who was decorated with the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. "There was no conversation about what had happened, but Betty helped me regain my humanity."

Shapiro studied medicine under the GI Bill of Rights and practised at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City until his retirement.

Several years ago, he received $90,000 in reparation payments from Germany. "It wasn't the money," said Shapiro, who considers himself a Holocaust survivor. "We wanted recognition from Germany that U.S. soldiers had been put through this experience."

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Greater Toronto Area

Oberlander case throws war crimes process into question

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

A decision by the Federal Court of Appeal to restore the citizenship of Helmut Oberlander, an interpreter with a Nazi murder squad, puts into question Canada's entire process of removing war crime suspects, a top immigration lawyer contends.

"The decision basically guts the process of war criminal citizenship revocation," said Winnipeg lawyer David Matas. "It is the equivalent in revocation cases of the [Imre] Finta decision [in criminal prosecutions]. It's basically a blanket immunity. It would spell an end to the effort and mean our laws aren't working and that we're a haven criminally and civilly."

Matas, who also serves as senior legal counsel for B'nai Brith Canada, said federal authorities should appeal the case to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Keith Landy, outgoing president of Canadian Jewish Congress, said "Holocaust survivors feel insulted by the decision, in that the victims weren't accorded the kind of deference and treatment we as Canadians are giving Oberlander. The sense of frustration is being keenly felt."

He also called on the attorney general to seek an expedited appeal to the Supreme Court.

Last week, the Federal Court of Appeal released a judgment that overturned a lower court decision and restored Oberlander's citizenship. Oberlander had been stripped of his citizenship by a decision of the federal cabinet based on a recommendation by the minister of citizenship and immigration.

That recommendation came after Federal Court judge Andrew MacKay ruled Oberlander had entered Canada after he lied about his wartime service in an SS killing unit.

Evidence at that trial showed Oberlander, an ethnic German living in Ukraine, joined Einsatzkommando (Ek) 10a in October 1941, after Germany invaded the Soviet Union. He served as an interpreter with the unit, which was created specifically to murder Jews and other enemies of Nazi Germany.

The appeal court decision, written by Judge Robert Décary, with Judges Edgar Sexton and B. Malone concurring, quotes MacKay, who found that Ek10a operated under the SS and was one of four similar task forces that carried out Nazi objectives.

"Among their roles they operated as mobile killing units and it is estimated that the Einsatzgruppen and the Security Police were responsible for the execution of more than two million people, mostly civilians, primarily Jews and communists, and also Gypsies, handicapped and others considered unacceptable for Nazi Germany's interests," the Appeal Court judgment recounts.

Having reviewed the trial judge's comments, the appeal court judges nevertheless write that despite "substantial execution activities, Justice MacKay made no finding as to whether Ek 10a was an organization with one single, brutal purpose, e.g. a death squad."

They go on to cite the trial judge's findings that there was no evidence Oberlander personally participated in war crimes and that in reporting to cabinet, the minister didn't refer to Oberlander's assertion he was involuntarily conscripted.

The judges downplay Oberlander's wartime service, saying the minister failed to explain why the government's policy, which is to apply only to suspected war criminals, "applied to someone who served only as an interpreter in the German army." (In fact, Oberlander never served in the German army, but was attached to the SS.)

The court goes on to say cabinet's decision was not reasonable, since it failed to "examine and decide that Ek 10a was an organization with a single, brutal purpose and that Oberlander was complicit in the organization's activities."

Matas called that line of reasoning "strange."

"What we have in Oberlander is in effect denial of the criminality of Einsatz groups" which had been established at Nuremberg, he said. What's more, the judge is overturning Canadian law, which holds that misrepresenting key facts when immigrating is in itself grounds for inadmissibility. The appeal court, in effect, is saying that if you weren't caught in a lie when you entered the country and you got away with it for 50 years, you can't later lose your citizenship, he said.

Matas said Décary is the same judge who overturned the deportation of Leon Mugasera of Rwanda, who had made a radio broadcast that prompted murderous rampages in that African nation.

"What we have here is a judge [who is] creating a system of immunity for the most serious criminals we've ever seen in this country," Matas said.

Landy agreed that Oberlander's presence in Canada is a result of "fraud," but he suggested the case did not serve as a precedent for other war crimes cases.

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Greater Toronto Area

Educator's career began in the playground

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

Zita Gardner, 65, who will be retiring as director of Leo Baeck Day School this year, said she experienced her defining moment as an educator 53 years ago.

Zita Gardner

It was in the early 1950s, when some things were different for schoolchildren. Students recited *The Lord's Prayer* at the beginning of each day and gym classes were gender divided.

But some things were the same. It was never easy for a new kid to begin school after friendships and cliques were already formed, Gardner recalled.

In the John R. Wilcox public school playground, William Moffat – a teacher so affected by polio that he could walk only with the aid of two canes – came over to a little girl standing alone and offered her an opportunity to get involved in the lunchtime sports program he was running.

The little girl was Gardner. She was 12 years old and had just moved into a new neighbourhood and school.

"I was the new kid and very much an outsider to the tight group of girls in the schoolyard," she said.

"That teacher took a little girl who didn't know a soul and offered her an entrée into the school. At that time, I realized how much of an effect one teacher can have on a kid's life, and felt that one day, I would like to provide that kind of support for somebody," Gardner said.

The young girl went on to complete a bachelor's degree in physical and health education at the University of Toronto after she graduated from J.R. Wilcox and Vaughan Road Collegiate, where she went back to teach science and girl's physical education.

In 1960, she married Allan Gardner and the couple moved to England for four years so that her husband could pursue a pathology residency at King's College Hospital in London. In England, Gardner taught at the Hammersmith Country Girl's School, a secondary school in the West End of London, until her first daughter, Gillian, was born.

Eventually, the Gardners moved back to Toronto, had two more children, Joel and Jonathan, and Gardner settled into her role as mother and wife.

"In those years, I did a lot of volunteering at my children's public school and became chair of the York Mills Family School Council," Gardner recalled.

But her life as a professional volunteer ended when she was offered a job as a Grade 8 religious school teacher at Holy Blossom Temple, where her family were members.

What began as weekend work evolved into a supervisory position at Holy Blossom's senior religious school.

Four years later, Gardner moved to the United Synagogue Day School where she became the junior high school co-ordinator. She was later promoted to the position of principal of USDS, Beth Tzedec campus.

During those years, she completed a master's degree in education, took the principal's qualifications course, and passed the provincial supervisory officer's exam.

In the spring of 1992, Gardner responded to an ad in *The Canadian Jewish News* for director of the Leo Baeck Day School.

"I applied, was appointed and I've been here for 12 years," Gardner said.

"It's really been an incredible journey," she said. On June 1, she was honoured by the Leo Baeck Day School for her 26-year commitment to Jewish education.

Looking back, Gardner said she believes the greatest challenge facing educators today is learning to treat each child as an individual.

"That doesn't mean providing an individualized program for each child. It means recognizing each child for who they are, building on their strengths and helping them develop those areas that are less strong," she said.

Gardner believes it should be a child's fundamental right to have the best possible teacher in each classroom.

Teachers face a huge task, she said. They need to focus on the behavioural, social and emotional factors of a child's school day to ensure that all the children feel safe, comfortable and happy in their environment so that the best possible learning can take place.

"And administrators face the challenge of pulling together a large group of people so that they're all working in the same direction," said the director of two campuses that include 90 staff.

In terms of curriculum, Gardner said children should know who they are as Jews first before they can begin to deal with other cultures and people.

"There has been a shift in the Reform movement," Gardner said, recalling that when she first taught Grade 8 at Holy Blossom the curriculum focused on comparative religion.

"We spent the year teaching about Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, visiting churches and so forth. Somewhere along the line, there was a realization that the children need to know Judaism first before they learn about other things," she said.

Despite being the first female director of a Jewish day school, Gardner said she has never really experienced any kind of hostility or discrimination from any part of the community.

She also says she was fortunate to have had a husband who supported her endeavours over the years. Allen, who was director of Genetic Services for the eastern region of Ontario and director of Genetic Services at the Lakeridge Health hospital network, died two years ago.

Now, Gardner says it's time for her to move on. She'll spend some time dealing with her husband's death and volunteering in different areas. But she's not worried about what's next.

"I've always been a person who has taken advantage of opportunities that present themselves," she said.

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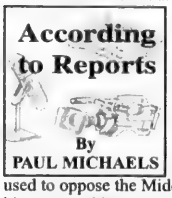
Don't blame Israel for U.S. foreign policy problems

With U.S. problems escalating in Iraq, some media analysts have begun pointing to Israel as the scapegoat for America's misfortunes in the conflict.

New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof pushed this argument to new lows on May 26 in "The Bush and Kerry Tilt."

Wrote Kristof: "Our embrace of [Israeli Prime Minister] Sharon hobbles us in Iraq even more than those photos from Abu Ghraib."



Kristof also criticized U.S. Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry for his support of Israel. Kerry, wrote Kristof, "has generally been sensible on the Middle East. But in recent months he has zigged and zagged away from his record (he used to oppose the Middle East fence, for example) to plant his own wet kisses on Mr. Sharon."

Kristof argued that Kerry should "have the leadership to acknowledge what 50 former U.S. diplomats wrote in an open letter to [U.S.] President [George W.] Bush last month." The letter castigated the U.S.-Israel relationship and blamed Israel for a wide range of ills, including hurting U.S. prestige and credibility abroad.

Kristof ignored the fact that these "50 former diplomats" are hardly neutral observers – most are well-known for being closely linked to Arab interests. Indeed, their press conference was sponsored by the Washington Report on Middle East Affairs, the most prominent anti-Israel lobby group in the U.S. capital. (Among Canadian media outlets, only CBC covered the press conference.)

While Kristof made a passing, token reference to Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's failure as a leader, his main target was Sharon: "Indeed it is my guess that Mr. Sharon has done more to undermine Israel's long-term security than Yasser Arafat ever did."

"Guess" is the operative word here. Kristof, a former Rhodes Scholar, has based his column on emotionally laden, over-the-top rhetoric and, it must be said, prejudice. Almost every line can be challenged on the basis of both facts and context.

Kristof approvingly quoted former U.S. Special Middle East Envoy Anthony Zinni, who "told the Center for Defence Information this month… [that] the road to Baghdad led through Jerusalem. You solve the Middle East peace process, you'd be surprised what kinds of other things will work out."

Unfortunately, this simplistic theory – that the key to stability and reform in the Arab world is to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict first – is gaining support. It assumes that the United States has never been deeply engaged in the peace process, and forgets the efforts of former U.S. president Bill Clinton, who tried mightily, alongside former Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak, to give the Palestinians a viable, contiguous state at Camp David in the summer of 2000 and in the following months. Arafat rejected that deal. It also ignores the fact Bush, the first president to formally endorse the idea of a Palestinian state, remains committed to a two-state solution and to a process of getting there: the internationally sponsored "road map" peace plan.

The *Economist*, in its May 29 "Special Report: America and the Middle East," wrote: "The very first requirement of the road map is for the Palestinian Authority to impose a cease-fire and disarm the terrorists." The road map is stalled precisely because Arafat has refused to act against terror.

The *Economist*'s careful and fair-minded analysis – in an influential publication not known for its sympathy to Israel – is an important contrast to Kristof's mindless rant.

The *Economist* should be read by the editors at the *Toronto Star*, who, sadly, chose to reprint Kristof's screed in the Sunday, May 30, "World" section (where, just one week before, Haroon Siddiqui's column, "Bush, Sharon lurching from crisis to crisis" made many of the same points, minus the vitriol).

Reasoned analysis serves the Canadian public much better than blind, uninformed, anti-Israel invective.

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

Run or walk for Mount Sinai

Participants in the upcoming Mount Sinai Hospital's Run/Walk for The Best Medicine campaign will enjoy a fun-filled day with live entertainment, great prizes and a family fun festival.

The community run/walk, on Sunday, June 20, is now in its second year and supports the Marvelle Koffler Breast Centre. Presented by Scotiabank, the 10-km run and 5-km run/walk starts at 9 a.m. at Queen's Park in downtown Toronto.

This year's goal is to raise $400,000.

The funds go to support the enhancement of patient-care areas and the upgrading of equipment and technology, as well as funding cutting-edge research.

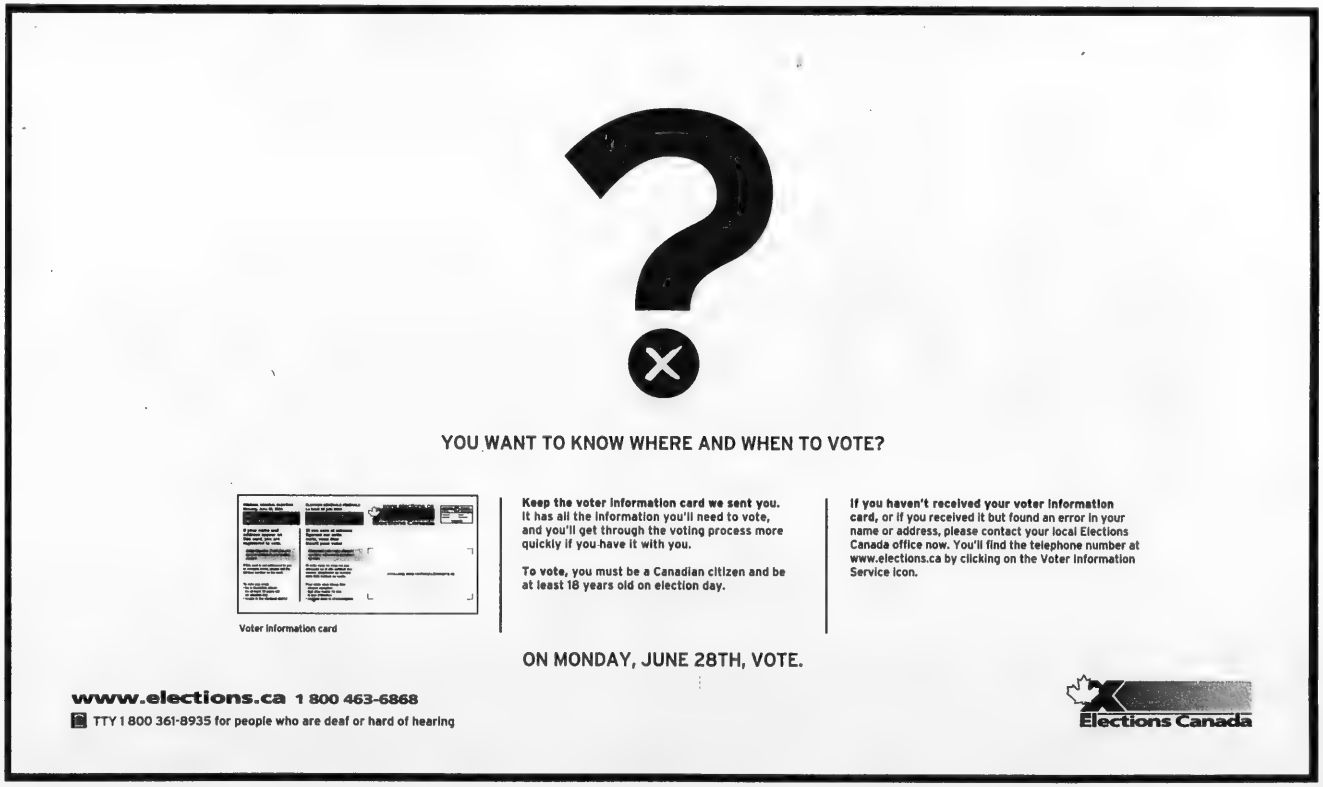
"As a community that binds together, we can make a difference in awareness, diagnosis and prevention," says Dr. Marla Shapiro, co-chair of this year's event.

Barbara Bregman, co-chair of this year's event, says that what the community can do and how much they can get involved with the hospital is often underestimated.

She adds that the response to the run/walk has been tremendous. "I have been involved in numerous fundraising events, but never have I seen a response like this."

Mount Sinai Hospital is a world-class health-care facility that delivers the best in patient care, teaching and research.

For more information about the run/walk, please call 416-586-8203.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Jewish Life

Of giants and grasshoppers

By RABBI ELYSE GOLDSTEIN

In the Torah portion we read this coming Shabbat, Shlach-Lecha, Moses sends 12 spies to scout out the land of Canaan. They panic after seeing what they consider to be giants and complain, "In our own eyes we were like grasshoppers, and so we must have seemed in their eyes too." They dishearten the whole people of Israel when they proclaim, "We cannot go against that people, for it is stronger than us." The last word of the passage in Hebrew is *mimenu*. Rashi translates the passage as "it is stronger than God," since *mimenu* can also mean "he." The spies actually believe, Rashi suggests, that God cannot prevail over these giants. Thus, their sin is a failure of faith, which they project onto everyone else.

But the midrash in Numbers Rabbah understands it differently. Their sin is one of self-defeatism, and the projection is not of their lack of faith, but of their own insecurity when they say they seemed like grasshoppers in their own eyes: "When they said 'So were we in their sight,' God asked: 'Did you know how I made you appear in their sight? Who can say that you did not appear in their sight as angels? What have you brought upon yourselves?'"

What we bring upon ourselves when we wallow in self-defeatism! Why do we obsess about how we look to others? How often, as Jews, do we feel like grasshoppers in "their" eyes? And who are these giants we measure ourselves by? First, the prevailing secular culture: we constantly wonder how "they" see "us." Are we "too Jewish"? Do we "pass"? Although we are wildly successful in almost every secular field; although we have achieved unbelievably high positions in government, the civil service and industry; although we are known as general philanthropists to every good cause in Canada; still we worry about not being "good enough" in "their" eyes.

But what is more significant, and for many of us deeply painful, is the way we see each other as Jews. Are we grasshoppers in "their" eyes – that is, whoever is to the right of us religiously? Do we constantly look over our right shoulders? Who is the ultimate judge of what we do religiously – "them" or God? Are we grasshoppers in our own eyes vis-a-vis our fellow Jews?

Humility is a good thing, when tempered by reality and based on true achievement. A professor of mine in rabbinic school used to chastise us if we got piously overhumble by saying, "Stop. You aren't great enough to be that humble." But humility is not the same as insecurity. Not everyone is a giant, and neither is everyone a grasshopper. Our self-image as Jews – and the kind of Jews we may choose to be – shapes our ability to act decisively and confidently. In Numbers 24, we read that Joshua and Caleb, the confident ones, the optimistic ones, had a "different spirit." So should we.

Rabbi Goldstein is director of Kolel: the Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning in Toronto.

Guest Voice

The March of the Living

By GEORGE HERCZEG

The March of the Living is a very worthwhile cause. Every Jewish school should make an effort to send its students on this program. But not just Jewish schools – the program is for everyone who cares about the future of humanity. It is important for every human being to see what we survivors saw in Poland, not just for Jewish people.

All decent people should see how barbaric humanity is capable of becoming.

In 10 to15 years, none of us survivors will be here to tell the truth. So if these young students don't come on the trip and tell people what they saw and learned on the March of the Living, then the deniers of the Holocaust will win.

If people can send a three-year-old child – the same age as my grandchild – to the gas chambers, what kind of human beings are they? How can human beings sink so low?

For things like this to happen is simply unbelievable – but they happened!

And if we are not careful, they can happen again.

I'll tell you a story: When we visited Auschwitz-Birkenau, the guide and our group went into one of the barracks. I was having back trouble, so I stayed outside. Suddenly, I heard sirens and lights started flashing. Two motorcycles passed me, followed by a few limousines, more motorcycles and a large number of Polish police and security people. I learned later that one of the limousines was carrying Israeli Justice Minister Tommy Lapid and Israel's former Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau, both of whom were there speaking at a ceremony in Auschwitz-Birkenau.

And you can't imagine what an uplifting feeling that was, for me a survivor, to see an Israeli justice minister and a former chief rabbi being escorted here in Auschwitz with such honour and dignity. All the money in the world couldn't buy me such a feeling!

And then we went to Israel.

On Yom Hazikaron – Israel's Memorial Day – we attended a ceremony at Yad La'Shiryon, the Israeli Armoured Corps Memorial and Museum at Latrun. At the ceremony, the students in our group saw many young soldiers, in uniform, standing on guard for the State of Israel.

We saw the names of 4,900 Israeli soldiers who have died fighting with the Israeli Armoured Corps since 1948 written on a wall at Yad La'Shiryon. They sacrificed their lives not only for the state of Israel, but also to defend all of world Jewry.

It is so important to that Israel exists today – and forever. In Jerusalem, I watched the sun rise over the city and it was such an incredible, emotional feeling to see what the Jewish people have built in this country.

For anyone who has lived through the Holocaust, to come on this trip – to leave Auschwitz-Birkenau and travel to Israel, and not to be afraid or intimidated, to see us living as a free people – it's a tremendous feeling. It gives you such a feeling of self-respect and dignity that you can't imagine!

Every person in the world deserves to have such a feeling!

George Herczeg lives in Toronto. He told his story to Eli Rubenstein.

George Herczeg at this year's March of the Living

Jewish Life

Jewish MP3s: one-of-a-kind music

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

We may be the People of the Book, but we make some fine music, too. And if you don't feel like hearing one more rendition of *Havah Nagilah*, you're in luck. The Internet allows you to track down rare Jewish tunes you might not find anywhere else. Today, we'll visit some one-of-a-kind Jewish MP3 sites.

But first a reminder: while the artists that I mention allow the downloading of their music, it is intended for personal, non-commercial use only. In addition, commercial artists do this because they hope if you like the free song then you'll pay to hear more.

The Jewish National Sound Archive at the Hebrew University has done a remarkable job tracing the role that music has played in Jewish communities in Europe and the Middle East, as well as in Israel itself. The archive has selected highlights from its 7,000 hours of recorded music that include historic songs for the High Holy Days, Sukkot and Purim from around the Jewish world. You can download everything from *Esta Noche de Purim* as sung in Tetuan, Morocco, to the late Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach's rendition of the Chanukah candle blessings. And if you want to impress your guests at next year's seder with a new tune or two, start practising now. You can download 12 versions of *Echad Mi Yodaya* (Who Knows One) from Morocco, Greece, Turkey, Italy, Persia and Yemen. **[http://jnul.huji.ac.il/dl/music]**

While at the Jewish National Sound Archive, don't miss "Songs We Loved to Hear," a selection of songs that predate the creation of the State of the Israel. They include a very scratchy *Birkat 'Am* (1922), a schmaltzy rendition of the classic *Kalaniot* (Anemones) and a foot-stomping performance of *Doda Haggidi Lanu Ken* (Auntie, tell us "'yes" – we want to get married) (1935). These tunes can only be enjoyed online, but they are well worth the visit. **[http://jnul.huji.ac.il/dl/music/yom/hsongs.htm]**

I wasn't familiar with the thriving Bukharian Jewish music scene – until now. There is a wide variety of artists and styles at BukharianJews.com. (Please note the copyright restrictions on the bottom of the page.) **[http://tinyurl.com/213qv]** From there you can travel west to sample Italia! The Renaissance of Jewish Music. **[www.zamir.org/cds/details.cgi?cd=919]**

After you've listened to some music, you may want to take a break and enjoy a story or two. There are some wonderful Yiddish tales you can download in both English and the mamaloshen. The National Yiddish Book Center site presents Peter Riegert reading Sholom Aleichem's *On Account of a Hat*. In it, "a hapless shlemiel making his way home by train in time for Passover experiences an absurd mistaken identity crisis when he inadvertently dons the hat of a military official." And in I.L. Peretz's *If Not Higher*, a skeptic who tries to disprove that a rabbi ascends to heaven every year learns a lesson that changes his life forever. **[www.bikher.org/story.php?n =11]**

Israeli storyteller Sara Blacher-Retter has a dozen more classics on her site in the original Yiddish. And if your mastery of the language is a bit rusty, you can also print out all the stories and follow along. **[http://yiddish.haifa.ac.il/Stories.html]**

Of all the Jewish MP3 sites that I have come across, my favourite is probably the one devoted to Chazzan Moshe (Murray) Bazian. It's not because I'm a particular fan of cantorial music. Rather, it's because this website (and its copious MP3 files) are obviously a work of love. **[www.chazzan.org/]** Ben Bazian has created an extensive site that follows his father, "among the great cantors of our time," from his early years in Kishinev, Bessarabia, to his immigration to the United States and his years as a cantor in the Bronx and Brooklyn. There are plenty of lengthy excerpts from Cantor Bazian's concerts along with a biography of the chazzan. When we consider the power of the Internet and its ability to let the world hear about talented individuals who may otherwise be overlooked, Ben Bazian has done his father – and us – a service.

* * *

I am about to start preparing my semi-annual column about your favourite Jewish and Israeli websites. If you've created a site you're proud of, or find yourself visiting one over and over again, tell me about it at the address below. I'll mention the best this summer.

* * *

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

Our tree of life

By RACHAEL TURKIENICZ

One of the articles that was made for the Tabernacle, and likewise was present in both temples, was the menorah, or lamp stand. Next to the Magen David, the menorah is probably the most recognizable Jewish symbol. We have many traditions that inform us of the style of the original menorah, and from there we have numerous interpretational depictions as well. In fact, the modern artistic impressions of this ancient article display sleek lines and angles that can easily erase the visual meaning of the original menorah, as it is described in the Torah.

At the beginning of this week's Torah portion, Aaron is told to go up to the menorah and light the seven lights. Clearly, the stature of the original menorah was quite high, as it involved Aaron ascending to the top. From the description given earlier of the menorah, we understand that it has three branches coming from each side, which gives a total of six arms reaching upward. The centre stand also extends upward with a light on its top, bringing the total number of lights on the menorah to seven.

Each arm was decorated with cups shaped like almond blossoms, and the central shaft had knops ascending toward the light on top. Likewise, the menorahs in the temples were decorated with flowers described as almond blossoms. The entire structure comprised a central shaft with arms coming out from its side. Along these arms appeared cups shaped like almond blossoms, which were filled with oil and lit. Knops are also present on the shaft. The menorah described in the Torah and used in the temples resembles a tree in its structure and adornment.

Yet why would a tree be important in the symbolism of the menorah? Our minds immediately return to the Garden of Eden and the two trees there: the Tree of Knowledge and the Tree of Life. After eating from the Tree of Knowledge, humanity is exiled from the garden. The Torah tells us that God keeps us out of the garden not to punish us for sinning, but to prevent us from eating from the Tree of Life, which would bring immortality to humanity. The image of the menorah unites these two trees into one.

We also see this when we participate in a Torah service and recite a verse from Proverbs. The Torah is referred to as "the tree of life to those who hold strongly in her." And yet there is no disputing that the Torah is the centre of Jewish knowledge: our Tree of Knowledge. The Torah has also united both trees into one.

When we look at the menorah today, with its sleek lines and angles, it is important that we also remember how the original menorah looked. It was not simply a useful article that gave light. It was symbolic of the trees we encountered when we first entered the world. It was symbolic of the Torah, our link to our beginnings. By seeing the "tree" beyond the menorah, we understand that it is through Torah and our connection with God that we have access to the Tree of Life, to immortality.

The Mishnah in Avot tells us of the Torah: "Turn it over and turn it over again for everything is in it. Pore over it, grow old and gray over it. Do not budge from it. You can have no better guide for life."

Aaron is told to elevate himself to light the lights of the menorah. The original menorah of the Tabernacle is gone, but we still have our tree of life in the Torah. May we continue to elevate ourselves to it.

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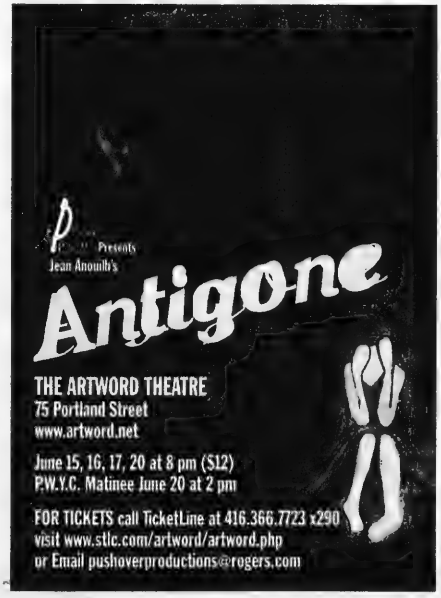


Eilat paves the way for Toronto road

By ROCHELLE KAHN
UJA Federation

As a tangible expression of a warm partnership, the road leading into Eilat is being refurbished and renamed in honour of Toronto. The 850-metre road will be enhanced with new lighting, signage, landscaping and a redesign of Eilat's entrance square.

Eilat Mayor Yitzhak Halevi explained that he wants to ensure that, not only area residents of Eilat, but everyone who visits from around the world will know what Toronto has done to develop the area's community and social services

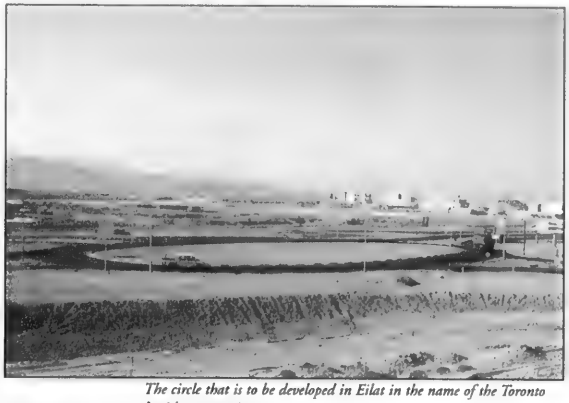
It all began in 1988 when UJA Federation of Greater Toronto forged a living link with the city of Eilat to improve conditions there. This unique initiative, involving the entire surrounding Eilot region, under the Partnership 2000 program (P2K), has flourished in the years since.

"The people of Eilat are eternally grateful to UJA Federation and the Jews of Toronto," Mayor Halevi said. "Toronto keeps its finger on the pulse of what's happening here and never forgets us. We want everyone to know that you are always in our hearts, as we are in yours, and the road renaming project is a lasting symbol of this permanent bond."

"Twice a year, a delegation of Toronto volunteers meets with our partners in Eilat to plan for the coming year and take a first-hand look at the people-to-people projects we support in the region," said Barbara Bank, who co-chairs the Partnership 2000 committee with Warren Kimel.

There's been enormous progress in the 17 years since the relationship began. Laura Kindler, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's representative in Israel, noted that the number of students graduating from high school has tripled because of Toronto's investment in Eilat's education system. "Eilat recently won Israel's Prize for Education," Kindler said, "in recognition of reaching a 60% matriculation rate." Many other community initiatives, created through Partnership 2000, have positively advanced the quality of life for students and youth, including children at risk and those facing domestic violence.

"We are grateful to Eilat and Mayor Halevi," Bank said, "for this new tribute, honouring the special relationship we share. Eilat has become a city of friends and, as a member of Toronto's Jewish community, I feel a special pride every time I'm there. I would encourage everyone who visits Israel to visit Eilat."



The circle that is to be developed in Eilat in the name of the Toronto Jewish community.

B'nai mitzvot honour Holocaust twins

By ROCHELLE KAHN
UJA Federation

The idea of twinning a bar or bat Mitzvah celebrant with a child murdered in the Holocaust came to life several years ago and has grown since into a powerful – and increasingly popular – way for North American youth to add special meaning to their simcha.

That was certainly the case for the five students of the Morris Winchevsky School who recently celebrated their special day.

Lucas Meilach-Boston spoke on their behalf and described the strong connection he now feels with the Holocaust. "My twin was Polish and so integrated that he never expected to be hated for being Jewish," Meilach-Boston said. "I hope everyone will remember how much of a tragedy this was. We need to let those who survived feel that something is being done to tell people about those who died."

Choosing to participate in the program involves a strong personal commitment. With the support of UJA Federation's Holocaust Centre, participants pick a twin: a child victim who may or may not have been related to them. They assume responsibility for researching their twin's life, touring the centre and interviewing a survivor. The b'nai mitzvah create the twinning ceremony itself and a pamphlet, describing the experience and the twin's story that is presented to everyone attending the service.

So far, 14 students have graduated from the program and eight others are enrolled. Mary Siklos of Toronto's Holocaust Centre, who attended the recent Winchevsky School ceremony, was impressed by the dedication shown by the five participants.

"Their divree Torah (religious remarks) were so well researched and clearly reflected what the program meant to them," she said. "This kind of interactive education is especially important today. These kids will teach their friends not to be racist or intolerant."

"Each Jew must bear witness, do something that personally affiliates them with the Holocaust," explained Jason Leizer, who taught the Winchevsky contingent. "My students introduced their twins before they even introduced themselves and that sends an extremely powerful message about remembering."

"The greatest mitzvah our young participants perform," observed Eleanor Getzler, who sits on the Holocaust Centre executive, "is remembering children who have no one else to remember them. It is said of those who perished in the Holocaust that, to each one there is a name. The b'nai mitzvah kids give them a name."

B'nai mitzvah participants (left to right) Zoe Downie-Ross, Jessica Wong, Mitchell Mathews, Lucas Meilach-Boston, and Aaron Trefler. (Photograph by Jason Leizer)

Exhibit helps immigrant artists

For many new immigrants, adjusting to life in their new city can be a lonely and frustrating experience. Creating a network of social and professional contacts can take years.

Thanks to the Koffler Centre of the Arts and the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre in partnership with JIAS (Jewish Immigrant Aid Services) Toronto, six immigrant artists who have brought their artistic visions from their countries to their new homes in Toronto will have the opportunity to display their works and meet the public during an art exhibit and reception.

"They were all very eager to participate in this venture, and are grateful for the chance to begin making new connections, to share their talent and experiences, and to re-establish their reputations as artists," says Janis Roth, executive director, JIAS Toronto.

The exhibit will consist of an eclectic collection of pieces, ranging from photography to abstract acrylic paintings created by artists from the Former Soviet Union, Israel, Argentina, and Mexico.

One of those artists is Paula Slimovitch. Born in Argentina 33 years ago, Slimovitch, an abstract painter, has lived in Toronto since April 2003.

"It was very hard to be an artist in Argentina. It's not a good place for people in my profession," she says. "I wanted to come to Toronto for a long time – I waited two years for the chance. I love Toronto because it is a big city with people from all over the world. The people here are so nice to me. This art exhibit is an example of how they've helped me here. This will help people know about my art and, if I can sell something, that would be wonderful. If not, it will maybe open other doors."

The public will be able to meet the artists and view their works at the opening of the exhibit, which will take place on Sunday June 13, 2004, from 2:00-4:00pm, at the Loggia Gallery of the Koffler Centre of the Arts, located at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst Street. The works will continue to be on display until July 11, 2004.

"Lilacs" painted by 17-year-old artist Yivgeni Matoussov, a new immigrant to Toronto from Russia.

Campaign 2005 focuses on a secure Jewish future

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA Federation

UJA Federation's upcoming Campaign 2005 is concentrating on the need for a secure Jewish future at a time of rising antisemitism, including disturbing antisemitic incidents in Toronto.

Chaired by Robert Harlang and Chuck Winograd, the campaign will be investing new funds in four areas:

- Strengthening the community's Jewish voice on issues of urgent concern
- The need for community security in the wake of antisemitic outbreaks
- Israel's extraordinary needs brought about by nearly four years of terror and a weak economy
- Linking unaffiliated young Jews to Jewish life

Ariella Rohringer, vice chair of UJA Federation Campaign 2005.

"To build a secure Jewish future requires enormous investment," said Winograd. 'Existing funds are just not there – to boldly speak out against antisemitism; to provide for terror victims in Israel; and to expand our own community's security needs."

"The growth of anti-Israel and antisemitic hatred has reached levels that most of us haven't seen in our lives," said Harlang. "In addition, we were recently shocked by expressions of antisemitism in our own city. These acts of hatred should serve as a wake-up call to all of us including thousands of young people with no links to Jewish life."

Campaign details were recently revealed to campaign leaders at the new Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life at the University of Toronto.

Howard Sokolowski (l), a past UJA Federation Campaign chair, spends some time with Campaign 2005 chairs Chuck Winograd (centre) and Robert Harlang at a recent leadership briefing held at the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life.

"Today, thanks to the resources established through the UJA campaign, Jewish students and academics in Canada are beginning to assert Jewish dignity and Jewish honour," said Bernie Farber, executive director of Canadian Jewish Congress Ontario Region and the keynote speaker at the Leadership Launch. "Today more than ever, they understand the need and the obligation of all Jews to stand up and be counted as Israel's first wall of defense in the Diaspora. We must continue to create an atmosphere on campus with the understanding that from university and colleges emanate the leaders of tomorrow."

The official launch of Campaign 2005 will take place on August 30 at Toronto's Fairmont Royal York Hotel.

Huge turnout for Walk with Israel

Walk features a drive for life

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA Federation

The Chairs of UJA Federation's Walk with Israel are overwhelmed by the number of participants who joined this year's event.

An estimated 20,000 people, led by Toronto Police Chief Julian Fantino, walked with Israel and against hate, along the 6.5 kilometre route to the RioCan Festival at Ontario Place.

"The community's response to this important Walk with Israel, and walk against hate, was simply remarkable," said Peter Ekstein, chair, along with David Peltz of this year's Walk. "I feel so much pride in our incredible Jewish community which, once again, turned out in incredible numbers, full of so much enthusiasm, to let the world know how much we stand together with Israel."

"The sun certainly shined on us that day," said Peltz. "The Walk was a great example of what we – as Jews – can do when we come together to let the world know that we simply will not, and cannot, tolerate racism and hate in any form, against any of us. It was an incredible day, an incredible turnout that brought Jews from all backgrounds and beliefs, together for Israel."

Chairs of the UJA Federation Walk with Israel, Peter Ekstein (l) and David Peltz (r) welcome Toronto Police Chief, Julian Fantino, to the event. (Photo by Stephen Epstein/Big Dipper Communications)

The festival – chaired by Felicia Posluns, Beth Singer, Nelly Zagdanski and Sara Zagdanski, featured fun for children, a barbeque for all ages, and an Israeli mall.

At the festival, more than 200 walkers gave even more of themselves by seeing if they qualified as bone marrow donors.

"We probably had about 220 or 230 people come to us to see if they could help by donating their bone marrow," said Dr. Gordon Arbess, HIV primary care physician at Toronto's St. Michael's Hospital, and the man who set up the bone marrow facility. "Unfortunately, some of them didn't qualify as donors due to various medical conditions. Still, we probably had about 190 donors, plus another 20 volunteers, who helped out with the registration. The bottom line is, all it takes is one person to provide a match to save the life of somebody from somewhere around the globe. It could turn out that one of those people who came out to support the Walk with Israel might also save somebody's life. It's just incredible."

Dr. Arbess, who is with the Gift of Life Marrow Foundation, initiated the registry on behalf of a 9-year-old Jewish boy from New York who is suffering from leukemia. Donor matches are generally found between people of similar ethnic or racial backgrounds.

The mandate of the Gift of Life Marrow Foundation is to increase Jewish representation in the worldwide bone marrow registry, which includes roughly 8 million people but only 300,000 Jews.

"The beauty of the match between the UJA Federation Walk with Israel and the bone marrow registry is that people were able to walk in support of their community, and, at the same time, possibly save a life," he said. "The Walk with Israel was the perfect Jewish environment in which to seek donors."

For potential donors, the screening process was a painless experience. They didn't have to endure needles as they would when giving blood; but rather a swab on the inside of the cheek.

After the tests were completed they were sent to a lab where they were analyzed. If a match is found anywhere around the world, the donor will be contacted and he or she will be asked to undertake a more specific blood test.

Although Dr. Arbess was too busy to enjoy the Walk with Israel, his son wasn't.

"My son, Joshua who is 41/2 finished the Walk before he came to help me at the registry. He said he had a terrific time and that the walk was a blast!"

For more information about the Gift of Life Bone Marrow Foundation, visit www.giftoflife.org.

Lunch and Learn

UJA Federation's Societies Division recently held a special lunch program featuring keynote speaker Dan Diker, senior correspondent and analyst for Israel's Channel One English News.

Enjoying the day's proceedings are members of the Chmielniker Society: (l-r) Stan Frydman, Renee Frydman, Sarah Goldlist, Al Goldlist, Fay Goldlist and Bela Strauch.

(photo by Eve Marks)

Any questions concerning information or photos that appear on these pages should be directed to jewishtorontonews@ujafed.org

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Please note that a meeting of "Members of Canadian Friends of Boys Town Jerusalem" will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 24, 2004 at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue, Brotherhood Hall, 470 Glencairn Ave., Toronto, Ontario
Earl Miller Chairman
*All contributors to Canadian Friends of Boys Town Jerusalem are regarded as members.
For additional information, please call: 416-789-7241

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Jews most targeted by hate crimes

Continued from page 1

"Government leaders at the national level failed to recognize, despite our best efforts, that anti-Semitism was a deep problem and that it wasn't just a matter of individual, isolated incidents, but was part of a pattern. Unfortunately, we did not have a declaration in the early period in the first two years or so, condemning anti-Semitism as a whole," Prutschi said.

The Pilot Survey by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics Centre compiled the findings of 12 Canadian police forces in 2001 and 2002. A total of 928 hate crime incidents were reported in that period, with 57 per cent motivated by race or ethnicity and 43 per cent prompted by the victim's religion.

"The largest single group identified in the pilot survey was Jewish people or institutions. One-quarter of the 928 hate crime incidents reported by the 12 participating police services were anti-Semitic in nature," the survey, published by Statistics Canada, reported.

"In the case of anti-religious hate crimes, about two-thirds included acts of vandalism, arson, other property offences and hate propaganda."

Trailing "Jewish" (26 per cent) as victim groups were, black (17 per cent), Muslim (11 per cent), South Asian (10 per cent) and gay and lesbian (nine per cent).

Karen Mock, executive-director of the Canadian Race Relations Foundation, agreed that earlier public denunciations of the anti-Semitic incidents might have deterred subsequent events.

"We continually need to call on leadership at all levels of the system and when they don't [speak out], it gives licence for those people to continue," she said.

Public denunciations must be accompanied by educational programs, inter-community dialogue and "sanctions" against perpetrators for deterrence to be effective, she added.

Mock noted in the post 9/11 world, a "volatile climate" was created that saw "anti-U.S. feeling and the scapegoating of minorities when people feel anxious. We know Jews are scapegoated when times are bad."

In the post 9/11 climate, a trend developed that saw "a huge rise in incidents versus Muslims and Arabs and those thought to be Muslims. Police data showed they levelled off to baseline, but the anti-Semitic incidents continued escalating," Mock said.

A spillover effect from events in the Middle East contributed to the increase in the number of incidents, Prutschi agreed.

"A lot of latent anti-Semites see the climate as being more propitious for them to engage openly in anti-Semitic activity," he said.

Karen Mock

"Some incidents were caused by individuals coming from sectors of the Muslim and Arab community, but many of the incidents are more than likely the work of a whole range of anti-Semites. A large proportion of the anti-Semitic incidents have a Middle Eastern component to them," with threats and attacks to property explicitly referring to the Middle East, he said.

Referring to the anti-Semitic statements by aboriginal leader David Ahenakew in December 2002, Prutschi said, "The Middle East is an excuse that allows these perpetrators to think this kind of discourse is more acceptable."

Prutschi said Congress is hoping the Senate, which is studying Canadian anti-Semitism in committee, will issue a resolution condemning the phenomenon. "We hope a similar type of resolution will be brought forward and adopted in the House of Commons."

Manuel Prutschi

Canada is obliged as a member of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) to comply with the organization's Berlin Declaration and condemn and combat anti-Semitism, he said.

Mock said a recent panel in Markham, Ont., which involved Jews, police, politicians and members of other religious groups, agreed that extremists should not be allowed to set the tone of inter-group affairs. That discussion, she said, is "a kind of model we need."

In a news release, B'nai Brith Canada called upon the government to ensure that dedicated hate crime police units are established across Canada.

"These latest findings only highlight the growing need for such measures. The officers of such units, who are given specialized training and are sensitized to the multicultural communities they serve, can play an invaluable part in gathering this important data," the release stated.

Only paid Mazel Tov announcements can be guaranteed to appear in a specific issue, when received by deadline, 10 days prior to publication date. All other items will appear on a first come, first served basis as space allows.

Family Moments

only from The Canadian Jewish news

Mazel Tov to...

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Mazel Tov to
Adam Joseph Levine
son of
Rila & Marc Levine,
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From your parents

Honey & Jerry Mahl are thrilled to announce the engagement of their daughter Melanie to Adam, son of Susan Seigel and Ron & Deborah Seigel. Proud grandparents are Harry Miller and Anne Seigel.

Larry & Barbara Hart
and
Sonny & Marsha Cohen
of London, England, are pleased to announce the engagement of their children
Cynthia & Adam
A June 2005 wedding is planned.
Mazal Tov to grandfather **Harold Rosenberg** and **Freda Freedman.**

Mazel tov to the outstanding team who created and sold our exceptional premier supplement "No Place Like Home" in the May 13 edition of *The CJN*. Kol Hakavod!

Maureen & Joel Richler and Michael & Susan Silver are thrilled to announce the engagement of their children Rebecca & David.

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What's New Deadlines: Monday, June 14, is the deadline for the June 24 issue and Monday, June 20, is the deadline for the June 30 issue. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

This week's column was prepared by Carolyn Blackman.

Saturday, June 12

LEARNING FOR SINGLES

Arachim presents **Rabbi David Ordman** in an evening of laughter and learning for singles 35-55, 10:30 p.m., Herb n Health, 2827 Bathurst St. RSVP **Henry** 416-785-6032.

Sunday, June 13

HABONIM

Shalom Singers conducted by **Esther Ghan Firestone** present a Musical Mosiac, at Habonim Breakfast Club, 10 a.m., Beth Habonim, 5 Glen Park Ave. Breakfast and entertainment $6.

SPIRITUALITY FOR KIDS

Free, fun-introduction-to-spirituality program for kids. Classes at 11 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. Kabbalah Centre, 678 Sheppard Ave. W. Call 416-631-9215.

MUSICAL AFTERNOON

Medley of Yiddish, Russian, Israeli and Broadway favourites with **Nina Shaplisky** and **Michel Smolkin**, presented by Beth David Haverut and Brotherhood, 1:30 p.m. Minimal charge includes refreshments. Call 416-633-5500.

ROSH CHODESH GROUP

Beach Synagogue Rosh Chodesh group features A Living Future, Judaism: A Quest for Meaning, 7 p.m., 109 Kenilworth Ave. Call 416-763-2799.

CFHU FAMILY FUN DAY

Canadian Friends of Hebrew University, family-fun day for pediatric research. Camp Robin Hood in Markham. For information, call 416-485-8000, www.cfhu.org.

WALKING TOUR

Downtown Jewish Learning Council and Miles Nadal JCC presents A Sense of Spadina, a walking tour of historic Toronto with **Cyrel Troster**. Meet 10 a.m. at Congregation Anshei Minsk, 10 St. Andrew St. Donation $10 includes bagel brunch following walk at JCC.

Tuesday, June 15

CHUG TANACH

The Tanach Group will study and discuss Psalms chapter 18. Beth David Congregation, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, June 16

MELTON MINI-SCHOOL

An information evening, including a model lesson, takes place at Beth Tzedec at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call 416-789-7400.

Thursday, June 17

REVIVING EDEN

Reviving Eden, for those in their 20s, presents **Avrum Rosensweig**, executive director of Ve'ahavta, who speaks on the Jewish value of tikkun olam, Kolel, 151 Eglinton Ave. W., 7:30-9:30 p.m. $10 at the door, no pre-registration required. Call 416-485-7007, www.kolel.org/reviving eden.

NALAGA'AT

Nalaga'at, a theatre group of Israeli actors, most of whom are deaf and blind or partially so, present *Light is Heard in Zig Zag*, Bathurst Street Theatre, 7:30 p.m. For tickets, call 416-640-8521. Nalaga'at website at www.nalagaat.org.il.

HEALTH FAIR

Displays, guest speakers at free health fair for seniors, Fairbank Memorial Community Centre, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Registration 9:30-10 a.m. Call 416-651-8300.

Other news

JF&CS GROUPS

A one-session workshop emphasizing the importance of establishing a business-like relationship with your "ex," June 14, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

High Conflict Divorce, a one-session workshop for parents to learn how to lessen impact on children.

Continued on page 23

THE FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

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Now entering our third year and growing Additional volunteers needed!

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The Friendship Circle has been made possible by a generous grant from THE ONTARIO TRILLIUM FOUNDATION

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What's New

Continued from page 22

Workshop requires active participation and is not appropriate for people in abusive situations. Tuesday, June 22, suite 313, 6:30-9 p.m.

One-session workshop for parents to explore general characteristics of adolescence and how to understand how teens cope when their family changes, Wednesday, June 23, 7-9 p.m.

All sessions at Promenade Mall, Suite 313. For information, call 416-638-7800.

MOUNT SINAI FUNDRAISER

Mound Sinai Hospital's second annual 5-km run/walk and 10-km run takes place Sunday, June 20, at Queen's Park. Proceeds benefit the hospital and the Marvelle Koffler Breast Centre. To register, visit www.mtsinai.ca or call 416-586-8749.

SHUK IN THE PARK

Shuk in the Park 2004, Aug. 29, is looking for musical acts, vendors and volunteers. To contact the hotline, call 416-485-7007, ext. 200. Shuk details at www/shukinthepark.com.

COOK FOR THE CURE

KitchenAid Cook for the Cure Pinknic, a pink-themed event to unveil the Tablecloth of Hope, which honours Canadians who have supported the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation, June 23, rain or shine, 12 noon-1 p.m., Queen's Park North, at Wellesley St. S. and Queen's Park Crescent W. For information, visit www.KitchenAid-cookforthecure.ca or call 1-800-618-CURE.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue continuing education presents The Book of Judges and the United Nations: The Judging of Israel, with **Dr. Rachael Turkienicz** and **Prof. Ed Morgan**. Thursdays, June 10, 17, 24, 8 p.m., Arback Hall. No charge. Call 416-633-3838.

FOR SENIORS

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Casino Niagara, June 24; Saturday dance, June 12. Call 416-395-7881.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). Call **Menachem Wallach**, 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla**, 416-630-5771.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday, 10 a.m. in the boardroom, Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Call 416-630-9444.

The Association of Jewish Seniors presents To Our Good Health with **Paula David** of Baycrest Centre, Thursday, June 17, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Earl Bales Park Community Centre. Lunch and entertainment. Members free, guests $3. Register with **Tammy**, 416-635-2860.

B'nai Brith lodge, Dr. W. Fil-derman, is taking a trip to Casino Niagara Fall, Monday, June 21. Tickets $23. $15 will be reimbursed at arrival to casino. Departs 4300 Bathurst, 9 a.m. and returns 6:30 p.m. Call **Felicia Lowy**, 416-631-0634.

Beth Tikvah Friendship Group presents a book review of *Guns and Bandages* with **Dr. David Mendel-sohn**, Sunday, June 13, 3 p.m.

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500

Wisdom of the Ages: a one-hour weekly writing and discussion seminar examining life's timeless wisdom. Share our thoughts and feelings or just come to listen. Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to noon. Call **Mara Swartz**, ext. 2275 for information.

Current-events group Thursdays, featuring topics of interest to the group. Call **Mara Swartz**, ext. 2275.

Music appreciation, Wednesdays, 1:30-2:30 p.m. in classrooms A and B. Program focuses on a variety of composers, musicians and bands of different eras. No registration fee. Call Melissa Konat, ext. 2297.

The Visionaries: Low Vision Group meets next on Thursday, June 17, 3-4 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge, Call **Shawn Fremeth**, ext. 2986.

Yiddish discussion group will be held Thursday, June 17, 3:30-4:30 p.m. in classrooms A and B. No registration required. Call **Leslie Iancovitz**, ext. 2553.

Stroke recovery awareness session, Thursday, June 10, 10 a.m. to noon. The Heart and Stroke Foundation presents a lecture about strokes at the Fireside Lounge at 11 a.m. Admission free. Call Debbie **Van der Laan**, ext. 2263.

In celebration of Seniors' Month, Wagman Centre hosts its annual event at Earl Bales Park on Thursday, June 17. The theme is Sex and the Senior Citizen, and the format will explore myths about aging. Free for paid members and $3 for guests. Advanced registration required.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

Older and Wiser, an entertaining look at fire safety for older adults, Wednesday, June 16, 1 p.m.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew-speaking seniors meets Tuesdays, 2:30 p.m. June 15 is a summer party. Call **Anna**, ext. 110.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211 or www.milesnadaljcc.ca

MNJCC Community Choir 8th Annual Spring Concerts, Sunday, June 13, 3 p.m. and Wednesday, June 16, 8 p.m. with **Harriet Wichin**, conductor and **Jack Gelbloom**, pianist, at the Al Green Theatre. Tickets, $20 family, $20 adults, $5 seniors/students.

Registration for children's summer programs: Tiny Tumblers, Monday and Wednesday, 9-11 a.m.; Start with Art, Tuesday and Thursday 9:30-11 a.m.; Wild and Free, Tuesday and Thursday, 12:30- 2 .p.m. Now You're Two, Friday 9:30 - 11 a.m.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca

Koffler School of Music student recital, Sunday, June 13, 2:30 p.m. in the Koffler Loggia.

The Koffler Gallery presents Norman T. White, Norm's Robots, through June 27.

Miles Nadal camp comes to Centre Camp. This summer, a bus will stop at the Miles Nadal JCC and drop off at Centre Camp. Call the Centre Camp office at the Bathurst JCC, ext. 378, or www. centrecamp.ca.

For this September, the BJCC School & Daycare offers Toddler daycare spaces available, a new extended Tic Tac Two morning program from 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m. or 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Call ext. 248 for information.

Adult services and 55+ presents bridge with **Joel Shapiro**, Tuesday, June 15 1-3 p.m., room 120 for advanced beginners; Tuesday, June 15, 9:30-11.a.m., room 120 advanced. Intermediate classes begin in July.

Register for computer classes designed for 55+ age group.

For more information on 55+, call **Janet**, ext. 259.

ARCHIVES CHALLENGE: Na'amat Toronto challenged its 26 clubs to its first-ever Club Archives competition, held recently at the Borochov Centre. Club Dayan won first place with its Children's Carnival poster. Shown above from the left are Elaine Sugar, co-president of Club Dayan; Joanne Spinner, daughter of member Janis Spinner; and Mollie Rothman, archives chair, who presented the award. [Frances Klinger photo]

TORAH CEREMONY: Leo Baeck Day School students, from left, Matthew Bogoroch, Julian Binder, Massad Markus, Dustin Greiver and Laurel Kimel were among Grade 2 students marking their study of Bereshit at a Torah ceremony with parents and families. To commemorate the milestone, the school gave them an inscribed copy of *The Gates of Seasons: A Guide to the Jewish Year*.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 35

To place an unveiling notice, please call at least 15 DAYS prior to the date of the unveiling

OBITUARIES and Related Notices

To place any other family related notice, please call at least 10 DAYS prior to the issue date

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Sydney Rifkin	May 18/04	223 Shaughnessy Blvd
Lionel Gottlieb	May 18/04	114 Craig Leith Rd
Shirley Jensky	May 19/04	640 Sheppard Ave W, # 401
Hanka Ann Hoffnung	May 21/04	142 Kennard Ave
Paul Kaufman	May 20/04	36 Leameadow Rd
Alter Steinfeld	May 22/04	7460 Bathurst St, # 309
Mae Silverstein	May 22/04	80 Evanston Dr
Sydney Serruya	May 21/04	85 The Esplande, # 315
Sam Neiman	May 23/04	1131 Steeles Ave W, PH #101
Bud Sugarman	May 24/04	88 C Crescent Rd
Leon Navon	May 24/04	20 Glebe Road W, # 10
Ann Rodney	May 26/04	3705 Bathurst St
Samuel Malach	May 26/04	343 Clark Ave W, # 1603
Jacob Kaplan	May 25/04	645 Castlefield Ave

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Donath, Emeric
May 22, 2004
Rabinowitz, Max Louis
May 19, 2004
1 Brewsland Crescent
Louza, Wendy Elizabeth
May 19, 2004
80 Inverlochy Blvd.
Bakaleinik, Fania
May 19, 2004
5935 Bathurst Street
Mandel-Friedman, Deborah
May 19, 2004
7825 Bayview Avenue
Alpert, Arthur
May 20, 2004
Rubin, Johann
May 20, 2004
New York
Goldwasser, Tauba
May 22, 2004
120 Promenade Circle
Gafer, Samuel
May 20, 2004
Gembicki, Dorothy
May 21, 2004
Bregman, Esther
May 22, 2004
Obliguengarts, Efim
May 23, 2004
Flamenbaum, Bela
May 23, 2004
18 Barkwood Crescent

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ISOBEL BERLIN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 13th, 12:00 noon
Beth Tzedec Memorial Park
(Bathurst, north of Finch)
Section 8
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
HELEN EMERSON ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 13th, 10:30 a.m.
Jones Avenue Cemetery
Blake Street Entrance
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
IRVING DULBERG ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 20th, 11:00 a.m.
Grand Order of Israel Cemetery
Snake Road,
Hamilton, Ontario
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
RUBY EISEN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 13th, 10:30 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
The New
Beth Sholom Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SAM GRAF ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 13th, 1:00 p.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Ozrower Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SYLVIA IZENBERG ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 20th, 12:30 p.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Bathurst, South of Steeles
Chenstochover Aid Society Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
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will take place
Sunday, June 13th, 12:00 noon
Dawes Road Cemetery
Section M
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

Chevre Kadisha Agudas Achim Section in Roselawn Cemetery. By-laws available at 416-444-2192

The family of the late
HARVEY SIMON ז"ל
would like to express sincere and heartfelt appreciation to all their friends and relatives for the many acts of kindness, support and for the many donations made in his memory. Your support has brought us comfort and given us strength during our recent bereavement.
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Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Shaarei Tefillah Section
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On Campus

Theatre company lets observant Jews take part

By JESSICA HELLEN
CJN Intern

For many Orthodox Jews, the dream of being in a theatre production is impossible. How do you tell a director that you can't rehearse or perform on Friday night or Saturday and can't wear certain costumes?

To overcome the problem, two years ago York University students David Levine and Maya Rabinovitch created Pushover Productions, a theatre company that gives observant Jews the opportunity to participate in theatre productions.

"I spent most of my childhood" acting and working behind the scenes, Rabinovitch said, and "it was a constant fight to make people accommodate me."

Sometimes she could not be involved in productions because she would not perform on Saturday night.

"Theatre is a world that Orthodox Jews can't enter," Levine said.

Rabinovitch said she always felt as though she had to choose between her religion and her passion.

"There's no reason that one should take out the other," she said. "I don't think anybody should be short-changed just because they have another part of their life."

Shira Stanleigh, a York University student who acts in the company, said Pushover Productions is "groundbreaking.

"I don't have to explain myself or my special circumstances," she said.

At her previous theatre company, Stanleigh was the only shomer Shabbat actress.

"They were completely accommodating," she said, "but I was not able to fully experience the theatre world because of my religious distinction.

"I would never ever compromise [my religion]," she said, "but it was my disadvantage. People sort of got better opportunities than I did."

Levine said the response from Orthodox actors has been great.

"They've been really excited," he said. "For some people this is a dream we can make happen."

Pushover Productions is currently working on its third play, Jean Anouilh's *Antigone*. The cast is university-aged, and includes Orthodox and non-Orthodox Jewish students, as well as non-Jewish members.

"It's interesting to watch people get along," said Levine, "and watch the non-Jews learn [about Shabbat] and respect that."

Levine said the non-Orthodox and non-Jewish members have been "really understanding. They like having the weekends off."

Rabinovitch said the actors understand the reason behind Pushover Productions because they share a love of theatre.

"They really admire the fact that David and I have taken it into our own hands and created something for ourselves, rather than wait and have someone find us."

Levine said not working on Friday or Saturday can cause some difficulties when preparing for a play.

"If the show is opening on Sunday, and on Friday afternoon the set isn't built or the lights aren't quite right, we still have to stop," he said. "This is a commitment that comes first."

Rabinovitch and Levine also have to consider the costumes and blocking of scenes.

Levine said they often have to redo a costume if the actor doesn't feel comfortable in it.

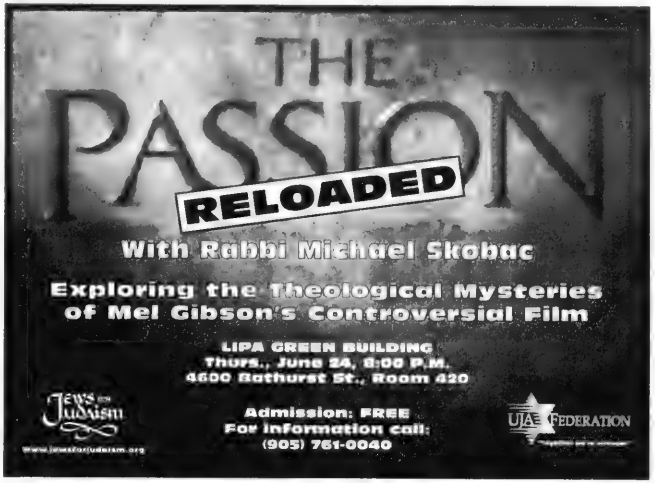
A scene had to be cut from *Antigone* where Stanleigh's character and a male character are "touching each other a lot. [The other actor] completely understands that that can't happen," Stanleigh said.

Pushover Productions is funded "with great difficulty" by private donors.

"Hopefully soon we'll be able to apply for different grants," Rabinovitch said, "but it's difficult when your company doesn't have a lot of experience."

Rabinovitch said creating Pushover Productions "was one of the most satisfying things I've ever done in my life."

Antigone runs June 15, 16, 17 at 8 p.m and June 20 at 2 p.m and 8 p.m. at The Artword Theatre, 75 Portland St. (one block east of Bathurst Street, south of King Street). All tickets are $12, available at the door, or call TicketLine at 416-366-7723 ext. 290 or visit www.stlc.com/artword/artword.php.



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Seniors Scene

Seniors gain computer skills at Wagman Centre

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

More and more cyber bubbies and zaides are surfing the web, sending and receiving e-mails, creating websites and playing computer games – and many can thank the Wagman Centre for helping them become computer literate.

The Wagman Centre, part of the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care, began its computer classes five years ago with one class and four computers donated by Henry Campbell.

Thanks to a donation of additional computers, as well as printers and scanners, from the Goldgrub family last year, the centre's computer room now has 11 computers and has expanded its schedule of classes and labs.

The sessions run throughout the week for seniors at different levels of proficiency.

"We share the excitement of our students when they communicate with family and friends – seeing pictures of their grandchildren, watching them search the web, and when they learn a new recreational activity," says Mara Swartz, Wagman's recreation co-ordinator.

She says participants tell her the computer courses have helped them "bridge the generation gap. They tell me they can communicate with grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and they can talk to them about computers. But most important, it avoids loneliness."

About 80 per cent of the students now own a computer, Swartz notes.

To assist students with physical problems, the lab has special equipment, including a stationary mouse for people with tremors or arthritis and a video projection machine to help students see what is being taught.

Swartz says each student has a program skills sheet that tracks their progress and helps them move forward.

This spring's roster includes eight-week sessions for beginners that provide basic computer and word processing skills; second-level beginners classes that aim to increase word processing skills; intermediate level sessions that introduce the Microsoft Word program; a four-week course titled "Design your Own Personal Stationery and Business Cards;" and an eight-week Internet course.

Lillian Silver is one of the computer room volunteers.

Silver took computer training when she worked for the provincial Ministry of Correctional Services. She retired in 1996. Three years ago, she noticed on the Baycrest website that the centre offered computer courses for seniors.

"I wondered if they needed volunteers for the program."

Lawrence Sandy, 89, began learning about computers six months ago after his children gave him one as a gift.

"I'm having a lot of fun," he says. "I just finished the Internet course and I want to continue learning. My main interest is the Internet, and I now keep in touch with my family. I was thrilled to get pictures of my great-granddaughter, who is in Hanson, Texas."

Volunteer Lillian Silver, back left, helps Al Thuna, as Lawrence Sandy, front left, and Harry Finkelstein hone their skills at the Wagman Centre's computer room.

Al Thuna, 69, retired nine months ago. An avid stamp collector, he uses the Internet and e-mail to search for different suppliers and to keep in touch with other collectors.

Harry Finkelstein, 56, was forced to retire a year ago from his work as a sportswear wholesaler because of illness. He had used a computer at home, but he wanted to create a website. After taking classes, he designed his own site: www.harrykel.netfirms.com.

Cost for the computer courses are $40 for Wagman Centre members and $60 for non-members. Computer lab time is $5 an hour for members and $7 for non-members.

For more information on the classes and the computer room, call Mara Swartz at 416-785-2500, ext. 2275.

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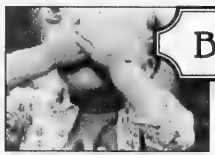

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Youngest candidate seeking seat in Toronto riding

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Max Silverman, 18, is the youngest candidate in the June 28 federal election, his website touts. The NDP hopeful in Toronto's Eglinton-Lawrence riding is hoping to unseat veteran Liberal MP Joe Volpe, who has represented the district since 1988 and has served as minister of human resources and skills development since December, when he was asked by Prime Minister Paul Martin to be the lead minister for Ontario.

Eglinton-Lawrence

Also running in the riding are Bernie Tanz for the Conservatives; Shel Goldstein for the Green Party; and Corinne Prevost for the Canadian Action Party.

Volpe, 56, an Italian-born former educator who was raised in Jewish neighbourhoods in Toronto, won the riding handily in the 2000 election with 60 per cent of the vote.

Max Silverman

Eglinton-Lawrence is bounded by Yonge Street and the railway tracks west of Caledonia Road. Highway 401 is its northern boundary, and the southern boundary runs along Eglinton Avenue West.

Volpe believes the top issue in this election, simply, is "who will be Canada's prime minister." Despite media reports indicating depressed support for Martin, Volpe said that while campaigning, he has found, "without a doubt, overwhelming" support for the Liberal leader.

Bernie Tanz

Given the demographics of Eglinton-Lawrence – with Jews constituting about one-third of its 106,879 residents and a sizeable Orthodox community in the Bathurst-Lawrence neighbourhood – Volpe stressed the party's support for Israel in areas such as commerce and scientific research.

Joseph Volpe

Canada's recent voting record on Israel-related matters in the United Nations "has to be changed, for sure," said Volpe, a member of the Liberal Parliamentarians for Israel, an official caucus committee.

A longtime advocate of government support for religious schools, he said the issue of tuition tax credits "requires some federal involvement." He sees anti-Semitism and hate crimes as not just a Jewish issue but a national one, and said anti-Semitism must be addressed aggressively in its early stages.

Health care, also of particular concern to the riding's significant population of seniors, will be addressed in August, Volpe said, when the prime minister is planning to meet with the provinces about an additional $9 billion dollars that he has promised for health care

"We want to tie that to a performance criterion that will address how to reduce the waiting times and provide greater accessibility," Volpe said.

On the issue of same-sex marriage, he defers to Canada's Supreme Court, which has yet to rule on the issue.

Tanz, 47, agrees with Volpe on same-sex marriage, but he said that in his forays into the riding, where four generations of his family live, he's encountered concerns over government accountability.

"People feel their money is not being safeguarded by the existing Liberal government," he said. "The cost of living is a big, big issue."

One way he would address that is by fighting for the tax deductibility of mortgages, he said.

But the main reason Tanz took on the candidacy was funding for religious schools. A father of three children in the Jewish day school system, Tanz, a shopping centre developer, said he would call for the reinstatement of the religious education tax credit by the Ontario government. The measure was eliminated this year by Premier Dalton McGuinty.

Among the issues he's stressing is crime. "We've got to set examples of some type of mandatory sentencing with respect to hate crimes. They cannot be tolerated."

An active member of the Progressive Conservative party for the past decade, Tanz ran for East York council in 1994, losing by only 67 votes. He serves on the advisory board of the Tanz Neuroscience Centre at the University of Toronto, named in memory of his grandmother, and was involved in Bialik Hebrew Day School's capital campaign.

He declined to comment on whether the Conservative party has been a true merger of the former Progressive Conservative and Alliance parties, saying that it's more "a matter of going forward." He said party leader Stephen Harper is "a moderate man, a good man. He says what he means and means what he says. I think he's… a terrific leader for the party."

Continued on page 29

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Federal Election '04

Grade 12 student runs for NDP

Continued from page 28

Silverman, a Grade 12 student at Northern Secondary School, was an active member of Jewish Youth Against the Occupation until his recent candidacy, and he co-organized a march against racism in April.

Although he tried (unsuccessfully) to have the controversial film *Jenin, Jenin* screened at his high school last year – and two years ago stirred up controversy at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto for wearing a button that advocated ending Israel's occupation and supporting the intifadah (he told *The CJN* he covered up the latter part of the slogan) – Silverman said he's dedicated to Israel, which he has visited with his family. He added that he works at Camp George, which is affiliated with the Reform movement, and teaches Hebrew at Temple Sinai.

He admits to encountering "differences of opinion" with voters while campaigning in the riding.

Silverman, who supports same-sex civil marriage, but is not in favour of funding for private schools, said he rejects violence and believes in a two-state solution in Israel. He believes the best way to fight international terrorism is to support development to try to alleviate poverty.

He is focusing on three main election issues: keeping health care delivery in the public domain; creating a "green" (environmentally sustainable) economy; and strengthening Canada's voice for peace, human rights and fair trade on the world stage.

If elected, he said, he would defer his acceptance at McGill University, where he is planning to study politics and history.

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YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

ייִדיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פֿון: אַלעק סילווער

י. י. סיגאַל, צום 50סטן יאָרצייט

פֿון שמחה סימכאָוויטש (סאראַנסק)

דעם 7טן מערץ ווייסט אין נעוואָרק פּופּציק יאָר זינט עס איז געשטאָרבן, איך עלטער פֿון 57 יאָר, דער טיפֿזיניקער דיכטער **יעקב יצחק סיגאַל**. סיגאַל איז קוים נעווען 15 יאָר אלט וען ער איז אַנגעקומען קיין קאַנאַדע, אָבער ער האָט א גאַנץ לעבן געשריבן וועגן זיין וואַלערע היימשטעטל קאָרעץ מיט אירע פֿשוטע אָרעמע ייִדן אוּן זייער ייִדיש־פֿאַלקשן לעבנס־שטיגער.

סיגאַלס לעבנסוועג איז ניט געווען פֿאַרזיכט מיט רוזשן. אָנגעקומענדיק קיין מאָנטרעאָל האָט ער יאָרן לאַנג געמוזט אַרבעטן אין א שאָפּ אַדער ווּ א לערער איז די ייִדישע נאַכמיטאָג שולעס. אין 1923 איז ער אויבער־גענאָמען קיין ניו־יאָרק אוּן דאָרט געלעבט עטלעכע יאָר. אָבער סיאיז אים דאָרט, וויזוּ אויס, בעסער ניט געווארטן אוּן ער האָט זיך אומגעקערט קיין מאָנטרעאָל. ערשט אין 1941 האָט זיך סיגאַל דערשלאָגן צו ווערן א סטאַבילער מיטאַרבעטער אין דער מאָנטרעאָלער צייטונג: „קענעדער אָדלער", וווּ ער האָט בינן סוף פֿון זיין לעבן רעדאַגירט די ועכטלעכע ליטעראַרישע זייט.

י. י. סיגאַל איז געווען א בין גאָר פֿראַדוקטיווער שרייבער. אויסער אין „קענעדער אָדלער" פֿלעגט ער דרוקן לידער, עסייען אוּן אַרטיקלען וועגן שרייבער אוּן ביכער אין די מערסטע ייִדיש־אַמעריקאַנער צייטשריפֿטן, ווי אויך אין זשורנאַלן מעהר־לים. אין 1918 איז אין מאָנטרעאָל אַרויס סיגאַלס ערשטע לידערבוך „מיין וועלט". פֿון דעמאָלט אָן זיינען אין משך פֿון איבער פערציק יאָר אַרויסגעקומען זיינע פֿאַרנעמיקע לידער־ביכער, צען אין צאָל.

אין די אַלע וועלט האָט זיך י. י. סיגאַל באָוויזן ווי אַן עכטער לידיקער, וואָס זיין ייִדישע שירה האָט געשטראָמט אָן אויפֿהער, ווי א מעין המתגבר. די טעמע אוּן קאָנטוּר פֿון זיינע לידער איז געווען א באַגרענעצטע: די פּשטות, תמימות אוּן ערלעכקייט פֿון ייִדישן פֿאַלקסמענטש, די אָרעמע לייט, בעטלער אוּן שטילע עניוּים פֿון אירן זייט, אוּן די ליכטיקע געשטאַלטן פֿון בעל שם טוב אוּן אנדערע גוטע ייִדן, וואָס האָבן געהילפֿן דעם גוף אוּן די נשמה פֿון אָרעמען פֿאָלק. אוּן וע פֿולן האָט סיגאַל ניט אויפֿגעהערט צו באַזינגען אוּן אַרויסהייבן די שיינקייט פֿון ייִדישן לשון, פֿון ייִדישן פֿאַלקסלעד אוּן פֿון פֿרומען אמא־ליקן לעבנסשטיגער.

אין 1950 איז אַרויס סיגאַלס קורצווערק, די לידער זאַמלונג „ספר ייִדיש", א בוך פֿון אַרום 600 זייטן, וואָס האָט אַרויסגעוויזן א סך אָפּרוּפן אוּן קאָמענטאַרן פֿון ייִדישע שרייבער אוּן קריטיקער. יעקב גלאַנשטיין, אין זיין בוך „אין תוך נעוּמען, עסייען 1948־1956" (ניו־יאָרק 1956), הייבט אַרויס סיגאַלס אַרבאַנדנקייט מיטן ייִדיש־לשון, וואָס איז זיין „מדה אני אוּן זיין קריאות שמע". סיגאַלס איינעשטילטער ניגון איז באַהאַרוכט מיט עכטער פֿאָעטישער שיינקייט, וואָס דערהייבט די פּשוטסטע ווערטער זיינע צו דער מדרגה פֿון ליטעראַרער דיכטונג. גלאַנשטיינען אַרט אויך ניט סיגאַלס שאָפּערישע שפּע, וואָס פֿאַרוואַנדלט אים אין א „ראַשטילד פֿון גרויסצוגיקן אופּצוגנעמענעם ייִדישן דלות". „ספר ייִדיש" באַציכנט גלאַנשטיין וויּ אַן עיקרדיק ווערק אין דער ייִדישער דיכטונג, וואָס גיט דער ייִדישער ליטעראַטור „האָפּט, אָנזען אוּן באַשיטונג". גלאַנשטיין באַוווּנדערט די מחוק פֿון סיגאַלס שוורות, די וויכקייט פֿון די ווערטער, וואָס ליגן זיך צוזויף אין א פֿאַרוּמלטער דבקות מיט אַלע צאַרטן אוּן חנען פֿון ייִדישן לשון.

אין 1955, א יאָר נאָך סיגאַלס פּויצייטיקן טויט, איז אין מאָנטרעאָל דערשינען אַן אָפּקלייב פֿון י. י. סיגאַלס לעשראַישן עזבון — דאָס בוך „לעצטע לידער", רעדאַגירט פֿון שלמה וויינמאַן אוּן מרדכי חסיד. צום פּופּציקסטן יאָרצייט פֿון יעקב יצחק סיגאַל איז כדאי צו דערמאָנען, ליינען אוּן באַווּנדערן זיינע טויערקייט לויב אוּן חמול געוּמען וועגן ייִדישן וואָרט אוּן גורל.

Federal Election '04

Health care the key issue among major candidates

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

As Carolyn Bennett sees it, the most crucial issues in this federal election are health care, health care and health care.

The Liberal incumbent in the Toronto riding of St. Paul's says that in every neighbourhood in the riding, voters are talking about the health care system.

St. Paul's

"They want to make sure it is sustainable," says Bennett, a family physician. "In conversations I had with people, I saw that they understood the link between [such issues] as poverty and violence and health care. It is all about keeping people well.

"People accuse me of making everything a health care issue, but it is all linked."

Bennett, considered a strong friend of the Jewish community and an advocate for Israel (she chairs the Canada-Israel Parliamentary Friendship Group), was first elected in the riding, long viewed as a federal bellwether, in 1997 and re-elected in 2000.

From left: Carolyn Bennett, Barry Cline and Norman Tobias

In late 2003, she was named minister of state for Public Health by Prime Minister Paul Martin.

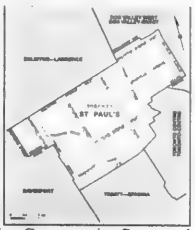
Her affluent riding, which according to the 2001 census has the second highest average family income in Canada, is bounded, roughly, by the CP Rail line, Winona Drive, east to Dufferin Street, Eglinton Avenue, Bayview Avenue and Moore Avenue.

Almost 37 per cent of the 112,500 residents have university degrees, the third highest percentage in Canada, and the riding is estimated to be 20 per cent Jewish, with the largest concentration of Jews living in the Forest Hill and Rosedale neighbourhoods.

The riding is almost completely residential, and renters outnumber homeowners 62 per cent to 38 per cent. The business service industry is the major employer.

Bennett is striving to promote multicultural dialogue in St. Paul's. "If we cannot promote that here, what hope do we have in the Middle East?" she asks.

At one town hall meeting, she encouraged new Canadians to speak about what it was like for them to come to Canada. "We must foster a safe place for people to tell their stories. At least we have made a good start in promoting dialogue.



"The thing people need to understand is that for the Jewish community, the Middle East is not foreign policy, it is family. It is heartfelt by Jews that Israel be secure and safe."

Barry Cline, an architect who ran against Bennett in the 2000 federal election for the Progressive Conservative Party and polled 10,000 votes, or 21 per cent of ballots cast, is the new Conservative Party's hopeful in St. Paul's.

He said health care is definitely a major issue, "but everyone is looking for government accountability and they are not finding it. Health care comes up after they vent their frustrations about what is going on now in the government, and I am talking about everyone, from young voters to seniors living in retirement homes," he says.

"A vision of accountability is sweeping the land. People are saying that 'we are Canadian, and we must have integrity.'"

Among other issues, he said, a Conservative government would ensure transparency and accuracy by providing the auditor general with full access to all documents from all federal organizations, encourage research and development through tax credits and elimination of the capital tax, and eliminate inter-provincial trade barriers in commerce, labour and capital mobility.

It would also end mandatory retirement and introduce measures to hold young lawbreakers accountable to their victims and the larger community.

Cline says he's a strong supporter of Israel, and would not be associated with the Conservatives if the party did not share his views on the subject.

NDP candidate Norman Tobias, a tax lawyer who taught law at Queen's University, says his party's platform calls for restored funding for health care.

"Federal funding has fallen to 16 per cent of health care costs, and it should be at least 25 per cent.

"We also need to address the issue of affordable housing. Between 1973 and 1993, 650,000 units were constructed, but that program was cancelled and it has not been restored."

His party's platform includes upgrading public transit, creating 200,000 more child care spaces in the next 10 years and extended health care coverage for seniors to include home care and pharmacare.

"We would also exempt people with an income of less than $5,000 from federal income tax, and increase child tax benefit from just shy of $2,000 to $4,900.

"We think that we have to start with the most vulnerable. Our neighbours can have claim to dignity only when we believe in community."

Addressing the Arab-Israeli dispute, Tobias said his party calls for "an immediate end to terrorism, leading to negotiations towards a Palestinian state living peacefully alongside the State of Israel without any further claims against Israel."

The Green Party candidate in St. Paul's is Peter Elgie.

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Nearly 1,500 WWII war crimes files closed, inactive

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

As of December, 2003, the Department of Justice had declared 1,494 files on suspected World War II-era war criminals either inactive or closed, according to the government's recently released Sixth Annual Report on Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes.

Seventy files were still under active investigation and 124 allegations had undergone initial checks. Of the active files, four involved ongoing proceedings at the Federal Court of Canada or the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB). The rest are described as in the "development stage."

Of the 373 inactive files, the greatest number – 227 – were listed as such because the suspects were accused of "membership only." Denise Rudnicki. a spokesperson for Justice Minister Irwin Cotler, explained that "membership only" means the person was a member of a group that "may or may not have been involved in [war] crimes. If it's a murder squad, it's clear, but other groups are a little grey as to whether they committed atrocities."

Other explanations for inactive files included insufficient evidence and suspects not being in Canada. Another 175 were inactive because "routine" investigative checks came up negative.

Of the 930 files that are closed, 508 were closed prior to 1998 (when the War Crimes Program was created), 408 were because the suspect was deceased, and another 14 were dropped because the suspect was born before 1906.

The report was made public last month by Cotler and Deputy Prime Minister Anne McLellan, the minister of public safety and emergency preparedness.

It highlights the activities of the War Crimes Program from April 1, 2002, to March 31, 2003, in pursuing war criminals and those who have committed crimes against humanity, both during World War II and after the war up to the current day.

All told, the Canadian government has opened and examined 1,684 files on alleged World War II criminals.

Since 1995, 19 revocation and deportation cases have been initiated, the report states. As of March 31, 2003, the government had received favourable decisions in six denaturalization cases before the Federal Court, namely, those against Wasily Bogutin, Vladimir Katriuk, Serge Kisluk, Helmut Oberlander, Wasyl Odynsky and Michael Baumgartner.

In two other cases, those of Ladislaus Csatary and Mamertas Maciukas, the respondents did not contest the cases. Their citizenship was revoked and they left the country voluntarily.

Three defendants – Peteris Vitols, Johann Dueck and Eduards Podins – have been successful in three cases before the Federal Court.

Six suspects died during the course of legal proceedings: Antanas Kenstavicius, Erichs Tobiass, Josef Nemsila, Ludwig Nebel, Bogutin and Kisluk.

On March 31, 2003, the department was awaiting one judicial review decision from the Federal Court, that in the case against Oberlander. Deportation proceedings were also pending against Oberlander before the IRB's adjudication division.

Two cases were concluded and awaiting a decision from the Federal Court, those against Walter Obodzinsky and Jacob Fast. Proceedings are ongoing in the denaturalization case against Michael Seifert. Extradition proceedings have also been launched against Seifert.

Obodzinsky was notified in August 1999 that his citizenship was to be revoked. He then went to the Federal Court for adjudication under the Citizenship Act. A statement of claim was issued against and served on Obodzinsky on Feb. 1, 2000. The Federal Court's trial division and the Federal Court of Appeal both dismissed his request to stay the case on medical grounds and the Supreme Court denied him leave to appeal on this issue.

In the case of Fast, he was served with a notice of intent to revoke his citizenship on Sept. 30, 1999. Fast requested that the matter be referred to the Federal Court, also citing the Citizenship Act. A statement of claim was served on Fast's counsel on March 7, 2000.

The report notes that the War Crimes Program continues to deal with allegations that could lead to criminal prosecution or to the revocation of citizenship and eventual removal, "notwithstanding the passage of time that renders this work more and more difficult."

In releasing the report, Cotler said: "Canada has a reputation worldwide for being a leader in ensuring that there is no safe haven for individuals involved in crimes against humanity or war crimes, regardless of when or where these crimes took place.

"We want to take a leadership role in engaging the international community to work even more closely with us to bring the perpetrators to justice."

The War Crimes Program is a joint initiative of the departments of justice and citizenship and immigration, and the RCMP.

Eric Vernon, director of government relations for Canadian Jewish Congress, said the number of active cases is "disappointingly low, but we do acknowledge that in the last few years more cases have been brought forward by the government."

He said that "there had been quite a lull in the middle history" of the revamped war crimes program, which was established in 1995 after the government switched to pursuing suspects under civil, rather than criminal, law.

He noted that since the period covered by the report, two new cases have been launched, those against Jura Skomatchuk and Josef Furman, which he said CJC commends.

Vernon said CJC would like to see the government consider using criminal proceedings again, which was made possible by legislation enacted in 2001 in the wake of the establishment of the International Criminal Court.

Baycrest Centre
for Geriatric Care

We cordially invite you to attend the

ANNUAL MEETING

of Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care*
and The Baycrest Centre Foundation

Wednesday, June 16, 2004, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

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To acknowledge this years recipients of the
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The Presidents Award for Innovation and
The Presidents Award for Leadership Excellence

Bylaw #21 will be presented for approval by members of Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care.

Bylaw #21 enables the election of a director for a one-year term or a three-year term. The bylaw also specifies the requirement under the Ontario Public Hospitals Act that at least four directors be retired from the Board each year.

Please R.S.V.P. 416-785-2500, ext. 6218

* *including: The Jewish Home for the Aged, Baycrest Hospital, The Baycrest Day Care Centre and Ridgecrest Seniors Residential Services Corporation*

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For more information, contact Fay Rotman, Project Supervisor at UJA Federation at 635-2883 ext. 324.

Coast to Coast

Ten Haligonians celebrate their bat mitzvahs

By JOEL JACOBSON
Special to The CJN

HALIFAX — It will be a magical ride for 10 local women this Shabbat when they take a step most Jewish girls in non-Orthodox North American synagogues take at age 12 or 13.

They will become b'not mitzvah.

For various reasons, these women, aged 29 to 74, missed the experience the first time around.

Some grew up in Orthodox shuls, where girls are not called to the Torah like bar mitzvah boys, while some came from non-practicing families and some were not Jewish at the time.

Now they're ready, willing and able.

They've been studying each week at the Conservative and egalitarian Shaar Shalom Synagogue for two years, initially as part of an adult education program to teach liturgy and understanding of the prayers, and more recently to celebrate their bat mitzvahs.

Florie Fineberg, 74, the oldest of the group, grew up in Montreal, where her family did not attend synagogue regularly. When she moved to Halifax, her husband Leonard's hometown, the people of Shaar Shalom became like a second family to her.

As she became older, she says, she realized what she had missed as a girl.

"I have learned a lot over the years," says Fineberg, the shul's choir director. "And this, too, is an important learning experience."

As b'not mitzvah, the women will be able to lead religious services.

Molly Rechnitzer, 68, a Montreal native who moved to Halifax years ago, says leading Shabbat services is part of the commitment the women made when they decided to pursue adult studies.

"I attend services each Friday evening and Saturday morning. I can read and write [Hebrew], but studying for my bat mitzvah has taught me why I'm saying the prayers I recite," says Rechnitzer, a social worker in private practice.

Donna Assh, a psychologist, grew up in Quebec City. As chair of Shaar Shalom's adult education committee, she helped create the group.

From left, Donna Assh, Florie Fineberg and Joanna Mirsky-Wexler, all of Halifax

"I've always had a strong sense of being Jewish," says Donna. "But in the [Orthodox] synagogue where I grew up, women did not have an active role in services. Now, being able to participate more will cause me to show my Judiasm more directly."

Elizabeth Pink, a justice of the peace who converted to Judiasm several years ago, sees this as an opportunity to give back to the synagogue.

"We do not have a rabbi, and the undue burden of leading services and performing synagogue duties has fallen to a few men. Now I'll be able to help out."

Joanna Mirsky-Wexler, 29, director of finance at the Atlantic Jewish Council, is the youngest of the group.

In her Orthodox synagogue in Montreal, as in most Orthodox shuls, girls did not celebrate bat mitzvahs.

> ***'Makes me feel more responsible for my choices as a spiritual and ethical person'***

"Now my spiritual growth has developed to explore, take leadership and learn the liturgy, which is what Judaism is all about. What better way to explore than in the community of women about to have a bat mitzvah. I'm now ready for what I wasn't at age 13."

Michelle Byers, a professor of sociology and criminology at Saint Mary's University (SMU), grew up in a non-shul-going family in Montreal. When she moved to Halifax, she found Shaar Shalom welcoming and now attends regularly.

"As an academic, it was easy to learn [to read and understand Hebrew] fast, even starting from zero. Being bat mitzvah makes me feel more responsible for my choices as a spiritual and ethical person, makes me think about things and make informed decisions."

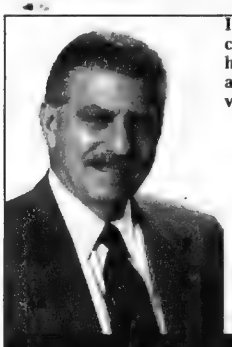
Wendy Katz, an English professor at SMU; Beverly Parsons, a retired registered nurse; and marketing consultant Linda Law, both of whom converted to Judiasm, are also in the group.

Heather Zitner, a family doctor and medical advisor to the provincial Workmen's Compensation Board, says Judaism is "a way of life I've practised for a long time [after converting].

"I made my kids go through this. They'll probably giggle at me Saturday."

The women will lead services from start to finish, sometimes as a group, sometimes individually. They'll also read the weekly Torah portion.

Of that, Michelle Byers says proudly: "My dad and brother didn't have a bar mitzvah. I'm the first in my immediate family to be able to celebrate this. And they'll be here Saturday to see me."



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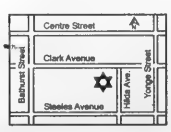

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Coast to Coast

Ex-PLO member turned Zionist barred from Canada

By LAUREN KRAMER
Special to The CJN

VANCOUVER — An ex-PLO terrorist turned supporter of Israel who has made numerous appearances in Canada was barred from re-entering the country last week to give a speech here denouncing terror, but he managed to deliver his talk via satellite from California.

Walid Shoebat was scheduled to speak in Vancouver about Islamic fanaticism and terror, but he was stopped by immigration officials last Monday as he boarded a flight to Vancouver from a California airport, after his Canadian entry visa failed to arrive.

He told the *Vancouver Sun* the officials "gave me some excuse that I have a background in terrorism."

Shoebat, who grew up in a village near Bethlehem and now lives in northern California, has already been warmly welcomed in recent months by Jewish audiences across North America, including in Winnipeg, Toronto and Montreal.

His Vancouver talk at the Italian Cultural Centre to a crowd of 400 Jews, Christians and a number of anti-Zionists went on as scheduled live via video link.

Gabriel Patrich, a member of the local Israel Action Committee, told the *Sun* he was "very disappointed" by the decision not to let Shoebat into the country and accused the Canadian government of "taking sides."

A spokesperson for Shoebat told Israel's Arutz Sheva radio that pressure from pro-Palestinian activists in Vancouver, who had organized a protest outside the Italian centre, led to Shoebat's being refused entry.

Canadian immigration department officials reportedly declined comment.

Shoebat's formative years were defined by the belief that Jews were the descendants of monkeys and pigs, but the 44-year-old father of two has given up his day job as a software engineer to tour North America, speaking at churches, synagogues and community centres about Islamic fanaticism and terror.

Shoebat, who converted to Christianity in 1993, spoke last week as someone who had been immersed in Islamic fundamentalism and experienced life as a terrorist.

"Hatred is a drug, a new kind of epidemic, and you fight drugs with detox," he said. "You also get angry at the people who have pushed this poison into you. I'm now trying to detox others and to fight the epidemic of Islamic religious extremism."

Given his background, Shoebat, which is not his real name but one assumed for his protection, seemed an unlikely candidate for detoxification.

By age eight, he was throwing rocks at people praying at the Western Wall. By 15, he was in a Jerusalem prison, where the PLO recruited him to blow up the Bethlehem branch of Bank Leumi. The plan went awry when Shoebat saw Arab children playing nearby and decided not to detonate his explosives. At 18 he moved to Chicago, where he raised funds for the PLO.

Ultimately, he married a Catholic, and in the process of trying to convert her to Islam, started researching the Qur'an and the Old Testament.

"I became convinced I was on the side of evil," said Shoebat, who is now an active Christian Zionist.

"I started looking into Judeo-Christian texts, and I found that the things I had been taught were wrong," he said.

Shoebat believes the only answer to the gridlock in the Middle East is for Israel to dismantle the infrastructure of the Islamic fundamentalists from the ground up, starting with the education system.

"When you're born, the first thing you learn is that Jews are dogs – it's institutionalized in the arts, social life and schools. The whole education system is hijacked, not unlike the indoctrination that occurred in Nazi Germany. It's an occupation of the mind," he said.

"This is a vermin that needs to be destroyed. Not just the terrorists, but their agenda."

Shoebat's views and his willingness to share them has left him estranged from much of his family, and he receives regular threats and says he never feels safe.

He can also never return to Bethlehem. "When Israeli television broadcast an interview with me, my whole town was watching. If I returned, I'd be killed in five minutes," he said.

"I'm the perfect subject for an honour killing, and my Arab family would be glad to do the job. When I was a terrorist, I was called a freedom fighter. Now I'm called a racist and a traitor."

In response to one questioner who insisted that Israel is similar to an apartheid state, Shoebat answered: "A Jew cannot walk in Judea, but an Arab can walk free in Israel. That's a litmus test for the whole world."

With files from JTA.

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Ottawa community demonstrates solidarity with Israel

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — For the first time in a number of years, the weather co-operated, so the organizers of the annual Aviv Festival could relax and enjoy the fruits of their labour.

Previously known as the UJA Walkathon, the event's format has evolved into what this year was more of a solidarity march than endurance test. Whereas in past years participants started at various times and did the course walking, running, cycling or even on inline roller skates, this year's version saw everyone begin at once. As a group and carrying banners, they walked together down Broadview Avenue and back to the city's Jewish Community Campus to participate in a variety of activities.

Ottawa mayor Bob Chiarelli demonstrated his support by beginning the May 30 walk with the group, as did Israeli Ambassador Haim Divon. Several local political candidates were also spotted in the crowd.

Former deputy prime minister Herb Gray enjoyed the day with his family. "I wanted to show solidarity with the Ottawa Jewish community," he said. "Over the years, I have been part of the Windsor community, and now that I am based in Ottawa, I wanted to participate in this. It is a tremendous event."

Dalhousie University student Mark Bessoudo of Saint John, N.B., is in Ottawa for a co-op work term. He said he came out to show support for Israel.

"It's amazing how many people are here," he said, "And the food is good."

Indeed, the food tent proved very popular throughout the day. There were also numerous children's activities and an Israeli marketplace with arts and crafts vendors.

Marty Davis, director of the United Jewish Appeal, said "the only cloudy part of the day was that some of our vendors were unable to cross the border at Buffalo." He said that while it was disappointing, it was not a complete surprise that people from the Middle East would have difficulty at the border.

Other popular activities included a dunk tank where prominent community members volunteered to get wet; Israeli dancing on the lawn; and entertainment by a number of local choirs.

With a record turnout, it's expected the event will be also be a fundraising success.

Jewish MP's posters defaced with swastikas

MONTREAL — Longueuil police are investigating the daubing with swastikas of election posters of Brossard-La Prairie Liberal MP Jacques Saada.

Saada, who is the government house leader, reported that the defaced posters were found on Provencher Boulevard in Brossard.

The same weekend, *The CJN* also spotted at least two of his ground-level posters scrawled with "voleurs" (thieves) on Plamondon Street in Brossard.

Saada, 57, who is Jewish, described the swastika daubings as "extremely sad" and "a direct attack on who we are and what we are. This is not acceptable and it's very disturbing."

First elected in the South Shore riding in 1997, Saada also complained of anti-Semitic graffiti on his posters during the 2000 election campaign. In April, shortly after the United Talmud Torahs firebombing, he revealed that he had received a number of menacing anti-Semitic letters and phone calls over the previous months.

He said at the time that it reminded him of the problems faced by Jews while he was growing up in Tunisia. Saada emigrated to Quebec in 1969.

Quebec City cemetery vandalized

QUEBEC CITY — About 20 headstones at the Beth Israel cemetery in Quebec City were overturned last week over a two-day period.

Police were investigating, but did not know whether the vandalism was a random act or motivated by anti-Semtism.

There was no defacing of the stones. Police had no suspects or witnesses.

"It is too early to link these facts with the fact the cemetery is Jewish," Const. Jean Minguy told the CBC.

Quebec City's small Jewish community is shocked, said member Simon Jacobs. "To hear that the cemetery has been vandalized in a small community like Quebec, one wonders why," he told CBC.

The Jewish cemetery, which has been vandalized in the past, is about 150 years old and has been declared a national historic site.

Roy S. Neuberger

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Author:
"From Central Park to Sinai:
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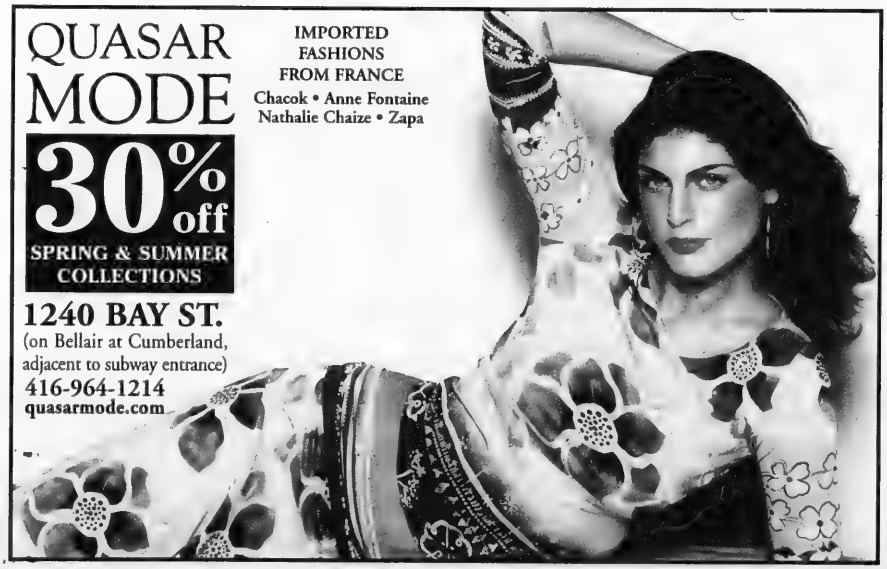

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Coast to Coast

Winnipeg CJA launches endowment fund

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — The Jewish Federation of Winnipeg/Combined Jewish Appeal has launched a new endowment fund and less than a month after its April 28 startup, the Leave More Than Memories Combined Jewish Appeal Endowment Fund received its first bequest.

"We have 40 to 50 others who have expressed interest in leaving bequests," says Barry Shenkarow, who is chairing the new fund. He declined to specify the amount of the first bequest.

"We are rounding up names of people who might consider leaving bequests, and we are getting people to think about the fund when they are planning their estates."

CJA has raised record levels of money over the past three campaigns, but the financial needs of the community's beneficiary agencies continue to grow. And every year, Shenkarow says, people leave the community or pass away. An endowment fund, he says, means gifts to the community are there in perpetuity.

"This endowment fund will give our community the opportunity to ensure we can continue to operate well into the future, no matter how much our population may fluctuate up or down," says federation president Neil Duboff.

"It will also allow current donors to continue supporting the community far into the future."

Shenkarow says CJA hopes the new endowment fund will be able to emulate the success of the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba, which was was started by three businessmen nearly 50 years ago and now has a principal of $46 million.

The interest earned now comes to more than $1 million annually, which goes toward more than 100 non-profit organizations in the Jewish and general community, both in Winnipeg and Israel.

The Jewish Foundation will be administering the new CJA fund. "We hope that in 10 to 15 years, we will also have a substantial amount of interest to contribute to the annual CJA campaign," Shenkarow says.

While all interest from bequests to the new fund will go to the CJA campaign, donors will be able to leave up to 50 per cent of the interest on their gifts to specific community beneficiaries, with the rest to be directed to general CJA campaign funds.

GOOD CITIZENSHIP AWARD: Associated Hebrew Schools has named Grade 6 student Jamie Baranek, of its Danilack Middle School, as this year's recipient of the Adam Kruger Award for Good Citizenship. Jamie was chosen for the many hours he devoted to tutoring elementary students in Hebrew. He received a plaque and a gift from the Kruger family, and he had his name added to the school's Tree of Hope. Classmates of Adam Kruger initiated the award after his death in 1997.

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Avrum Rosensweig, *Executive Director, Ve'ahavta, The Canadian Jewish Humanitarian and Relief Committee*

Wednesday, June 16, 2004, 7:30 p.m.

The Barbara Frum Library Auditorium, 20 Covington Road

CJN Focus

Most mega-donors have supported Jewish causes

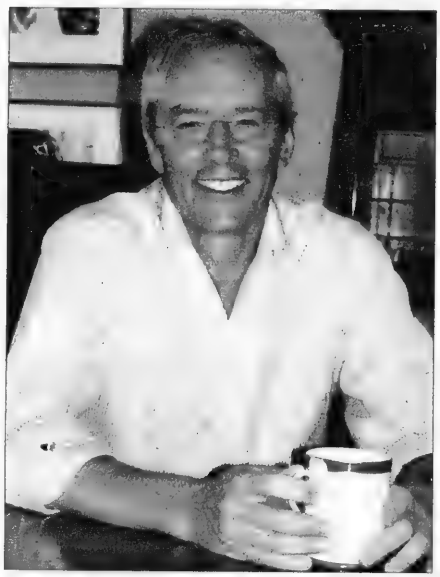
Continued from page 3

have a positive association in terms of demonstrating leadership. "You're willing to identify yourself with a particular cause and, by extension, showing that other people should follow you. I don't view prestige, by definition, as negative."

To the best of Marker's knowledge, Jewish mega-donors have all supported established Jewish causes, but, with exceptions like Birthright Israel, he said, they did not find them to be the most exciting thing they were involved in.

How can Jewish organizations attract new donors? Not by making people feel guilty, Marker stressed. Guilt might work briefly, after an anti-Semitic incident or a crisis in Israel, he said. But, he added, for the philanthropic dollars to flow in, the community needs innovative responses that involve people in a way that is exciting to them.

Marker believes the Canadian Jewish community, compared to its U.S. counterpart, feels a greater sense of responsibility



Lawrence Bloomberg

to support established Jewish organizations, and to see "a central planning process" (or community umbrella) as a primary recipient for their philanthropy.

Among adults in their 20s, 30s and early 40s, there is less of an "automatic obligation" to support Jewish causes, Marker believes. "The next generation will be supporting Jewish causes that they feel speak directly to their own interests, and that's the characteristic change of philanthropy, Jewish or otherwise."

In that age group, he said, donors are "very heavily motivated by personal involvement and the feeling their dollars are making a difference. They're less committed to general kinds of charitable giving, such as United Way and the federation, [but] it doesn't mean they're less generous."

The trend to give increasingly to secular causes began about a generation ago, Marker said. Now, some of the largest individualized gifts are going to non-Jewish causes, he noted.

Even so, the total number of philanthropic dollars going to Jewish causes is bigger than ever, he said. "There is more disposable money, and people are giving to a larger range of institutions."

He believes the onus is on Jewish leaders, not on the philanthropists, to reassess their own roles.

Jewish philanthropy, "in general, is still very strong," says Ted Sokolsky, president of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto. Last year's UJA campaign raised almost $58 million, a record in the organization's history. "Federations have, by and large, more than held their own. It's a much more competitive market, but they've done very well."

According to the Tobin report, Jews are giving more dollars than before to both secular and Jewish causes, but the number of donors to federation campaigns has been declining. Tobin notes that Jewish identity is highly correlated with giving to Jewish philanthropies.

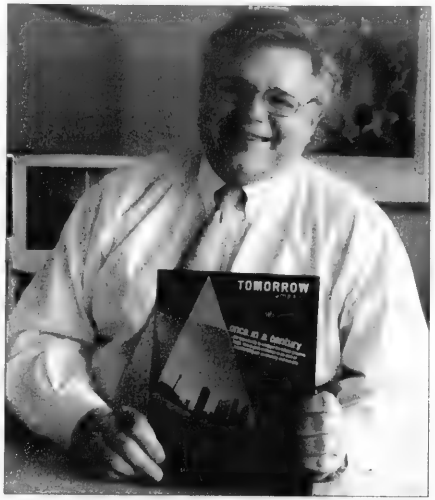
There are no hard statistics on Canadian Jewish philanthropy, said Sokolsky, but "intuitively I find [the American data] very relevant." In Toronto, the pool of donors has not decreased, but it is also not growing, he said. The number of donors relative to the Jewish population – which has increased – has gone down, he added.

For the most part, the "gigantic mega-gifts" – more than $10 million – aren't finding their way to Jewish causes, said Sokolsky, but he noted that cumulative yearly gifts from major donors may add up to comparable amounts. Major Jewish gifts are more likely to be directed toward "big ideas," he said.

"We as a community have not been assertive enough in creating those big ideas. Where we have, we've been extraordinarily successful," he said, citing as examples the Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education (PEJE), an initiative aimed at strengthening the day school movement in North America, and Birthright Israel, the initiative of megadonors Michael Steinhardt and Charles Bronfman, which provides a free trip to Israel for young Jewish adults between the ages of 18 and 26.

Perhaps the ultimate big idea was the creation of the State of Israel in 1948, Sokolsky suggested. "The outpouring of support for that was a response to a big, bold idea. It's pretty hard to come up with an idea as big as that."

On a more local scale, the federation's current Jewish Toronto Tomorrow (JTT) initiative is also a big-idea project, in that the federation is "trying to capture the imagination of



Ted Sokolsky

new philanthropists," Sokolsky said. The initiative involves the development of three major Jewish "campuses": the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life and the Nadal JCC downtown, the Bathurst Jewish Centre/Lipa Green Building complex in the north part of the city, and a new multi-purpose campus in Richmond Hill, scheduled to open in 2006 when its first building, the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, is expected to be finished.

To critics who question whether the money being raised for JTT should be directed at Jewish education, Sokolsky says spending money on buildings and spending money on Jewish education, which receives $11 million a year from the federation (almost $9 million of which subsidizes tuition fees), are not mutually exclusive. Most day schools, he noted, are close to capacity. To house more students, he said, "we're going to have to build schools."

JTT has attracted large capital gifts, and the major JTT donors have increased their annual UJA donations, he noted. "We're turning on another generation, and engaging a lot of new people in the project.

"The next generation is much more hands-on and more entrepreneurial," Sokolsky said. "They don't take for granted the institutions their parents supported. Those institutions have to re-earn the trust and interest of the next generation."

Russell Goldstein, a 33-year-old marketing services consultant, represents the younger generation of UJA donor. A co-chair of Atid (the Hebrew word for "future"), a UJA Federation of Greater Toronto leadership development group established in 1997 to introduce the under-35 generation to the federation's work, Goldstein got his own start at its inception. It was his father David's idea to start the group.

David, who was campaign chair at the time, said there are always concerns about the younger generation drifting away. "What you have to do is educate them. Everyone gives because of [what they feel] inside. I think it gets very personal." Part of that, he noted, can also be the social aspect of working with others and becoming friends.

While he also supports public institutions such as universities and hospitals, David said he feels a moral obligation to look after fellow Jews. Being involved in Jewish causes, for him, is one way of following in his parents' footsteps. His late father, Albert, was involved in fundraising for Knesseth Israel Synagogue (the Junction Shul). "He was not in a position to be one of the top givers, but he did his part," said David.

Only some Atid members have parents who are major donors, said Russell, but all are considered "high-potential leaders of the future."

Continued on page 37

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'I believe every generation gets better'

Continued from page 36

Of the 40 or so who started out with him in Atid, he said most are now involved in federation leadership positions.

For Russell, the main issue is creating awareness about the work the federation does, and how to get involved in it. "UJA is a huge organization. They support a lot of different organizations. It's hard to tie it back to one cause, because it's an umbrella organization. I don't think that [my generation is] necessarily aware of what the needs are. I think [federation leaders] need to do a better job explaining who they support. Funds going to Israel is [just] a piece of it."

A cause like breast cancer research has higher visibility and also a higher perceived immediacy, he pointed out.

Russell, who has also been involved with United Way and the Family Abuse Crisis Exchange, said he and his wife support about eight charitable organizations, half a dozen of which are secular. The couple decides as a team which causes to support.

Lawrence Bloomberg, 62, radiates confidence about the future of philanthropy in general and within the Jewish community specifically. "I believe that every generation gets better," said the co-chair of Mount Sinai Hospital's Best Medicine Campaign – one of the largest campaigns to date in a medical institution in Canada, and a co-chair 10 years ago of the annual UJA campaign. "Our society keeps moving forward, so why shouldn't our children be even better at philanthropy than we are?"

From a Jewish perspective, Bloomberg – who sponsors an annual lecture by a Jewish author at Holy Blossom Temple, has also funded a chair in accountancy at Concordia University, and was named outstanding volunteer of 2003 by the Association of Fundraising Professionals – believes Jewish people "understand their responsibilities to the community at large, but most understand that we are a minority and that it's important to prioritize support for our community."

Bloomberg does not see a major difference between his generation and that of his parents in terms of giving to the greater community.

He does note a difference between Canada and the United States, however. "I think in Canada giving and philanthropy haven't been celebrated to the extent they have in the United States," he said. "American philanthropists, probably because they were wealthier and there were more of them, have played a much greater role in their society than Canadian philanthropists have done in our society, but I think that is changing. I think the number of wealthy Canadians and the size of their wealth is making them able to be larger philanthropists than in the past.

> ***'As Canadians see what Americans are doing, and as some step up in Canada to make very large gifts, it sets examples for others'***

"As Canadians see what Americans are doing, and as some step up in Canada to make very large gifts, it sets examples for others. We have always seen gifts in the millions. Now we're seeing them in the tens of millions."

In both the Jewish and the secular world in Canada, the bar is being raised, Bloomberg said.

A father of three grown children, Bloomberg said they support both Jewish causes and those in the broader community.

Referring to the trend to increasingly larger donations, Bloomberg noted that "a focused gift [to one organization] has a better chance of creating change than supporting many things in a smaller way. If there's something important that has to get done and your gift can make a difference, I think that's very exciting… It's more fun, because you can create change."

Large gifts are key to successful fundraising campaigns, said Bloomberg. "You have to have those philanthropists who are in a position to support the institution, support it in a major way, [because] that creates incentive for others to do the same." In most campaigns, he added, 60 to 80 per cent of the funds come from a relatively small percentage of givers.

Barry Sherman, also 62, gave the largest mega-gift to federation in 2002, when he and his wife Honey donated $50 million to its foundation, half in the form of a bequest. More recently, he gave $25 million for the JTT project, above and beyond his annual UJA donation, which is the largest of its kind.

Outside of the Jewish community, Sherman's largest donations have been to educational institutions and health-care facilities, several in the order of $5 or $6 million, but none approaching the amounts he has given to the federation.

"I haven't had the capacity to do all that much except in recent years," he noted. "I try to do what makes sense. Life is short, and you can't take it with you."

He believes that for his four children, who range in age from 13 to 28, philanthropy will follow once they are established business-wise.

Factors like excitement and prestige apparently don't play a role for Sherman, who is chair and CEO of the pharmaceutical company Apotex, Inc. "Those things don't interest me. I just try to put my money where I think it will help the most people, with the Jewish community coming first."

With the current situation in Israel and a need for new infrastructure in the Toronto area, the needs within the Jewish community are "unprecedented," said Sherman.

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Israeli cabinet approves Sharon's plan

By DAN BARON
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's Gaza withdrawal plan overcame a key hurdle with its passage in the Israeli cabinet this week, but there are more obstacles ahead.

The version of the plan the cabinet approved by a vote of 14 to 7 on Sunday was a withdrawal in principle, but the cabinet did not vote on actually dismantling any Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip or West Bank.

"Israel is taking its future in its own hands," Sharon said after the vote. "Israel has no intention of waiting any longer for the Palestinians to rein in terror and incitement."

Coincidentally, the vote came on the anniversary of two landmark Middle East events in which Sharon played a pivotal role: the beginning of the 1967 Six Day War's ground campaign and Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

Immediately after the vote, Deputy Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said he would order the Israel Lands Authority to freeze any new requests for Jewish settlement construction in the Gaza Strip.

But even the compromise plan approved Sunday, which was worked out in recent days after a more comprehensive pullout plan appeared likely to lose a vote, was difficult to achieve.

The measure passed only after days of wrangling and a drawn-out cabinet meeting.

Last Friday, Sharon fired two members of his cabinet who had strongly opposed the plan, Tourism Minister Benny Elon and Transportation Minister Avigdor Lieberman, both from the National Union Party. Their dismissals helped to ensure the plan had majority support in the cabinet.

Cabinet opposition had also come from Sharon's fellow Likud members, especially Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom and Education Minister Limor Livnat.

To mollify these "rebel ministers," Sharon diluted the plan, eventually limiting the vote to the notion that Israel should disengage from the Palestinians in principle. No actual vote was taken on whether Israel should evacuate the 21 settlements in Gaza and four in the West Bank that Sharon had specified in his original disengagement plan.

Sharon also had to include a last-minute compromise regarding a letter of understanding he had exchanged with President George W. Bush on the disengagement plan. The letters were referred to in the plan that was approved, but they were not appended to the plan itself, as Sharon had originally wanted.

Ariel Sharon

Sharon had hoped to clinch support for the plan after Bush endorsed it in April.

At the time, Bush said Israel had the right to retain some West Bank land in a future peace deal with the Palestinians and that Palestinian refugees from Israel's 1948 War of Independence should not be granted the right to return to their former homes inside Israel.

But inside Israel, Sharon's plan ran into trouble in early May when it was rejected by Likud's membership in a party referendum.

Despite the difficulties, Sharon was optimistic after Sunday's cabinet vote, which came after opinion polls showed a majority of Israeli support the pullout plan.

"Most people understand that this decision ensures Israel's future," Sharon said. "Today's decision gives hope to everyone."

Israel, Egypt to co-operate on Gaza after pullout

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Israel and Egypt are "very close" to an agreement that will allow Egypt to move more troops into the border region to stop smugglers from moving weapons into the Gaza Strip, Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom said Monday.

The agreement would not require amendments to the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty of 1979, which limits the type of forces Egypt can deploy on the border, Shalom told a news conference after talks with Egyptian presidential adviser Osama Al Baz.

"We are now very close to implementing this understanding between Israel and Egypt that will allow them to have more than 100 troops, more than 100 soldiers, who will be on the Egyptian part of the border," Shalom said.

But Al Baz told reporters, "It's not a matter of us doing anything particular for the sake of Israel.

"We have a... vision for the role that Egypt can play to improve the situation... in the Palestinian territories," he said.

Shalom was in Egypt to see President Hosni Mubarak the day after the Israeli cabinet had approved a plan for Israel's disengagement from the Gaza Strip.

Egypt's co-operation could be crucial for Israel if Israeli forces withdraw from the border between Egypt and the Gaza Strip.

Also on the agenda to be discussed Monday were the security reforms the Egyptians are demanding from the Palestinian Authority before the arrival in the Gaza Strip next week of 80 security experts from Egypt who will train Palestinian Authority security forces.

After their meeting, Shalom and Al Baz announced that the two countries had established a committee to deal with bilateral matters in the political, military and economic spheres. The committee will not deal with Palestinian issues.

"The committee was established after a long period of differences of opinion between the sides," Shalom said. "I hope that we will now resolve a large portion of the misunderstandings of the past."

Asked about the return of Egypt's ambassador to Tel Aviv, Al Baz said, "We will not hesitate to make any move that would contribute to the peace, including reinstating the ambassador."

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Israeli and Canadian camp counsellors connect

By JENNY HAZAN
CJN Israel Bureau

JERUSALEM — After a barbecue on the beach at Israel's fledgling, international overnight summer camp, Camp Kimama, 10 head staff members met with 28 representatives from five camps across Canada to exchange Jewish Zionist programming ideas.

The purpose of the meeting, which was sponsored by the Bronfman Israel Experience Centre in Montreal, the Montreal and Toronto Jewish federations, the Montreal Jewish Camp Council, Canada Israel Experience (CIE) and Young Judaea (YJ) Canada as part of a two-week "Machana'im" leadership development program, was to enable Canadian staff from the Y Country Camp, Camp B'nai Brith and YJ camps, Camp Kadima, Camp Shalom and Camp Kinneret Biluim, to elaborate on their existing Zionist programming and for the staff of Camp Kimama to learn how to build a camp based on the strong North American summer-camp tradition.

"Jewish camping is a major part of today's forming of Jewish identity, so we wanted to create some sort of meeting between Israeli Jewish camping and Canadian Jewish camping," says Lorne Klemensberg, director of the CIE in Israel.

"Camp Kimama is trying to bring the camping experience to Israel for the first time ever, so we thought it would be a great sharing experience for their staff to learn from the camping leaders of the Diaspora and for those camps to in turn learn how to bring Israel to the North American camping experience. It's a natural connection."

According to Jeff Rose, associate director of the Y Country Camp in Huberdeau, Que., the meeting was an invaluable experience for his staff, which accounted for half of the Canadian mission.

"We want to create programming that goes beyond Israel Day," says Rose, who explained that although the camp celebrates Shabbat and is Zionist in orientation, programming about Israel is lacking. "We want Israel to be represented in a more continuous way, like through nightly evening programs."

He says that this summer, the Y Country Camp will expand its Jewish programming and its Jewish programming committee to include the 14 participants at the meeting.

For 19-year-old Stephanie Gladman, head of dance at the Y Country Camp, even Israel Day requires adaptation. "I think we have to modify Israel Day to make it more interesting," says Gladman, who has decided to focus her program on Israeli folk dancing. "I am sure that after this trip we will be able to come together and figure out a better way to do it."

"Kids don't have to wait until Israel Day to hear about Israel," insists 27-year-old Anat Assa, who will serve as unit head for Kimama's senior girls section this summer.

Assa, who worked as a counsellor (shlichah) at BB Camp in Portland, Ore., and at Habonim in England, suggests bringing Israel into every day at camp.

"Make Israel Day every day," she says. "Take advantage of every extra 10 minutes you have to teach a Hebrew song, or a Hebrew word, or a game that you learned in Israel. Tell the campers about your experiences, show them pictures and explain to them why it is so important to be connected to Israel. Teach them something that you think will be useful for their Zionism and to give them an alternative to what they see on TV."

Noah Zatzman, a staff member in the senior Machar (tomorrow) unit at Camp Kadima in Nova Scotia, believes Assa's suggestion is easier said than done. "Our Jewish programming committee consists of people whose opinions represent a wide range of the political spectrum."

He says that when it comes to programming about Israel, it is a real challenge to remain objective. "But we are not only the campers' role models, we are their Jewish role models and their primary source of Zionist values. So it is very important that there is continuity in programming and that as staff members, we see eye to eye."

Shira Goldberg, Judaic programming director at Camp Kadima, insisted that it is possible to keep personal politics out of the picture. "My objective is to provide the campers and staff with the knowledge and tools that they need in order to analyze the information, but not to transmit my own political views," says Goldberg, who suggested a method of "backdoor learning" in which campers are engaged in fun programs that transmit Jewish knowledge and values without the campers realizing the program's objective.

"On this trip, we have had the opportunity to examine various issues from many sides and the trip has allowed us to formulate and consolidate our own knowledge of and views on issues so that we will be more effective in educating the campers on these issues."

Noam Weiser, head of Camp Kimama's Leaders in Training (LIT) program, suggests bringing Israel to camp in a way that will be relevant to the campers. "Bring back Israeli T-shirts that read 'McDonald's' and 'Coca-Cola' in Hebrew," he says. "All of this stuff paints a more realistic picture of what Israel is about and how it relates to them."

On the other hand, Weiser's primary concern for Camp Kimama was the problem of how to pave the way for the establishment of a unique Kimama tradition.

"My challenge is the fact that they are going to be all new campers," says Weiser. "When you guys grew up in camps, it was everyone's dream to be an LIT. But these campers won't know the dream of being an LIT and I need to create it."

"How do you create a tradition at a first-time international Jewish camp?" queries Assa. "How do you create that 'something' that you can only get at your camp?"

"It's a real challenge with a camp that is starting from scratch," Rose says. "The trick is to create essential parts – songs or symbols or certain routines – that will make the camp a unique experience from any other camp."

That's what has kept Gladman coming to the Y Country Camp for the last seven years. "I grew up at camp," says Gladman. "Part of growing up meant becoming a Zioinist.

"I have always been a Zionist, but I never really knew where that connected within myself," she says. "This is supposed to be a leadership program with the aim of bringing Jewish Zionist programs to camp. But it's much more than that. This trip has made me understand what being a Zionist really means."

Ex-chief rabbi speaks out on marriage

Continued from page 1

"Today, everyone marries as he sees fit in any case," he later explained to *Ha'aretz*. "This law was very important in its day, but today it is completely neutralized, and merely creates hatred."

The other rabbis at the conference greeted Rabbi Bakshi-Doron's statement with silence, but later, many described it as a "bombshell."

In his speech, Rabbi Bakshi-Doron gave several reasons why he thought the rabbinate's monopoly on marriages must end. First, he said, the law has become irrelevant, as growing numbers of Israelis are choosing to marry in civil ceremonies either abroad or in Israel (the state recognizes civil marriages conducted overseas, but not those conducted locally). Second, he said, the law encourages hatred of the rabbinate, since it is seen as the primary expression of religious coercion in Israel.

There is no law requiring male babies to be circumcised, he noted, yet most Israeli parents do so anyway.

Moreover, Rabbi Bakshi-Doron said, hundreds of thousands of non-Jews have immigrated here over the last decade. Very few will choose to convert, and it is impossible to legally prevent the rest from marrying unless they go abroad.

Rabbi Bakshi-Doron also argued that the insistence on religious marriages actually creates problems from the perspective of Jewish law, since it increases the incidence of adultery and bastardy (in Jewish law, a bastard is the product of an adulterous union). "We have to recognize that in Israeli society today, an atmosphere of sexual permissiveness prevails," he told *Ha'aretz*. "We should not coercively sanctify the unions of couples who do not want them sanctified and who do not understand the meaning of religious marriage."

Rabbi Bakshi-Doron said that during his tenure as chief rabbi he twice made similar remarks, but met with a chilly reception. Once, he said, a group of religious MKs even struck his words from the protocol.

"I know this is a taboo, because the law is perceived as one of the symbols of the state," he said. "But unfortunately, it's a symbol without content."

Tsohar, an organization of young religious Zionist rabbis that hosted the conference, stressed that Rabbi Bakshi-Doron's views did not represent those of the organization.

10,000 Iranians have volunteered for suicide missions: recruiters

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

TEHRAN — Thousands of Iranians have signed up for suicide attacks on Israel, as well as U.S.-led forces in Iraq and British author Salman Rushdie, a recruiting group said Sunday.

Shi'ite Iran has strongly condemned the occupation of Iraq and voiced its outrage at damage to shrines in the holy cities of Najaf and Karbala.

"Some 10,000 people have registered their names to carry out martyrdom operations on our defined targets," said Mohammad Ali Samadi, a spokesperson for the Committee for the Commemoration of Martyrs of the Global Islamic Campaign.

But he said the group would need the green light from Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei to launch the attacks.

The independent group said it started to register Iranian men and women prepared to carry out the attacks after Friday prayers last week and sent forms to religious universities.

"Our targets are mainly the occupying American and British forces in the holy Iraqi cities, all the Zionists in Palestine and Salman Rushdie," he said.

The father of Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, condemned Rushdie to death in 1989 for alleged blasphemy in his novel *The Satanic Verses*.

"It is not our fault that the Zionists have brought their wives and children to the occupied territories and have turned them into shields for themselves," he added, when asked about the killing of civilians. "Salman Rushdie is the only non-military target for us, because we believe his attack against Islam was much worse that a military assault," the spokesperson said.

Hardline cleric Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati urged worshippers at Friday prayers in Tehran to attack U.S. and British interests.

"It is the duty of every Muslim to threaten U.S. and British interests anywhere," he said.

Although Iran's reformist President Mohammad Khatami said in 2001 the death sentence against Rushdie should be seen as lifted, hardliners still occasionally call for his murder.

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Fewer smokers

Some 24 per cent of the adult population in Israel smokes, the lowest percentage of smokers since records began being kept 32 years ago, according to a Health Ministry report for 2003-2004 published last week. However, more than 1,500 Israelis die from second-hand smoke every year, the report said.

PA police protest corruption

More than 100 members of the Palestinian security forces went on an unprecedented strike in Gaza last week, calling on the Palestinian Authority to end what they charged is rampant corruption among senior officers. Pressing PA President Yasser Arafat to take action, the protesters took over position belonging to the elite Force 17 in central Gaza and sent Arafat a letter with their demands. In it they said senior officers of the National Security Forces were "pursuing their personal interests at the expense of the homeland" and had turned the security forces into "fiefdoms."

Economy a stronger bet

Israel's economy is seen as a better investment than a year ago. In its annual analysis of investment risk in emerging markets, the *Economist* magazine this week ranked Israel eighth out of 29 countries, *Ha'aretz* reported. Rated on a 100-point scale, with zero being safest and 100 riskiest, Israel scored 37, down from 45 one year ago. Israel ranked as a better investment risk than Brazil, China, Hungary, India, Mexico and Turkey, and more of a risk than such highly rated countries as Hong Kong, Chile, Taiwan, Thailand, Poland and Singapore, which topped the list.

Panel to improve Arabs' lot

An Israeli committee recommended setting up a special authority to deal with the country's Arab citizens. According to the plan reported by *Ma'ariv*, the National Authority for Arab Affairs would work toward coexistence through initiatives such as encouraging members of Israel's largest minority to volunteer for national service. The recommendation was made by an interministerial committee set up to investigate the October 2000 pro-Palestinian riots in the Arab sector. Israeli Arab lawmakers criticized the committee for not backing the community's demands for a fairer allocation of public funds.

France, Israel co-operate

Israel's Magen David Adom emergency relief service signed a co-operation agreement with the French Red Cross. The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem said the deal, signed in Paris, is aimed at enhancing medical and emergency services on both sides, as well as improving Franco-Israeli relations. Magen David Adom signed a similar pact with the American Red Cross Society in 2002.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

Palestinian leader Barghouti gets 165 years in jail

By DAN BARON
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

TEL AVIV — It may have been Marwan Barghouti's final moment in the public eye, so the Palestinian leader and convicted murderer made the most of it.

"Our people will prevail," he told Tel Aviv District Court on Sunday, shrugging off the 165-year prison sentence just handed him. "I don't care if I get life behind bars. My day of liberty will come when the occupation ends."

Barghouti's words were the latest salvo in the defiant political riff that has become his routine in his almost two-year-long trial.

Despite the sentence, many Israelis believe that Barghouti, a leader of the Palestinian uprising against Israeli civilians, might one day be freed for political reasons.

In May, Barghouti, a Palestinian legislator and West Bank leader of Fatah, the political faction of Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, was found guilty of orchestrating gun ambushes by the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade that killed five people. The brigade is the terrorist arm of the Fatah movement.

Though Barghouti refused to recognize Israel's jurisdiction in the cases after being captured by Israeli troops in April 2002, he did mount a political defence.

In impromptu speeches in Arabic, English and fluent Hebrew, which he learned while serving a previous sentence in an Israeli jail, the 45-year-old Palestinian denied involvement in terrorist violence while defending violence as legitimate means of battle in the Palestinian intifadah against Israel.

His argument did little to sway the Tel Aviv District Court's three-judge panel, which found him guilty of involvement in five terrorist attacks. The panel also cleared him in connection with 21 other killings.

For many, the question of whether Barghouti deserved the sentence of five consecutive 25-year jail terms for murder – plus another 40 years for ordering a failed Jerusalem car bombing and belonging to a terror group – quickly became secondary to the question of what Israel gained or lost by his incarceration.

On the one hand, most Israelis view the trial as fair, particularly since Barghouti was cleared of 21 killings.

But many are wondering why Israel has prosecuted Barghouti while leaving Arafat untouched in his West Bank compound.

Marwan Barghouti leaves the courthouse in Tel Aviv after his sentencing. [Israel Sun photo]

After Barghouti's conviction last month, Israeli Justice Minister Yosef "Tommy" Lapid said Israel could one day put Arafat on trial in a similar manner.

But some analysts see a different succession in the works – not of Arafat taking the stand after Barghouti, but of Barghouti taking up the mantle of Palestinian leadership after Arafat's gone.

"Sitting in jail has made Barghouti indisputably popular and famous, and Palestinian polls have long shown him as second only to Arafat in terms of public support," *Ha'aretz*'s Danny Rubinstein noted.

According to his family and supporters, Barghouti has no intention of appealing the verdict or asking for a reduction of the sentence.

But many Israeli left-wingers suggest that officials will end up reducing Barghouti's jail time just to make sure that Islamic fundamentalists do not fill the political vacuum after Arafat has left the scene.

After the signing of the Oslo accords in 1993, Barghouti became a proponent of the two-state solution envisaged by the Oslo peace process. Israel would regard the Fatah leader as a far more attractive alternative to Hamas or Islamic Jihad.

There are precedents for Jerusalem freeing Barghouti for political purposes. Thousands of Palestinian terrorists, many convicted of murder, have been freed in Middle East deals that Israel felt were strategically necessary.

The most famous of these was that of the late Hamas founder, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, who was jailed for murder in 1989 but had his life sentence commuted eight years later when Israel released him as a goodwill gesture after a botched assassination of a Hamas figure by Mossad agents in Jordan.

But Yassin, unlike Barghouti, was tried in a closed security court that kept public scrutiny at bay. The very publicity surrounding Barghouti's trial, which took place in a civilian court, could hamper any future attempts at clemency.

"I hope that he will stay in jail and won't be let out of the back door in a political agreement," Nadine Passentin, an activist with the Victims of Arab Terror group, said outside the courtroom.

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Feminist tells how to 'shore up' the Jewish family

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Blu Greenberg, whose name is virtually synonymous with modern Orthodox Jewish feminism, says it amazes her that for at least a decade she was aware of feminism but it had nothing to do with her life as an Orthodox Jew.

The New York-based author and founding president of the Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance reflected on her personal evolution in a recent interview at her Toronto hotel, when she was in town to speak at Beth Tzedec Congregation.

The previous night, she had discussed Jewish family issues including divorce, intermarriage and same-sex marriage.

Although she would not want to return to the "protected, insulated model" – under which women married "Mr. Wrong" because they were considered over the hill at 21, and stayed in bad marriages because divorce was a "shandeh" – Greenberg is a firm believer in "the traditional model of a Jewish family ... as the primary vehicle for transmitting values.

"I'm small-C conservative by nature," Greenberg told *The CJN*, belying her liberal and sometimes decidedly unorthodox ideas. She believes, for example, that women should and will be ordained as rabbis in the Orthodox movement.

"It takes me a while to get to a new place in my thinking, but I don't close the door," Greenberg said. "I'm willing to deal with [issues]."

She credits her husband of 46 years – Rabbi Irving (Yitz) Greenberg, a prominent modern Orthodox rabbi and president of Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation – for much of her open-mindedness.

Blu Greenberg

As an Orthodox feminist, Greenberg feels she has "a task, a mission, a job to do in terms of communicating ideas. I feel Orthodoxy has to be prodded, or encouraged, to incorporate expression and find measures of women's equality."

Is she angry about the status quo? "No," she says. "I love being an Orthodox Jew. It's always been a great blessing in my life."

In her lecture on the Jewish family, Greenberg – who has master's degrees in clinical psychology and Jewish history – included practical suggestions for shoring up the Jewish family, including marriage preparation courses, matchmaking of friends and family, and "rabbinic recall" of newlyweds six months to a year after the wedding, to address problems before they escalate.

When Greenberg was growing up in the 1940s and '50s, and in the early years of her marriage, she didn't know anyone who was divorced, intermarried, or gay.

Now, of course, all that has changed. One statistic of note: Greenberg said the Jewish divorce rate is estimated at 40 per cent, which is lower than the 50 per cent rate in the general population. She believes that reflects a continuing influence of traditional Jewish family values.

Among the "powerful forces" affecting the Jewish family, Greenberg cited a wide acceptance of Jews in the greater society, higher education of Jews, assimilation, hedonism, individualism, gender equality, new sexual values, an acceptance of alternative lifestyles, a declining birth rate and a tendency (more in the United States than in Canada) for adult children to relocate to new communities. "All this has taken its toll on the Jewish family."

Jewish observance, she believes, is the most powerful resource for strengthening the Jewish family. A self-described workaholic, she noted that observing Shabbat "reprioritizes: I know that work is not my life. My family is my life, and my community is my life."

Interfaith dating, which is "frowned upon" by Orthodoxy, is "highly problematic," said Greenberg. Intermarriage is halachically forbidden and "a great erosion on a small population," given that only 16 per cent of children whose parents are intermarried are likely to consider themselves Jewish as adults, she explained.

She noted that the percentage of marriages in which one partner converts to Judaism is far lower than that of intermarriages, but added that "this is so complex, because I do believe converts bring strength, energy, vitality and a love of Judaism."

Greenberg is also struggling with halachic and theological issues concerning homosexuality. Although she counts among her family and friends gay individuals, including Rabbi Steve Greenberg (no relation) – an author and ordained Orthodox rabbi – she admits to confusion and "great areas of discomfort."

She believes there should be secular laws that protect same-sex unions, but that such unions should not be sanctified religiously, "a difficult thing to say to gay friends" who may have adopted values such as sexual fidelity and creating a Jewish home. She does tell them that she is listening to them.

"I think everybody has to deal with it. You can't push away the front page of the newspaper," she said.

Greenberg said that despite the challenges, she is optimistic about the Jewish family's future. "Here we are 4,000 years later. We have survived, and we are vital."

Weizmann panel examines keys to fighting cancer

By JESSICA HELLEN
CJN Intern

Understanding cancer, early detection and psychological support for patients undergoing genetic testing are the keys to successful diagnosis and therapy, a panel of medical experts said.

At the May 31 program presented by Weizmann Canada at Oakdale Golf and Country Club, Benjamin Geiger, dean of the faculty of biology at the Weizmann Institute of Science, said that as a result of molecular genetic advances, scientists now understand the biology of cells, tissues and full organisms, knowledge that allows them to consider new ways of cancer intervention and therapy.

While understanding cancer is not a guarantee to finding a cure, Geiger said, it is "an absolute necessity for moving in the right pathway."

Ten to 15 years ago, researchers were struggling to understand the complexity of cancer cells and the difference between them and normal cells.

"We were trying to fight against an enemy that was very poorly defined and very poorly understood," Geiger said.

Eleftherios Diamandis, head of clinical biochemistry at Mount Sinai Hospital and the University of Toronto, spoke about the importance of early cancer detection, which leads to longer survival and better quality of life for patients.

Mary Jane Esplen, head of the program of psychosocial and psychotherapy research in cancer genetics at the University Health Network, spoke about the behavioural, psychological, physical and psychosocial impact of genetic testing on patients.

People who test positive for a genetic mutation often experience emotional distress, anxiety and depression. "You're dealing with life-altering information," Esplen said.

Support groups and genetic counselling are some of the services available to these patients.

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Documentary explores Sbarro Pizzeria terror attack

By JOSEPH SERGE
Arts Editor

We've all, unfortunately, become accustomed to hearing about suicide bombings in Israel and elsewhere.

Typically, we watch the events reported via satellite, framed by our television screen. And while we are outraged by what we see, and in some cases concerned for relatives and friends, in a few days we move on until the next terror attack.

But for the people directly involved in these attacks, it's hard to move on. Their lives are forever changed by these horrible, pointless killings.

Impact of Terror, airing on CBC-TV June 16 at 8 p.m., provides a unique viewpoint on one specific attack, the Sbarro Pizzeria in Jerusalem three years ago. Fifteen people died there and more than a hundred were injured.

Rather than the usual detached documentary, award-winning director Tim Wolochatiuk allows the people involved to provide the narrative: survivors of the attack, parents of the young victims, health-care attendants and doctors. This personalizes the experience in a very moving, yet appropriate, way.

In one especially poignant scene, a young girl who was three years old at the time of the attack tells her story.

"I remember that I flew through the window," she says of that fateful day. "And also, that my brother was burned."

Passersby are shocked by the carnage unfolding around them.

Today, the emotional scars are obvious. She is scared to play outside, "because there are terror acts," she says. "I'm scared because there's bombings all the time."

A teenage boy who survived shows mental scars. Since the attack, he's become obsessive compulsive about keeping neat and clean and has been unable to have a social life.

One of the rescuers at the scene of the blast comments on the eeriness of hearing cellphones ringing beside mangled bodies, knowing that friends and relatives are trying to contact their loved ones.

One emergency-room nurse worked on saving a young girl's life, unaware that her daughter was dying in another operating room.

Watching this film, you realize that these killings are not just about statistics – about the "15 dead" – but about the people who lived these lives and their friends and families and survivors who have to cope with the aftermath for the rest of their lives.

Impact of Terror premiered at this year's Toronto Jewish Film Festival and got rave reviews.

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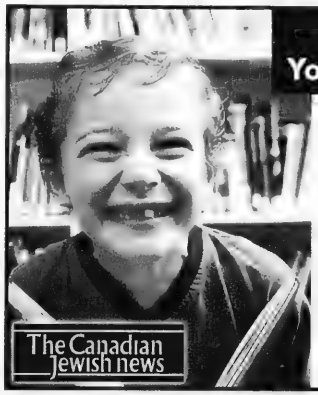

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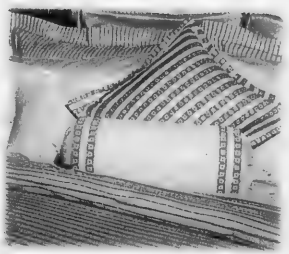

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

The Nalaga'at Troupe

MEMORABLE *FIDDLER ON THE ROOF* COMES OUT OF SMALL ONTARIO TOWN

You may not have heard of the Thistle Theatre of Embro, Ont., but its fall 2003 production of *Fiddler On The Roof* was chosen to represent the Western Ontario Drama League as one of five finalists in the Theatre Ontario Festival 2004 Awards last month in Sault Ste. Marie.

According to **Barbara Anderson-Huget**, executive director of Theatre Ontario, an astonishingly high proportion of Embro residents (90) were involved in the production. The town is located north of Ingersoll and has a population of about 600.

"They did a beautiful job," she said. "What struck me in particular was their use of a full chorus, even for numbers where a full chorus isn't usually required. It added so much because their voices were so beautiful."

Although it did not win for outstanding production, the show received an impressive array of awards and nominations at the awards ceremony that capped the five-day festival.

Director **Keith Garner** received a Richard Howard Award and **Norm Northmore** (the Constable) won for outstanding newcomer to the stage (**Martin Klomp**, as Perchik, was nominated in the same category). The play's wedding scene won the outstanding visual moment award and the entire company was cited for "imaginative adaptation of their production to the performance space." The pre-show Anataevka villagers won special adjudicator awards for replicating village scenes in the lobby.

Additionally, **Andy Brockway** (Tevye) was nominated for outstanding performance by a male in a leading role, **Sandra Smith** (Hodel) and **Elaine Northmore** (Yente) were nominated for outstanding performance by a female in a supporting role, and **Jennifer Prole** (Chava) and **Mark Hazeleger** (Fyedka) were nominated for outstanding juveniles. The play was also nominated for outstanding visual presentation.

Fiddler On The Roof, by **Sheldon Harnick** and **Joseph Stein**, has never lost popularity since it debuted more than 30 years ago.

The four other dynamic productions in the festival were *Doc* by **Sharon Pollock** (Sault Youth Theatre, Sault Ste. Marie); *Over The River and Through The Woods* by **Joe DiPietro** (Kanata Theatre); *Drinking Alone* by **Norm Foster** (Cambrian Players, Thunder Bay); and *Staff Room* by **Joan Burrows**, which won the outstanding production award (Curtain Club, Richmond Hill).

* * *

Nalaga'at Troupe from Israel: Twelve Israeli actors, most of whom are deaf and blind or partially so, have formed a theatrical group, Nalaga'at ("Do Touch") and developed a production through a long process involving work on motion skills and improvisation. The result is an acclaimed theatrical experience that Israeli audiences have loved, in which the actors seem to transcend their own limitations and a miracle seems to take place.

This unique combination of triumph over adversity fused with art has been described as a visual and emotional delight. It brings to the stage a strength and intensity that makes you forget that the actors can't see or hear. The actors suffer from Usher syndrome, a partial or total deafness at birth and a gradual shrinking of field of vision ending in total blindness.

Toronto is the first city of a North American tour marking the first time the production has been seen outside of Israel. Bathurst Street Theatre, 736 Bathurst St. $30 cash only. Thursday, June 17, 7:30 p.m. 416-640-8521. www.nalagaat.org.il

* * *

AGO Update: Art Gallery of Ontario director **Mathew Teitelbaum** is a much happier man now that big-name architect **Frank Gehry** reconfigured his $195-million makeover of the institution in a way that satisfies longtime AGO benefactor **Joey Tanenbaum**. A disgruntled Tanenbaum resigned from the gallery board in March, complaining that Gehry's earlier design would have needlessly destroyed many gallery spaces, including the Joey and Toby Tanenbaum Sculpture Atrium. Now that those gallery spaces are spared, Tanenbaum is back on the board, and the AGO has redeemed itself from a public relations nightmare.

* * *

Arts in Brief

• Eighth annual Spring Concert of the **Miles Nadal JCC Community Choir** with **Harriet Wichin** conductor, **Jack Gelbloom** pianist and the **MNJCC Women's Chorus**. Al Green Theatre, Miles Nadal JCC, 750 Spadina Ave. at Bloor. Adults $10, seniors and students $5, families $20. Sunday, June 13, at 3 p.m. and Wednesday, June 16, at 8 p.m. 416-924-6211.

• Some of Canada's finest performers join choral conductor **Helmuth Rilling** in *The Joy of Niki*, a celebration of the life and legacy of **Nicholas Goldschmidt** (1908-2004), the country's leading festival organizer and founder of the Canadian Opera Company. Roy Thomson Hall. $20. Sunday, June 20, 7:30 p.m. 416-872-4255. www.roythomson.com

• A male lead vocalist, 18 to 25 years old, is required for an upcoming production of Stardust Follies at the Sanderson Centre for the Performing Arts in Brantford. Auditions in the green room, Performing Arts Lodge, 110 The Esplanade, on Thursday, June 17, 7 to 11 p.m. Details and reservations, 416-861-0288. www.stardustfollies.com

* * *

At the Galleries

• Born in Poland in 1910, **Ethel Rosenfield** immigrated to Montreal in 1919 and devoted her life to producing pieces of sculpture that have been shown extensively in Canada and at international venues such as the Rodin Museum in Paris. She died in 2000. The first estate exhibition of her sculpture opened last week at Beckett Fine Art and continues through June 26. 120 Scollard St. 416-922-5582.

• Works by new immigrant artists go on view this week at the Koffler Centre of the Arts, Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, in co-operation with Jewish Immigrant Aid Services of Toronto. Opening reception, Sunday, June 13, 2 to 4 p.m. 4588 Bathurst St. Until July 11. 416-630-6481, ext. 30.

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A night of Hebrew soul

By JOANNE LEBOVITS-BRODKIN
Special to the CJN

From the moment Joshua Nelson walked onto the stage at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation, adorned in an embroidered kaftan and gold kippah, everyone in the audience of nearly a thousand was entranced.

Nelson, a black Jewish singer, takes elements of gospel, blues and spirituals and puts them into Judaism and Jewish music.

"I've been to New Orleans and I've seen it happen – people have a great time jumping and shouting. It's okay to be sombre on, say, Yom Kippur, but synagogue should be joyful, too, and have people clapping," Nelson said before his recent apperance at the shul.

"Gospel really has those elements. The music is very powerful, and I think that's why in the Christian realm, the Baptist movement is so big and people go to church. They want to hear good music."

Nelson opened the evening with a stirring rendition of *Let There Be Peace on Earth*. During this song, as well as while he was singing *Eli Eli* and the *Chatzi Kaddish*, Nelson was deeply absorbed in the messages the lyrics evoked, his hands across his chest and his eyes closed.

The tempo soon became upbeat and Nelson announced that at his Black Hebrew congregation "we clap, we dance, we just get down in temple." He then broke into a gospel-sounding *Adon Olam* and soon everyone in the audience was clapping.

"At the Black Hebrew synagogues, they get very ecstatic, to the point that they are shoutin, similar to what one sees in the Baptist church," Nelson said. "When the Torah is going to be read or when it is opened, the congregants get very excited – they're a very spiritual community.

"Once, at the Commandment Keepers Ethiopian Hebrew Congregation in New York, I saw a woman get up and touch the Torah as it was being carried around, and she did this…" Nelson then fell to the ground, pretending to faint.

Nelson was once criticized for going to the "goyim" to get his inspiration. To Nelson, this is nonsense. "What we call 'soul' has nothing to do with Jesus, Christianity or the church. It is something that was brought over from the slave ships and Africa.

"Anything that is associated with Africa has those rhythms and what the blacks did was to take that element and put it into their newly found music."

Nelson says playing in Orthodox synagogues can present a challenge for him because getting up and clapping may be considered disrespectful. However, he believes that "HaShem would not deem it so and would want us to enjoy the service."

As a youngster, Nelson found an album by the gospel-music singer Mahalia Jackson at his grandparents' house. When he played the record, he fell in love with the music and began to sing along. Nelson's voice bears a striking resemblance to Jackson's.

Jackson is considered to have transformed the way people sing in church, and Nelson is having an equally powerful effect on the way many Jews are praying in shul.

Nelson's dreams of peace and harmony extend beyond the Jewish community. He loves diversity and believes it reduces prejudice and racism.

Nelson's choir is a perfect example of diversity. Consisting of about 30 members both young and old, the choir includes singers of different cultures and religions, including members who are Jewish, African-American and Puerto Rican.

When Nelson launched into *Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho,* the crowd went wild. You could have sworn the walls were shaking.

He brought down the house when he had the audience singing *Hineh Matov* to the tune of *When the Saints Go Marching In*.

Building on the excitement in the packed sanctuary, Nelson shouted, "None of my services are complete unless you do the horah." And then he began an electrifying version of *Havenu Shalom Alechem*. Some audience members jumped out of their seats and formed a long horah train.

Joshua Nelson

Many of Nelson's fans were introduced to him through a 2001 documentary film about him, the award-winning *Keep on Walking*, which has been shown at many Jewish film festivals.

Nelson has performed with Aretha Franklin and Wynton Marsalis, along with the late greats Cab Calloway and Dizzy Gillespie. His audiences have included former U.S. president Bill Clinton, as well as the prime ministers of Israel and Sweden.

For more information about Joshua Nelson, visit www.joshuanelson.com.

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Arts & Travel

Baycrest group's repertoire spans Broadway to Beatles

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Next time you visit the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care, listen for the eclectic sounds of the Baycrest Music Society.

The group – which includes singers and musicians drawn from among staff, family members and others affiliated with Baycrest – has a repertoire that ranges from Broadway to classical, and from Jewish folk songs to the Beatles.

Amy Clements-Cortes, the centre's music therapist and the group's spokesperson, says speech/language pathologist Regina Jokel formed the group several years ago to give staff an opportunity to develop their musical skills, get to know their co-workers and re-energize after a busy day.

Taking part helps relieve stress, Clements-Cortes says, adding that she "greatly believes in the healing power of music and strongly feels that staff are benefiting from being in the group."

In addition, she says, "we wanted Baycrest's name known for something unique – music – and we wanted to provide entertainment for staff, clients and each other."

Each season, the society presents concerts at Baycrest for clients and staff, and also performs for outside institutions and synagogues, such as Central Park Lodge and Temple Sinai.

> 'We wanted Baycrest's name known for something unique – music – and we wanted to provide entertainment for staff, clients and each other'

"Our clients at Baycrest and those we perform for outside of Baycrest really enjoy our performances, and their responses are so rewarding for the choir members and musicians."

The group's director Matthew Jaskiewicz brings an impressive portfolio and a wealth of experience to the conductor's podium, spanning continents, cultures and musical genres.

A graduate of the Warsaw Academy of Music, Jaskiewicz launched his career directing prestigious ensembles in Poland and France. His choirs have helped earn him international distinction and many awards.

After moving to Canada in 1984, he founded several musical groups, including the Toronto Sinfonietta Orchestra and the Musica Antiqua Vocal Ensemble.

He enjoys working with both professional and amateur musicians.

"I have a lot of respect for good musicians. I never try to humiliate, or even embarrass, them," Jaskiewicz says.

"From professionals, I expect their best. From amateur musicians, I expect constant improvement of their skills. They all should show devotion and love of music."

For more information, or to book the group for a performance, call Clements-Cortes at 416-785-2500, ext. 2304.

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Suicide attacks – a phenomenon as old as recorded history

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Suicide bombers are the bane of our times.

In recent years, they have struck in Israel, the Palestinian territories, Lebanon, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Morocco, not to mention the United States, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Spain, Russia and Indonesia – killing and maiming thousands of civilians and soldiers.

Christoph Reuter

The vast majority of the perpetrators are Muslims – Arabs, Chechens, Pakistanis and Indonesians – but the bombers have been of Tamil and Japanese origin as well.

Lamentably enough, far too many Muslims, including supposedly respectable clerics, have endorsed the tactic.

Two years ago, at a conference of Muslim scholars in Beirut, a resolution was passed that suicide attacks against "the Zionist enemy" are permitted.

The opinion was seconded by none other than Saudi Arabia's minister for Islam, Sheik Salleh Abdul Aziz Mohammed.

Around the same time, Saudi Arabia's ambassador to Britain, Ghazi Algosaibi, and Yasser Arafat's wife, Suha, condoned such practices.

In a poem in the London newspaper *Al-Hayat* glorifying the bombers, Algosaibi wrote, "May Allah witness that you are martyrs."

And in an interview in *Al Majalla*, another Arabic newspaper based in London, Suha Arafat observed: "Would you expect me and my children to be less patriotic and more eager to live than my countrymen and their father and leader who is seeking martyrdom?"

Suicide attacks leave a profound impression.

"They remind us that there are people who consider their struggle – whatever the cause – to be more important than their lives," writes Christoph Reuter in an important new book, *My Life Is A Weapon: A Modern History of Suicide Bombing* (Princeton University Press). "They stir up fear in us; they pull the rug from under our feet."

And he adds: "They annihilate the entire logic of power, since no credible threat can be made against someone who has no desire to survive."

A reporter on the staff of the German magazine *Stern*, Reuter has written a concise, illuminating account of a phenomenon as old as recorded history itself.

Japanese kamikaze pilots ushered in the modern era of suicidal attacks by crashing their planes into American aircraft carriers during World War II.

But long before that, the Sicarians in Imperial Rome and the so-called Assassins in the Middle East were wreaking their special brand of violence.

Lest we forget, the first suicide attack in the contemporary Mideast was perpetrated by three Japanese gunmen who killed 24 tourists, mainly Puerto Rican pilgrims, at Ben-Gurion Airport on May 30, 1972.

Iran may have been inspired by these precedents during its protracted war with Iraq in the 1980s.

In human wave assaults reminiscent of World War I, tens of thousands of very young men, sporting small keys to paradise dangling around their necks, charged recklessly toward Iraqi positions in the name of Allah.

Tens of thousands of Iranians were mowed down, dying needless deaths.

"The more people die for our cause, the stronger we become," claimed Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, in a typically bombastic remark. "The Tree of Islam can only grow if it's constantly fed with the blood of martyrs."

Taking its cue from Khomeini, Hezbollah was the first Islamic movement in the region to dub suicide attacks "martyr operations."

Aided by Iran, Hezbollah planned and carried out suicide bombings in Lebanon, killing scores of American, French and Italian peacekeeping soldiers in the early 1980s.

Israel has also tasted the bitter fruits of Islamic zealotry.

Welcomed to southern Lebanon by Shiites with rice and rose water after its 1982 invasion, the Israeli army soon found itself pitted against Hezbollah in a classic guerrilla war in which suicide attacks were a feature of the conflict.

Israel wisely cut its losses and withdrew unilaterally from its self-declared security zone in Lebanon in May 2000.

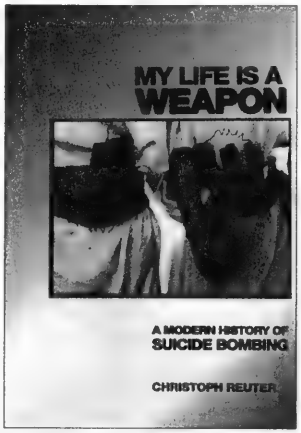
More recently, ever since Baruch Goldstein's 1994 rampage in Hebron, during which he murdered 29 Palestinian Arabs in a mosque, the Palestinians have perfected the deadly art of suicide bombing.

As Reuter points out, the aim of every suicide bomber is to reach paradise. By way of example, he reprints two letters from bombers to their bereaved families:

"My beloved parents, I know that it's hard… for you to lose me, but don't forget that we'll see each other in paradise."

"Dear Mama: be patient and happy and pray to God to thank him for giving you a martyr as a son."

Reuter claims that Islam implicitly sanctions suicide attacks, though some imams are clearly opposed to this method of inflicting pain on the enemy.



Martyrdom, a widely respected concept in Islam, is nurtured by a combination of Qur'anic teachings, fatwas (religious rulings) and promises of attaining a state of nirvana in paradise.

Strictly speaking, Islam forbids suicide and condemns Muslims who commit suicide, but in practice, politically inspired forms of suicide are quite acceptable.

Sheikh Mohammed Sayyed Tantawi, a leading scholar at Cairo's Al Azhar University, has said that suicide attacks are permissible if they target Israelis – men, women and children.

Israelis are beyond the pale because they comprise the "forces of occupation." Therefore, "martyrdom operations" are permitted.

Similarly, Sheikh Hamid al-Bitawi, a Hamas ideologue, has ruled that if "infidels" occupy even the tiniest bit of Muslim land, as happened when the Jews occupied what he considers Palestine, "the jihad becomes a duty for every individual."

It's clear that Islamic theology is flexible and open to interpretation when it comes to Israelis.

Contrary to some preconceptions, the typical Palestinian suicide bomber is not necessarily poor, fanatically religious and undereducated.

"Today's suicide commandos are a mirror image of their society," Reuter quotes Tel Aviv University psychologist Ariel Merari as saying.

Though they are primarily pious Muslims, suicide bombers cannot otherwise be neatly categorized. They run the gamut from simple workers to university graduates.

Take the case of Hanadi Jaradat, the bomber who blew up almost two dozen Israelis at Maxim's seaside restaurant in Haifa on Oct. 4, 2003. She was a lawyer.

According to Merari, " the vast majority of suicide bombers are quite normal people." What really sets them apart from others is that they are fearless and hold strong, unbending convictions.

After years of strife and despair, the Palestinians have developed what Reuter describes as "a culture of death" within their civil society.

During the early phases of the Oslo peace process, when hope seemed to be around the corner, suicide bombings were widely rejected by Palestinians.

But in today's climate of hopelessness and mutual mistrust, most Palestinians justify suicide attacks.

As long as the Arab-Israeli conflict remains unresolved, suicide attacks will haunt and torment Israelis for years to come.

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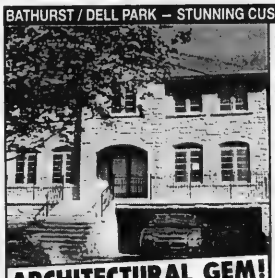

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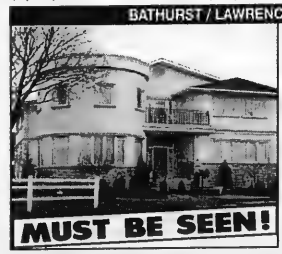

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Courtlands, 90 Fisherville, priv. sale, exceptional cond., 2 bdr., 2 bath, solar, eat-in kit., 2 pkg., all appls., blinds & lighting, fixtures incl., approx. 1400 sq. ft. Call 416-667-1775.

35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

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Coast to Coast

ACJS holds conference

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG –Abe Arnold was presented with the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies (ACJS) Distinguished Service Award at the ACJS's recent annual conference.

The Distinguished Service Award, which Arnold received during the ACJS conference that took place from May 30 to June 1, honours an individual, group or institution that has made significant contributions to Canadian Jewish Studies.

The founding director of the Jewish Historical Society of Western Canada from 1968 to 1975, Arnold has won three prestigious awards to support research in Canadian Jewish history.

The new Canadian Society for Jewish Studies, which was formed at the ACJS conference, has been set up, reports Ira Robinson, a professor of Jewish studies at Concordia University. He said that a nine-member executive has been established and bylaws have been adopted. "We are looking forward to the future."

The ACJS conference, held at the Asper Jewish Community Campus and the University of Manitoba, featured 24 papers – delivered by lay and academic scholars from across Canada – and two major panel discussions.

Jewish dissent in Canada was one of the key themes of the conference.

Ester Reiter of York University and Roz Usiskin, past president of the Jewish Heritage Society of Western Canada, made a joint presentation on the rocky historical relationship between the Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) and the United Jewish Peoples Order (UJPO).

UJPO is a left-wing Jewish organization that once had a large following, particularly in Western Canada. "At its core, UJPO's mission was to preserve and strengthen Jewish identity," said Usiskin.

UJPO has always been openly secularist and radical. It was over the question of German rearmament in the early 1950s that UJPO ran afoul of the CJC. The American government supported German rearmament, so the Canadian government followed suit, said Reiter.

"The CJC initially opposed rearmament but changed its stand under pressure from the government. UJPO refused to change its position. As a result, Reiter says, CJC leaders Samuel Bronfman and Saul Hayes manipulated congress, so as to illegally expel UJPO as a member organization.

"UJPO's expulsion from congress split the Winnipeg Jewish community," Usiskin said.

It was only in 1995 that Congress, under the leadership of Irving Abella, welcomed UJPO back into the fold.

Sheryl Nestel of the University of Toronto read her paper, *Mapping Jewish Dissent: Jewish anti-occupation activism in Toronto*, for which she had interviewed Jewish Torontonians who oppose Israeli policies.

Nestel found that these Jewish Torontonians feel isolated from the wider Jewish community because of their views, but they are also uncomfortable with the anti-Semitism of non-Jewish leftist friends. She noted that they feel at home only with other Jews who share their leftist views.

Harold Buchwald, who chaired the session, voiced one criticism in his concluding remarks. No one on the panel represented the "establishment side," he said.

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Herb Brown helps brother Larry coach Detroit Pistons in NBA finals

By ELI SHUPAK
Special to The CJN

Herb Brown knew he wanted to leave his post as an assistant coach with the Portland Trail Blazers after the 2002-03 NBA season. He talked to a couple of other clubs and considered returning to Europe to coach, but he landed where he felt he really wanted to be when his younger brother Larry offered him an assistant coaching position on the Detroit Pistons staff.

Motown is where it all began for Brown 28 years ago, when he got his first NBA coaching job with the Pistons, and he says not much has changed in the organization since then. The team has the same owner, William Davidson, and a lot of the same people are still around.

It is Brown's third time assisting his brother, a Basketball Hall of Fame coach, after previous stints in Philadelphia and Indiana.

"My brother's a great coach, and I just want to help him succeed," Herb, 67, said in a recent telephone interview before the Pistons beat the Indiana Pacers in six games to win the Eastern Conference finals and earn a shot at the NBA title.

"The only thing he hasn't done in his career is win an NBA championship and hopefully we will be able to accomplish that and add another accolade to his fine resumé."

Over the course of their lengthy coaching career, the brothers haven't always been together on the sidelines. They coached six games against each other in the 1970s, when Herb was with the Pistons and Larry the bench boss of the Denver Nuggets.

Herb admits the games were difficult, because they were both in situations where they had to win and each brother knew that beating the other would hurt.

After a 54-28 regular season, the Browns are back in the finals for the first time since they led Philadelphia there three seasons ago. The Pistons play Game 2 against the Los Angeles Lakers at Staples Center June 10 in L.A.

In 2001, the 76ers succumbed in five games to the Lakers, but Herb had no time to wallow. He got a call the next morning asking him to coach the U.S. men's basketball team at the following month's Maccabiah Games in Israel.

Larry Shyatt, the University of Clemson coach, had withdrawn from the position three weeks before training camp, citing concerns about the team's security in light of the outbreak of the second intifadah.

Brown, who had guided the 1997 team to a bronze medal and was slated to be an assistant this time around, says Shyatt had also talked a lot of players out of going to Israel.

"My kids said 'Daddy, are you sure you want to do this,'" Brown recalled of his own family's worries. "I said yeah, 'I have to do it.' I'm an American Jew and I know how important Israel is to Jews in the United States and all over the world.

"The Maccabiah Games are a tremendous celebration and I didn't want to see it go down the drain."

Brown remembers having a great experience at the 1997 competition, but his work assembling the 2001 U.S. team, which went on to win gold, was truly memorable.

He credits the tremendous amount of support he had with making it possible, including some members from the 1997 team who helped him recruit and who decided themselves to come back and play again while persuading others to re-think their decision about not going to Israel.

"We had to get 11 players," said Brown, with Eric Gingold being the only one who had decided he would definitely play after Shyatt's departure left the team in the lurch.

"We uncovered some Jewish basketball players throughout the country and were able to get 12 guys. They bonded together and were terrific, wonderful human beings and pretty good players."

In March 2002, Brown was honoured by the National Council of Young Israel with the Chovevei Yisrael (Lover of Israel) Award for his support of the Jewish state. He also received the Hank Greenberg Sportsmanship Award that year and is a member of the board of the United States Sports for Israel Committee.

Brown is in line for an assistant coaching position on the Canadian team at next summer's Maccabiah Games behind head coach John Dore of Concordia University.

With 40-plus years of hoops experience, Brown is the author of two books on basketball, and a third – on defence – will be published in the fall.

The 1957 University of Vermont graduate spent 15 summers coaching in Puerto Rico and he guided the Israel Sabres to the European Professional Basketball League title in 1975.

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Two for Bridge

By ERIC KOKISH and BEVERLY KRAFT

Beverly: As we all know, bridge players love to argue about the game. A real deal is not necessarily required to get them going; theoretical points and hypothetical combinations will stir up the pot just as readily. The better the players, the more rational the discussion should be, but even among experts capable of submerging their egos, the search for the truth will not always be successful. Indeed, there may be more than one truth.

Some of the most heated discussions involve contracts that could have been defeated with a different line of defence, particularly when the winning approach is not clearly indicated by the available evidence. Take this deal, for example . . .

No one vulnerable, North deals. You'll be in the East seat.

West	North	East	South
	1♦	1♠	4♥
All Pass			

Partner leads the ♠K and North tables a fair dummy.

North
♠ 1076
♥ 5
♦ AQJ109
♣ AK84

East
♠ AQJ832
♥ 643
♦ K6
♣ 32

What do you think are your possible defensive options?

Eric: There are two sensible ways for East to conduct the defence.

The more obvious approach: East overtakes the ♠K (a possible singleton) to continue with more rounds of spades, hoping to promote a trump winner or two for West, perhaps with the ♦K still to come. If declarer discards a diamond on the third spade, East intends to play a fourth spade.

The alternative plan: East tries to discourage a spade continuation and encourage a diamond switch. East aspires to take two spades and one diamond and hopes West can contribute a trump trick. Even if declarer spurns the diamond finesse and attempts to discard a diamond on the third round of clubs (as here), East, holding only two clubs, will foil this plan by trumping in to kill the useful discard. Declarer will take six hearts, the ♦A, and two clubs, for one down.

Here is the complete deal:

North
♠ 1076
♥ 5
♦ AQJ109
♣ AK84

West	East
♠ K5	♠ AQJ832
♥ K7	♥ 643
♦ 8732	♦ K6
♣ J10965	♣ 32

South
♠ 94
♥ AQJ10982
♦ 54
♣ Q7

Only the second line of defence works on this rather specific layout, but failing to cash spades could be fatal on a variety of combinations (picture declarer with 2=7=3=1 distribution, for example; declarer wins the diamond switch and discards a spade on the ♣K before attacking trumps). Overtaking the ♠K will usually succeed when West holds only one spade, and will not cost whenever declarer cannot avoid the diamond finesse. If West has two spades, it is unlikely that the defence will be able to develop two trump tricks; East's three small trumps don't leave much room for a useful holding in West.

Which card should East play at trick one to attract a diamond switch?

Some would say that it should be enough for East simply to discourage a spade continuation (the deuce for standard players). Others believe that "three-way signals" are best when the player making the signal has shown a long (please define minimum length carefully) suit. They would play the queen or jack (high) to request a diamond switch, the deuce (low) to suggest a club switch, and the eight (a middle card) to encourage. If East had a club ruff coming, the suit-preference approach would handle it smoothly where the standard approach might leave some doubt.

It may well be that on the very next deal that you encounter the approach that you dismissed on this deal will work.

Beverly: That would not mean that either plan is in principle better or worse, no matter how vocal its supporters might be: rather, it simply means that in this wonderful game of ours it's important to be not only skilful but also a little lucky.

Eric: Bridge, like golf, is a particularly humbling game. Unlike golf, however, a mediocre bridge player or team can beat the experts if it's a bad day for superior technique and the stars are aligned propitiously for the underdogs' less enlightened approach. That's one of the reasons so many people love to play.

Three generations of tzedakah

something

By MIRIAM PORTER

My telephone rang just as the smoke detector started beeping. My inquisitive, meowing cats added to the annoying high-pitched sounds. I frantically fanned my latest *Chatelaine* magazine in the air to get rid of the smoke and sadly removed my burnt dinner from the oven. "Crazy oven must be broken," I thought. (Always blame the oven.)

I answered the phone. It was my neighbour across the hall, Jonah Bekhor. Embarrassed, I told him my sob story. Minutes later, I graciously accepted an invitation for Shabbat dinner with Jonah and his family. The Bekhor family is known for being kind and helping others.

Jonah, 29, grew up in a home that practised tzedakah. "My parents and grandparents inspire me in terms of the importance they place on serving in the community," he explains.

Throughout his high school years at Upper Canada College, Jonah volunteered at the Bloorview MacMillan Children's Centre, where he played wheelchair hockey with the kids who lived there. His monthly visits encouraged others to participate in games, and he created many friendships.

Jonah was also involved in the Evergreen Foundation's yearly tree planting event for elementary school children.

"I was assigned kids with learning disabilities, and I would take them outside and teach them how to plant trees. The event was great and it took over the whole park."

Over March break one year, Jonah ran the dinosaur dig at the Royal Ontario Museum. "There was a giant sandbox, and the kids would dig in to find the bones and brush off the sand. My job was to get them to figure out what kind of bone it was."

Another year he organized the "Fun Run" at the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care. "I encouraged other kids in my high school to participate and sign up."

Volunteering at Baycrest and Mount Sinai Hospital is a tradition for the Bekhor family. Jonah's father, Edward, has served on many committees at Baycrest over the years. Jonah's mother, Tobie, is currently chair of Baycrest's volunteer advisory committee and an honorary board member. From 1993 to 1995, she served as president of the Baycrest Women's Auxiliary, and in 1987 and 1989, Tobie was president of the Mount Sinai Hospital Auxiliary.

The tradition began with Tobie's own mother, Florence Cooper. During the late 1950s, Florence was a hands-on volunteer for 13 years in the outpatient department at Mount Sinai. She currently sits on the board of the women's auxiliaries at Baycrest and Mount Sinai.

Florence and Tobie are being feted in the fall for their ongoing dedication at a luncheon in their honour by the Mount Sinai Hospital Auxiliary Living Legacy Endowment Fund.

Jonah's grandfather, Sydney Cooper, is on the building committee at Baycrest and Mount Sinai. He, too, has a long history of volunteer work and is currently involved in numerous projects in Toronto and Israel.

Jonah, the younger of two boys, recently volunteered as a programmer for the Toronto Jewish Film Festival (TJFF). For six months prior to the festival, he screened films and examined them for significant Jewish content. The festival ran from May 1 to May 9 at the Bloor Cinema and the Miles Nadal JCC. Jonah introduced films and led question-and-answer sessions.

"I was really honoured when the TJFF invited me to become a programmer. They provided an opportunity for me to become more deeply involved in film, and I also become more involved in Jewish culture through the films I screened and the ideas they provoked."

Jonah is hardly a novice when it comes to the media industry. He works as a freelance writer for television commercials and music video treatments. "I am also developing an entrepreneurial venture focusing on marketing and new media," he says.

Despite hectic schedules of the various family members, the Bekhors make time for the things that are important.

We had a wonderful dinner together. I may "accidentally" turn my oven up too high next week, so that I'll be forced to return for another home-cooked meal.

Miriam Porter can be reached at Miriam@jtvproductions.net.

PASTA SALAD W/BROCCOLI & CASHEWS

1 lb. medium pasta shells, cooked and drained
1/4 cup vegetable oil
6 cups broccoli florets with peeled and sliced stems
2 cups sliced mushrooms
1 1/2 cups chopped fresh parsley
1/2 cup chopped red onion
1/4 to 1/2 cup white vinegar
1 cup mayonnaise
1 tsp. Dijon mustard
1 cup toasted, unsalted cashews

Sauté broccoli in hot oil in a large skillet, about 10 mins. Add mushrooms, onions and parsley and sauté for 6 mins. more, stirring frequently. In large mixing bowl, combine vinegar, mayonnaise and mustard. Add vegetables and pasta; toss to combine. Just before serving top with cashews. Serve cold or at room temperature.

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THREE YEARS LATER, MEMORIES STILL SEAR: Family and friends of the victims of the suicide bombing at the Dolphinarium discotheque in Tel Aviv gathered last week to mark the third anniversary of the atrocity. [Israel Sun photo]

A true *chaver*, and handy with a drill

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

URBAN WRITER

My first dentist was Dr. Heinrich, a man who failed to see the advantage of giving me an anesthetic prior to filling my cavities. At six years old, I wasn't privy to less painful options, for if I had been, I might have forwarded an achy testimony of discontent to the folks in Geneva.

In later years, it struck me that a replacement for Dr. Heinrich was in order.

One day, a pleasant gentleman walked into my office at the United Jewish Appeal. He spoke in a downtown drawl, one common to the generation of handball lovers, and introduced himself as Dr. Saul Kendal, the chairperson of the UJA's dentists' division.

Immediately, I sensed that this sweet and unhurried man would act responsibly with a drill in hand, and a short while later, I found myself in his office at Finch and Bathurst.

Saul greeted me with his twinkling eyes and a wonderfully warm salutation sprinkled with the dental dialect that makes you nervous, yet sort of puts you at ease. I sat in his chair and he set about probing my mouth.

"It looks like you have a cavity," he said. "I think we should fill it today so you don't have to come back."

I began to recite a prayer my mother had taught me – "Fortunate are those who walk with the righteous" – as I prepared for the sound of the drill, a sound that is no doubt riling you as you read this.

Instead, I felt a sharp tool poking at my gums. My face became rubbery, and as I tried to yell for help, my consonants unravelled and I became as inarticulate as a simple man learning with a Talmud scholar.

Saul had frozen my mouth. I was drooling, but, he assured me, I was safe.

That day, Saul filled my cavity with finesse and tenderness while making me feel welcome and protected at the same time. It seemed that I had found my dentist, and I discovered a new friend.

Saul Kendal is an exceptional Jewish soul with a powerful understanding of "friendship" and the ability to make others feel singularly significant. He likely honed this gift as a kid hanging out in his father's barbershop, but I think it mostly comes naturally to him.

Sometimes, I watch Saul in his office or at a crowded community event as he engages others in conversation. He listens carefully. His eyes connect with theirs and, in a most unassuming manner, he expresses a sincere curiosity about their lives.

Six years ago, Saul belatedly celebrated his bar mitzvah at age 63. It was his glorious moment, yet he made me feel as though I was the guest of honour. My guess is that everyone else in the room felt the same way.

If Saul were an unhappy and distant man, we would understand. We would because he, his elegant wife Yetta and their family lost one of their sons, Darren, in a car accident in 1982. Despite this tragedy – one Judaism says cleanses you of all your sins – or perhaps because of it, Saul chose to exude more love, warmth and friendship.

Once a month, for the last 45 years, Saul plays cards with 11 of his "*Stand By Me*" buddies, friends he's had since childhood. Each poker player at that table is in some way a custodian of the other's history and partners in an epoch of camaraderie that defines friendship.

This is the school that Saul is an alumnus of. He is a student of "closeness," a true *chaver* (friend) – and he is adept with a drill.

"A Friend may well be reckoned the masterpiece of Nature."

– Ralph Waldo Emerson

To discuss this article, e-mail mail@veahavta.org.

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Unique gift ideas for special occasions

By RANDI BERGMAN
Special to The CJN

At times, finding just the right gift for an upcoming event can be very difficult. A gift should be as unique as the person who receives it. To help in the search for distinctive gifts, here are two fabulous places to consider.

The Artistic Wedding (416-784-9303) offers one of the most beautiful gift ideas for weddings. Elyssa Wortzman, who is an artist by profession, creates custom-made paintings that can be given to the bride and groom as a wedding present. Her paintings usually represent the wedding ceremony or the couple themselves.

Wortzman says the inspiration for her business came from the beauty of the ceremonies.

"It all began when I went to a wedding in a beautiful temple. Everything was so moving that I was inspired to create something more memorable than a photograph, which can become dated with time."

Although she can work from a photo, Wortzman likes to attend the ceremonies herself, so that she can truly capture the essence of the simchah.

"I feel like I'm connecting to my clients because it is such an important moment of their life," she says.

Wortzman's paintings are especially popular with couples who have been previously married. Since they usually already own all the necessary things that couples receive, a painting that depicts their marriage ceremony is a perfect gift.

As well as the paintings, which can be registered for or given as gifts, Wortzman also offers contemporary ketubot and other gift ideas, such as the Lover's Box. This box, which has a three-dimensional painting, depicts the couple on the couple's wedding day, their vows and the bride's bouquet.

Although Wortzman specializes in weddings, she is available for bar and bat mitzvahs and corporate events as well as for private commissions. A catalogue of her work is available at www.elyssa wortzman.com.

Another fantastic idea for gifts, a store that has exploded into Toronto's newest hotspot is OMNI² Jewels & Java (416-783-7604). In addition to offering "upscale jewelry at discounted prices," it is now part coffee shop and restaurant as well.

The world's first and only store of its kind, it is located at the northeast corner of Glencairn Avenue and Bathurst Street. It opened last November to a crowd of more than 5,000 people.

The store is owned by Jack Berkovitz and came into existence, he says, because most jewelry stores are just plain intimidating.

"People are often scared to go into jewelry stores," Berkovitz says. "This way, people can be introduced to the store by getting a cup of coffee."

This formula seems to be working, because as the demand for the restaurant grows, so does its menu. What started as a coffee shop has grown into a full-fledged restaurant that offers delicious nouvelle cuisine that is kosher under the Kashruth Council of Toronto (COR) and Cholov Yisroel.

"Our love and dedication to jewelry is now shared with our newfound love for cooking," Berkovitz says.

The casual and friendly environment makes it easier for prospective clients to explore the jewelry side of the store. While out for dinner, people can wander over and enjoy browsing around for stunning trinkets.

The store offers beautiful, unique jewelry that would make excellent gifts for any simchah. Tennis bracelets are very popular, as well as diamond chandelier earrings.

The versatile eatery is also available to hold parties. The store has already hosted events for the Bank of Montreal and the Zareinu Educational Centre, as well as several Sheva Brachot.

Although this location is the only one that is a combined store and restaurant, OMNI Jewels has another store, located at 7733 Keele St., at Highway 7.

A commissioned painting by Elyssa Wortzman entitled *The Artistic Wedding*

Ritché's eveningwear designs known in Toronto for more than half a century

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

After more than a half a century on the Toronto fashion scene, eveningwear designer Jack Ritché has seen many trends come and go.

Ritché has also been successful in adapting his company to the changes in the Canadian fashion industry, which today is predominantly comprised of imported rather than domestic clothing.

The founder of Ritché (416-789-4378), the elegant bridal salon at 1662 Avenue Rd., started his career at the age of 15, as a tailor in a small Polish town near the Austrian border.

The only member of his family to survive the Holocaust, Ritché spent much of the war in Siberia before joining the Polish army in 1944 to fight the Nazis.

In 1945, he studied fashion design in Vienna, immigrating to Canada in 1948 with his wife, Helen, then eight months pregnant.

Ritché first worked as a custom tailor on Spadina Avenue. "I was happy to work making 60 cents an hour. After a few weeks, in conversation, I mentioned it was hard living with a small baby in one furnished room. The owner suggested that I should sell him my baby son."

Ritché found a new employer who paid him $1 an hour. Six months later, he was refused a raise and set up his own shop in the financial district on King Street, where he custom-made suits for men, and later women.

His first female client, Margaret Dixon, told Ritché he needed to relocate to a more fashionable area of town. Dixon, who was known as Dixie – she later married Norman Jewison – became a longtime client of Ritché.

"She inspired me. She said, 'Mr. Ritché your place should be on Bloor Street.' I made Dixie suits and dresses."

In 1952, he opened the first Ritché salon for women on Bloor next door to Holt Renfrew. He shared the two-storey boutique with a partner who specialized in menswear, but they later parted.

Ritché was known for his custom designs, made exclusively from fine designer fabric imported from Europe. In the '60s, he opened more salons: Ritché Couture and Bridal, Ritché's of Colonnade and Miss Ritché, moving the workshop off-site to the Ritché factory on Spadina Avenue.

He later began making wedding gowns that were sold across Canada. A major coup, he says, was selling his gowns to Kleinfeld's, the largest bridal store in New York. At the height of his manufacturing business he employed a staff of 25 dressmakers.

His wife ran the flagship store on Bloor and was active in the business until 1981, when their daughter Vivian Prussky joined the company, he says. "Helen was my right arm."

Today Vivian and her husband Arthur Prussky run the company. Ritché's son Alan is an executive in the computer industry.

As the business expanded in the '50s, Ritché became increasingly involved in fashion shows and beauty pageants where he would showcase his custom-made gowns.

"I had my own annual fashion and bridal shows and charity shows. I participated in the Miss Toronto pageant in 1959 and later in the Miss Canada pageant. I made all the gowns. All the bridal shows were attended by 800 to 1,200 people."

He says over the years he organized bridal shows at synagogues in conjunction with wedding consultants and planners who would invite their clients.

Ritché says he experienced a "major disaster" in 1969 when a fire broke out at the Bloor Street store. "We had to restart all the orders for the weddings," he recalls, adding that everything was finished on time.

He explains that in those days, many people ordered custom eveningwear and wedding gowns. "You didn't have the variety and selection in dresses that you have today, and everyone wanted to look different. My customers were personalities from TV, such as Joyce Davidson, Eva Gabor and others."

He says times have changed and custom-made wedding-gowns are no longer the mainstay of the business. The company's flagship store moved to its present location on Avenue Road just North of Lawrence Avenue in 1986. The 6000-square-foot bridal salon offers three floors of bridal wear, from mother- of-the bride and bridesmaid dresses and accessories such as tiaras, veils and shoes, to bridal gowns to suit every taste.

"We have five rooms of gowns for the brides. Our sales staff is very experienced. You have to serve and to please the customer. This has always been the success of our business," Ritché says.

Continued on page B5

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Half a decade of Ritché formals

Continued from page B4

Today most of the dresses at the salon – from the exclusive designer lines to the less-known labels – are imported, says Ritché. "You can't compete anymore with the imports. An imported gown that sells for $1,200 or $1,300 couldn't be made in Canada for less than $3,000."

His daughter and son-in law travel to the major international bridal shows in New York and Spain to do most of their buying, he says.

Designer labels found at Ritché include Marisa, a New York label; Maggie Sottero from Australia and Amy Michelson from California.

"Amy Michelson is exclusive to our store in Canada," says Ritché. "Nobody else carries her in Canada."

He says the salon has wedding gowns to suit every shape, size and budget. "We have an inventory of over 1,000 gowns. They are fitted to the customer. We have 15 dressmakers to do the fittings."

Jack Ritché has been observing fashion trends for over 50 years. [Barbara Silverstein photos]

Ritché says there have been changes in bridal fashion over the years, noting a few differences: Few brides wear long trains, a slinkier gown is a popular option, mothers of the bride are opting for simpler, less fussy outfits and there is generally less beading. He notes that today's brides are also wearing a lot of cream instead of white, and some even wear dresses with coloured trim and embroidery.

He adds that custom-made gowns that sold for $2,000 in the '60s would cost at least $5,000 to $6,000 to make today. He stresses that with so many designers to choose from, brides don't need to go the custom route anymore.

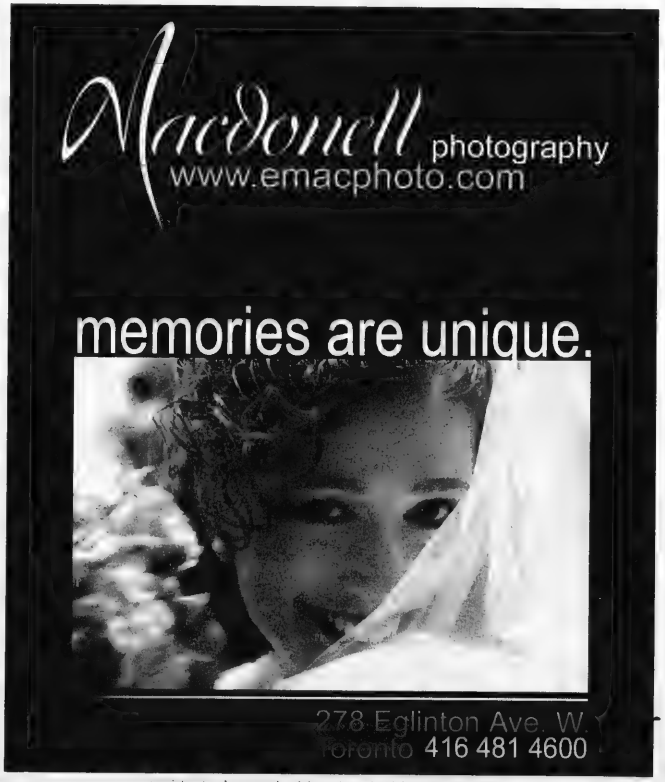
There are still some customers who opt for custom work, and Ritché takes care of them, doing the fitting and the design. "They make an appointment with me for the fitting and sketches. I do the sketches of the design."

He advises people to allow a minimum of four months to order a custom-made dress.

The factory on Spadina has relocated to Caledonia Road, where five to six seamstresses do alterations and custom work.

Looking back on his long career, Ritché says designing and selling bridal wear has been very gratifying. "It's a happy moment working with brides. My job has always been to please the bride. Over the years, I have received many letters of thanks. It's been a great satisfaction."

Other women's fashion places advertising in this supplement are: J. Kaur Manufacturing Corp., K. Barketti, 416-225-6733; Lilliput Hats, 416-536-5933; Maura Miranda, 416-763-1991; Sabrina Designs, 905-841-0385.



Take home a keepsake as a memento of the party

By RANDI BERGMAN
Special To The CJN

While the memories of a simchah often fade with time, having a memento of the event will ensure that your guests will never forget it. Keepsakes are gifts that the guests can take home at the end of the night to add excitement to the party.

One option for event keepsakes is Advertisemint (416-787-6436). The company offers personalized goodies such as candy bars, fortune cookies and water bottles.

Advertisemint, which is a division of Hooplah Interactive, is run by David Lonergan and Leslie Hartsman. They began as DJs who came together as a result of of common interests.

"We combined our different ideas with our knowledge from previous experience," says Lonergan.

Advertisemint customizes their product to meet the customers' needs. "We are different in that… we can come to you and show you our products. That way, you don't have to do all the work," Lonergan says.

The personalized merchandise is extremely popular because the product is so much fun. Virtually anything you choose can be personalized with information about the event and taken home by every guest!

The products are all fully FDA-regulated, so that all the goodies that get sent home with guests are guaranteed to be delicious!

When asked what he enjoys most about his job, Lonergan remarks that "customer service is great because we can mesh ideas together with clients so that we create exactly the product that they want."

Although Lonergan is always busy, he finds time to meet the needs of every client. Advertisemint can deliver a product in two to three weeks and promises excellent service.

> Available for all simchahs and corporate events

They specialize in promotional merchandise, but Advertisemint is available for all simchahs and corporate events.

To learn more about Advertisemint, look them up on the Web at www.advertisemint.com.

Another option for event keepsakes is Fun Pix Digital 905-780-8663, which offers digitally remastered photographs that can be taken of guests at your party. With the help of Fun Pix Digital, your guests can be disco dancers and hockey players, or even transported to the Academy Awards!

Robert Waskul, who runs the company, has been a traditional photographer for 20 years. With the rise of digital photography, he discovered a new medium that gave him freedom to explore more exciting ways of taking pictures.

"With my pictures, we have something tangible that really brings interactive technology into the now," Waskul says. "The guests are taking home a 5 x 7 photograph, but it's a lot different from other photographs."

> Competitive prices as well as fantastic service

Waskul combines his in-depth understanding of photography with the new advantages of digital technology to provide an outstanding product.

"With the new technology, the clients can see the picture as soon as it is ready. This way I get immediate feedback and I can become more involved with the work", says Waskul.

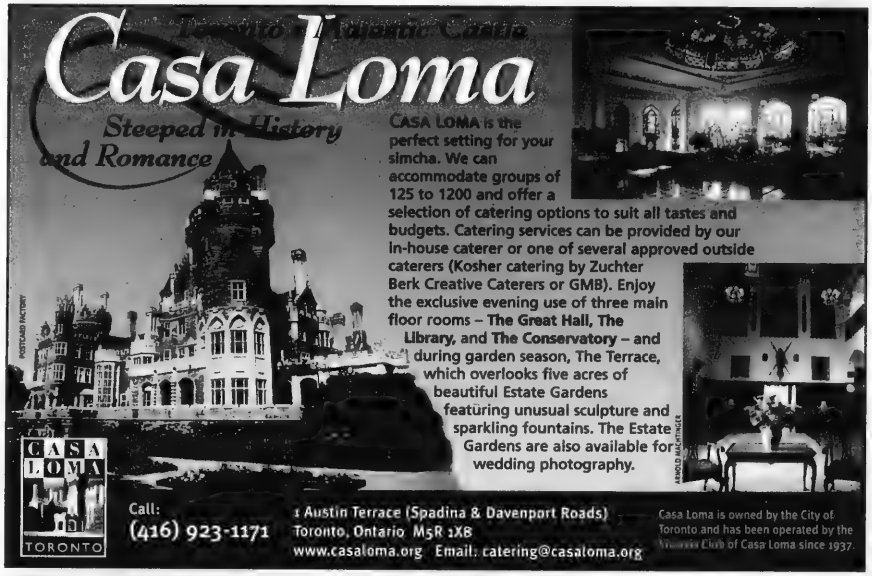
As well as character pictures, Waskul offers what is called a "bordered photograph." The bordered pictures are different because they incorporate the interests of the party-giver into the photograph. For example, if your daughter is an absolute shopaholic, the guests at her bat mitzvah can be pictured surrounded by the street signs of Rodeo Drive and Park Avenue.

Waskul offers competitive prices as well as fantastic service. He works with clients until they are completely satisfied with the product.

His combination of professional photography and fun novelty ideas is unique in event activities. If you are looking to spice up your party, look no further than Fun Pix Digital.

Waskul is available for simchahs and corporate events.

Other party favours places advertising in this supplement are: Create A Tag, 416-432-6089/416-738-9853; Eventworks, 416-482-3984; Party Outfitters, 905-482-9235.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Great bands play the music you want to hear

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

When it comes to the rhythm of a party, the band is the backbone, setting the tone and tempo.

That's why you need a band that plays what the guests want to hear when they want to hear it, says Alan Shiner of Nova Sounds.

"We observe the reactions of the crowd," Shiner says. "If a song is working, why not stay with it and keep things going on the floor instead of mechanically changing because you have a set repertoire?"

Alan Shiner [Vince Talotta, Toronto Star photo]

The repertoire of Nova Sounds is extensive. Shiner estimates the band has learned some 5,000 songs over the years.

"We'll provide a song list and they can add to it… You have to be willing to learn new songs that fit the clients' particular needs," Shiner says.

"We've learned as many as 15 to 20 songs for a particular party."

Consulting with the band to determine everything from the appropriate timing of certain songs to the number of horahs to be played is imperative, says Kenny Simon of his namesake band.

"I usually get together with the client a month or so prior [to the party]," Simon says, noting he will invite potential clients to hear the band play in his studio or provide them with a CD if they request it.

But Simon says an impromptu visit to hear a band at someone else's affair isn't necessarily the best way to select one.

"At [each] individual party, the band is catering to that affair. That may not reflect what [the potential client] is looking for," Simon explains.

These days, it is difficult to generalize what clients are looking for, as music trends change constantly.

Ethnic sounds have gained popularity, but good old fashioned rock 'n' roll and top-40 dance tunes still fill the dance floors.

"Every client I have is totally different," Simon says. "We'll mix it up based on what the client wants."

What's important, says Simon, is for the musicians to be versatile and highly skilled.

To that end, both bands have deep musical and performance expertise.

Shiner has worked with the likes of Mariah Carey and Paul Anka and the band has performed for royalty and prime ministers.

The Kenny Simon Band

Simon has also played for royalty and has had songs hit the charts. The band's drummer has played on both the *Tonight Show* with Jay Leno and on the *Late Show* with David Letterman.

While the instrumental skills and voices of the band members are crucial, Shiner advises clients to seek out a band that does more than simply play music.

"We're there to contribute to the energy of the party," Shiner says. "Our vocalists are great dancers and will leave the stage and go into the crowd… when the time is right."

When it comes down to it, Simon and Shiner say experience is invaluable.

"A band with a lot of experience is able to judge the crowd," says Shiner. "They know when a break should be taken and are willing to have volume control. They know when to play the right music at the right time."

To contact Nova Sounds, phone 416-926-1918.

The Kenny Simon Band can be reached at 416-638-2549 or online at www.kennysimonband.com.

Other bands advertising in this supplement are: The 42nd Street Band, 416-441-1555; Ian Ratzner, 514-497-8639; Ambiance Flute & Guitar Duo, 416-693-8778; Bais Groove, 416-486-8417; Good Vibrations Band, 905-881-6400; Fern Lindzon Musical Entertainment, 416-225-6977; Phil Gray — To The Moon Band, 416-255-5730; Harvey Seigel Band, 416-782-9202; Joe Star Band, 905-881-1378; Klapman's Klezmer Band, 416-588-0854; Lorraine Ingle, Pianist, 416-698-6824; MC & Company, 416-873-1651; Rena Gaile Band, 905-420-8625; Rio Entertainment Ltd., 905-882-5252; The Robin Langdon Band, 416-783-8700; The Sky's Band, 905-731-0881; The True Sound Band, 905-731-7585.

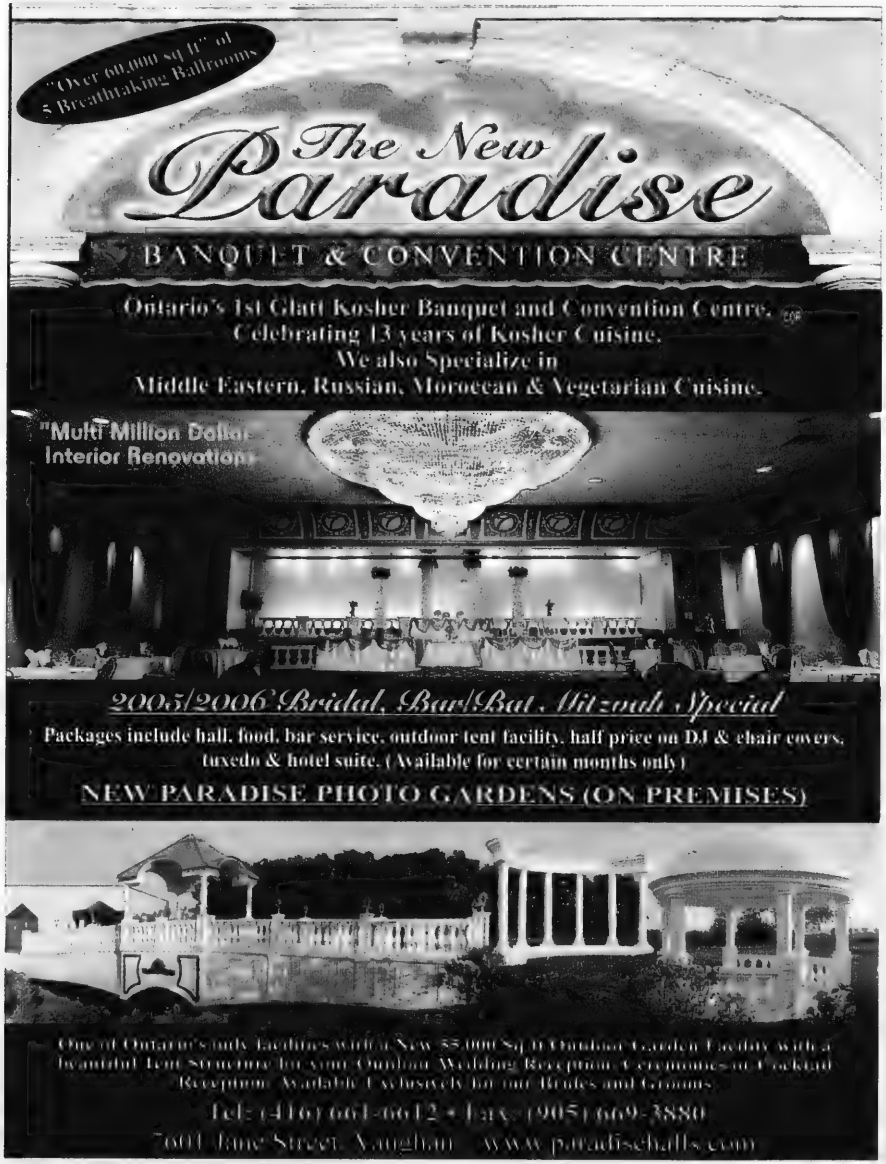
Have fun doing your one-stop party shopping

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

Shopping for party supplies need not be a chore. Norene Norris, Manager of Tyme to Party (905-737-2789; www.tymetoparty.com), and Sam Cohen of Balloon Bash (905-707-8177; www.balloonbash.com), offer some suggestions on how to make it a pleasure.

Cohen and Norris agree that the major advantage of a one-stop party supplier is convenience. You visit one store and find a multitude of party needs under that roof. This saves you having to travel all over town, and no matter how far ahead you plan, anything that saves time is valuable.

When you're starting to look for a supplier, referrals help: Norris gets 90 per cent of her customers through word of mouth. Before you order anything, though, she maintains, you need to visit the store to see what items they have and know the quality of their service. She invites you to come in, look around, then check out the competition. She's confident you'll choose her.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Choose a supplier who can meet your exact needs, Norris advises. Whether you have a cut-and-dried list or want to do some discussing and planning before you decide what to order, a good one-stop supplier will be flexible, and accommodate you.

Norris and Cohen urge you to look for the best service you can get. Norris goes further: look for someone you feel comfortable with, she says, someone who will be kind to you. Kindness is never out of place, especially considering the stress that goes with organizing a big do.

As Norris puts it, the staff should "guide you, not push you." Quoting her husband Harvey, she says, "I don't want to sell to you. I want you to buy from me."

Staff should guide you, not push you

Asked which is more important, service or goods, Cohen replies that even if you know exactly what you want, service is important – staff should be knowledgeable and helpful. But you may change your mind, and staff should be adaptable, able to deal with the unexpected.

Moreover, Cohen continues, party supplies are diverse enough to be a specialty in their own right. To an unsuspecting customer, such diversity can be bewildering. Customers anticipate that they will need a specialist's help, and for this reason, they tend to value service over goods. If some item is hard to find, but it's out there somewhere, it's excellent service that will find it for you.

"You want three dozen balloons," Cohen says by way of an example, "evenly divided among red, yellow and blue, but do you know just how many shades of each colour are available? And do you know that many balloons are now made to last not just a day or two, but up to three weeks?"

The party's going to be fun, says Norris, so the visit to the store should be fun too.

Chose a supplier who can meet your exact needs

"Kids have a great time at our showroom," she says with a smile, "and so do dads. They get a chance to be kids again. And for us who work here, it's fun to serve you."

You can book anytime you want, Norris says, though it's better to do so as far ahead as you can. This gives you time to change your order.

In the party industry, almost every business seems to have a specialty that makes it not quite the same as its competitors; so try to find a supplier whose specialty areas appeal to you.

Tyme to Party's main area of interest is fun for birthdays, bar/bat mitzvahs and kids' parties. Their specialty is loot bags, but they also offer a huge range of costumes, accessories, giveaways, balloons and paper products, and hilarious things like flashing sunglasses.

Along with balloons, as you'd expect, Balloon Bash offers centrepieces, seasonal baskets and decorations. The company is a member of QBN, Qualatex Balloon Network (www.qualatex.com), which sets standards for the industry, and disseminates creative ideas among its members.

Other one-stop party places advertising in this supplement are: Dominion Smallwares, 416-665-9526; Dynamite Party's, 905-764-1583; Incredible Novelties Inc., 905-881-9900; Stewart Robinson, 905-764-1583; The Candyman, 416-789-7173.

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PARTY PLANNER

Light up the Night with New Party Lights!

By RICHARD GERSKUP
Special to The CJN

It was not so long ago that outdoor lighting was limited to traditional wall mount and lamp post fixtures. In your choice of black or white finishes only! Nothing fancy. Nothing to enlighten a festive mood.

"Well, you ain't seen nothing yet!" says Bruce Young of Universal Lamp in Toronto. (416-787-8900). Their website is www.greatlighting.com.

"Today, outdoor lighting stretches the imagination with an extraordinary range of landscape lighting, special deck lighting, and most recently, impressive co-ordinated exterior table lamps, floor lamps, chandeliers and fans that will transform your yard or patio into a 'living room'!"

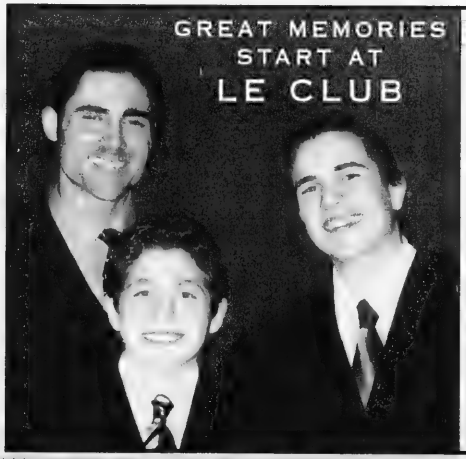
Young adds that some of the newest outdoor lighting products are almost identical to what you'd see inside a house. Much like today's outdoor furniture that has made the leap to a refreshing indoor/outdoor look, these newest lighting products are totally weather-resistant and completely approved for exterior use.

They use regular light bulbs that are fully protected from the elements and feature imaginative fabric "look-alike" shades.

For large festive light shows, look for new torchiere lamps that stake right into the ground; small, deck-top lanterns (copper adornment is especially popular right now); plus a bright assortment of landscape lighting kits that light up the night to create a party atmosphere or an intimate setting.

Light up your outdoors and enjoy the beauty of the night.

Some of the newest outdoor lighting products are almost identical to what you'd see inside.



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PARTY PLANNER

Beautiful flowers create simplistic elegance

By JESSICA HELLEN
CJN Intern

Flowers create the mood, setting and atmosphere for an event. They bring the element of nature indoors. And according to the owners of Stemz, they should be something unique that your guests have never seen before.

Stemz is a relatively new studio-based business. Started by Fiona Liston and Joanne Winkeleer a little over a year ago, Stemz (416-471-4945) is "all about new ideas.

"We try to steer our clients towards a modern and clean look," says Liston. "Something that's eye-catching and different."

Liston and Winkeleer's goal is to introduce new textures and colours to clients.

"We can do the Martha Stewart, but we want people to try new things in Toronto," says Winkeleer.

Elaine Birnbaum of Greenleaves and Petals (905-709-4080) says she doesn't have one particular style.

"I think we have many different styles because we have a wonderful group of talented designers here," she says.

According to Elaine, the current trend in flowers and decor is clean lines, achieved by using rocks, gems and candles.

"Simplistic elegance," she says. "This can work with dramatic colour or monochromatic colour."

Greenleaves and Petals can coordinate all aspects of an event, including the design of the florals, centrepieces, graphics, signing boards, balloons, catering, chair covers, linens, backdrops and artwork.

"Sometimes people want that," Elaine says. "They don't have time to go to other places – everyone's busy. It takes a lot of pressure off of people."

When Liston and Winkeleer meet with a client, they first go to check out the venue.

"We take into account the colours and textures of the room," Liston says.

"Then we determine what would be the best florals and designs for the event," Winkeleer adds. "We're very personalized."

Elaine says it is important that the florist is familiar with the location, because "not every floral display suits every venue."

Winkeleer suggests clients talk to their florist before choosing a theme for their party.

"We've seen what works and what doesn't," Winkeleer says, "And we can give [clients] ideas."

Elaine says a bar or bat mitzvah theme does not have to be about sports or activities that the child likes.

"Sometimes a theme can be developed by colour or texture, like using bold colours if the bat mitzvah girl is outgoing," she explains. "And sometimes a venue is not conducive to a theme."

Floral design by Stemz

Elaine says she likes to meet the bar and bat mitzvah kids and get them involved in planning their special day. She gives them samples and pictures so that they will feel integrated in the decisions and decor.

She also sets up a sample or "prototype" of what she will create for the party. She then invites the family to see "everything put together, so they have something to look forward to."

When choosing a florist, Winkeleer suggests clients find someone with whom they have a good rapport, similar design sensibilities and a sense of trust.

If the client does not find a florist with these qualities, the client will "always be worrying whether the flowers will turn out."

Winkeleer advises setting aside 10 per cent of the party budget for flowers. Clients should then work with their florist to determine what kind of look they want to achieve.

For a wedding, Winkeleer says a lot of money goes to labour costs, because "everything has to be perfect."

Elaine can tailor what clients want to suit their budget. "You shouldn't feel that if you're not spending, you're going to compromise the look," she says. "You can have a beautiful understated look for less."

Stemz orders flowers specifically for an event, so that they are as fresh as possible.

Liston and Winkeleer schedule only one event per weekend so that they can "take full control" of the party.

"We've both left other businesses because we really want to do this," Liston says. "We have a lot of fun and we put a lot of energy into it."

Winkeleer says clients who want to secure a specific florist for their simchah, should hire the florist six to 12 months prior to the event. Otherwise, three months and upwards is a suitable amount of time.

When clients do not have a lot of time before events such as baby namings, Elaine suggests booking a florist directly after deciding on the venue.

She says she loves when guests walk into the party and get the first glimpse of the flowers and decor.

"When you go into the room and you don't know where to look first because everything's so beautiful, that gives me a lot of pleasure," Elaine says.

Whether your party is in a synagogue, in a banquet hall or at your house, the right flowers will enhance the space, add a touch of elegance and make a statement.

At Stemz and Greenleaves and Petals, new and exciting looks for your party are always blooming.

Other florists advertising in this supplement are: An Affair to Remember, 905-881-6686; Designs by Karen Baker, 905-886-8100.

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What's the key to choosing a venue?

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

How do you choose your venue? There are plenty of possibilities. Even a look through the tried-and-true Yellow Pages can be bewildering.

Here are some tips to make the selection easier. Doug Collier of Copper Creek Golf Club (905-893-3370; www.coppercreek.ca), Jeff Roick of The Carlu (416-597-1931; www.thecarlu.com) and Peter Heliopoulos of By Peter and Pauls (905-326-2000; www.bypeterandpauls.com) are all venue professionals.

No two settings are alike and the venue should feel right for you personally. "Pay attention to the style of the place," Heliopoulos advises.

Collier refers to the necessary quality as "comfort," which covers a range of factors, from comfortable chairs to decor and setting that put you at ease.

Size is important, says Heliopoulos. For a gala, you want a big hall, but the setting for an intimate event shouldn't be too large. The venue should be adaptable for different numbers of guests.

Adaptability, in Collier's view, helps the venue build clientele. If you like the place that hosted a family party, he explains, and they can also do a wedding, you're likely to choose them over other locations. Or, if you've found a venue that hosted a great power breakfast or board meeting, it saves time to use the same place for the company's year-end bash.

Roick believes you might rank priorities differently, depending on the kind of event. Whereas budget might rank higher for a personal or social event, a location that suits the corporate image, and has good audio-visual facilities, may claim top priority for a business function.

If you don't have a big decor budget, Roick advises, choose a setting that's beautiful without any embellishment. If, on the other hand, you're putting on a themed event, pick a venue with neutral decor, a blank canvas for you to work on.

If you want something extra, you pay for it, Heliopoulos says. However, he adds, you should get quality even within a modest budget.

Take your guests into consideration, Roick continues. How many are coming from out of town? And how are they getting here? Will they prefer easy access to the airport or closeness to downtown night life? Is there plenty of parking?

Of course, you want excellent rapport with the staff. Both Collier and Roick insist that rapport is vital; Heliopoulos ranks it number 1. Hall management and staff have to make things run smoothly and deal with glitches and the unpredictable. If they're motivated, there's almost no obstacle they can't overcome.

For small home parties hosted by a friend or family member, it's a given that your event will be one of a kind. Once you go outside home and family to hire party professionals, though, as Collier points out, you'll want to make sure they treat your event as unique.

Because the venue sets the tone, you'll want to pick a special place. Two venues couldn't contrast more than Copper Creek and The Carlu; and Heliopoulos founded By Peter and Pauls as an umbrella company for five venues (all with free parking) and several entertainment companies.

Cut into the Humber River valley, Copper Creek Golf Club offers a view for all seasons overlooking the Doug Carrick golf course, with year-round natural beauty. The clubhouse is well-appointed, with a stonework exterior and copper roof.

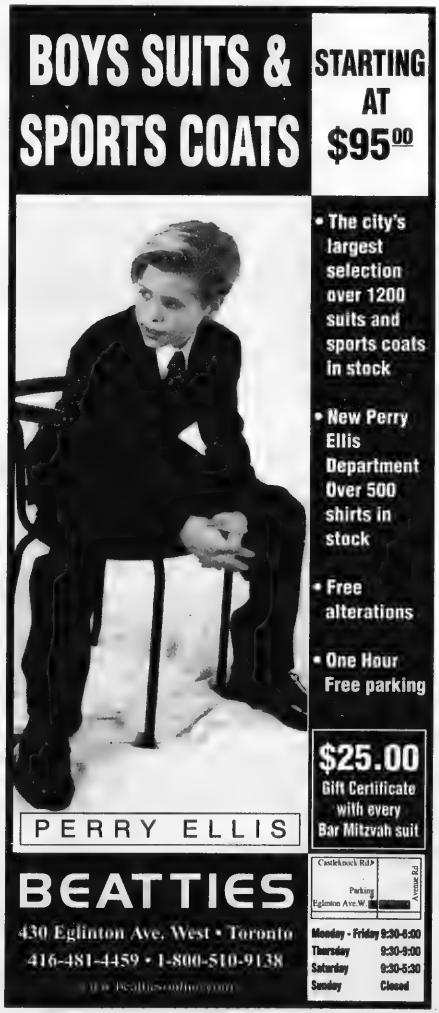
The Carlu, at the old Eaton's College Street store, is downtown and proud of it. Roick calls it "a destination, not just a venue." It's been renamed for its architect, Jacques Carlu, a proponent of the Art Moderne style, designer of the Île de France and Normandie ocean liners.

The Carlu's concert hall, re-opened after being closed for decades, was the first North American attempt to combine entertainment with retailing. In its heyday, it featured stars like Duke Ellington and Billie Holiday.

Cityplace Golf, By Peter and Pauls' newest venue, hosts up to 350 guests and is Toronto's only downtown golf course. The company's other venues are Delano's Restaurant, the Bellaggio banquet hall, the Paramount and the Manor. The different rooms can host from 100 to 1,650 people.

By Peter and Pauls' Paramount is state of the art in everything from exterior to kosher kitchen. There are permanent pizza ovens, ice cream wells and coffee stations in the lobbies. The Manor, north of King City at the Carrying Place Golf & Country Club, overlooks a six-acre pond.

Continued on page B14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Beautiful places for a party

Copper Creek Golf Club is cut into the Humber River Valley.

Cont'd from page B13

Heliopoulos also has an advertising and design company, a videographer and other party-related businesses. Besides offering complete services to clients, these companies are an ongoing source of new ideas – letting Heliopoulos be a party generalist, while drawing on specialist expertise.

One final word of advice from Roick: "Pay attention to the details of your contract. Go in with open eyes; and read the fine print!"

Nobody wants to bog down in detail, but attention to what seems petty today can save *tsuris* down the road. Some venues with paintings, for instance, have a no-baloons policy, because helium harms some works of art.

Other party places advertising in this supplement are: Akasaka Japanese Restaurant, 416-222-8188; Baycrest Hospitality Services, 416-785-2500 ext. 2477; Intercontinental Toronto, 416-960-5200; Casa Loma, 416-923-1171; Columbus Centre/Villa Charities/Villa Colombo, 416-789-7011 ext. 298; Delimark Catering, Dolce Catering, 905-474-9930; Eddy's Dining Lounge, 905-886-6566; The Estates of Sunnybrook, 416-487-3841; Fairmont Royal York Hotel, 416-368-2511 ext. 2657; Kolel: The Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning, 416-485-7007; Le Cantlie Suites, 1-800-567-1110; Le Parc, 416-798-7246; Liberty Grand, 416-542-3789; Match Bar & Grill, 905-850-5699; Novotel North York Hotel, 416-733-2929; Paradise Banquet & Convention Centre, 416-661-6612; Park Hyatt Toronto, 416-925-1234; Pickle Barrel, 416-493-4333; Premiere Ballroom & Convention Centre, 905-709-1759; Royal Meridien King Edward Hotel, 416-863-3225; Sam Firestone Caterers, 416-782-8022; Scaramouche Restaurant/Pasta Bar, 416-961-8011; Spezzo, 905-886-9703; Toronto Marriott Bloor-Yorkville Hotel, 416-961-8000; Trielm Catering, 416-222-1230; Two Rosehill, 416-960-2223; Wildfire Steakhouse & Wine Bar, 416-483-4800.

The beautiful scenery of Peter and Pauls

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Caterers keep up with the times

By RUTH SCHWEITZER
Special to The CJN

Caterers of kosher food are keeping up with the times and with the latest food trends, offering vegetarian, low fat and low carbohydrate options.

GMB Culinary Productions (416-789-7811, www.gmbculinary.com) is celebrating its 10th year as a trendsetter in the Canadian kosher food industry.

Specializing in nouveau kosher cuisine, GMB is staffed by foodies who are passionate about food, says Jared Bensky, GMB's director of business development.

The company recently hired an in-house dietitian to create a kosher menu of low fat and low carbohydrate items.

"We pride ourselves on being knowledgeable about the latest consumer taste and trends," Bensky says.

GMB Culinary caters to 35 venues across the province, from Muskoka to Toronto and the Niagara Region. In Toronto, the company's venues include both locations of the InterContinental Hotel, the Fairmont Royal York Hotel, Le Royal Meridian King Edward Hotel and the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

Bensky advises people to look for caterers who have experience and a good reputation and use the best ingredients, rather than shopping for the most competitive price.

"A lot of people go price shopping, and they're not comparing apples to apples," he says.

Operating side by side with GMB Culinary is Gorman McIlveen Special Event Design and Management, which can provide just about everything needed for a party, including floral design, décor, lighting and rentals of linens and table settings – everything, that is, except the food.

Since the catering company and the event management company are in sync, they offer one-stop shopping for special events. "We design the whole event from soup to nuts," Bensky says, "from valet parking to audio visual, to sound and to wait staff."

Aside from catering private parties, GMB Culinary caters to events held by the corporate sector and charitable groups. The United Jewish Appeal is one of the company's clients.

"We provide them with dozens of events, from small meetings in-house, at the Lipa Green Building, to their major donor events at the Royal York," he says.

GMB's kosher-plated meal program allows those who keep kosher to dine with their colleagues in the city's upscale restaurants. GMB supplies kosher meals to the top 50 restaurants in Toronto, as well as to the corporate offices of two of Canada's major banks.

"We provide a frosted glass plate with stainless steel flatware," Bensky says, "so the guest is able to blend with other people and not feel they're eating an airline meal."

The GMB Culinary time-saver program offers home delivery of delicious Shabbat dinners, and GMB is launching a new weekly home delivery service of a shopping list of fresh prepared foods.

GMB's baked goods can be found at the Whole Foods Market, Pusateri's and Longo's, as well as on sweet tables at events the company caters. Most people purchasing GMB bakery products at retail locations buy them because they're dairy free, Bensky says, not because they're kosher.

Every GMB Culinary and Gorman McIlveen Special Event Design and Management function is special and different by design and menu, he says.

"Based on this, we exceed our client's expectations each time."

Tri Elm Caterers prides itself on being ahead of the times, offering the latest in food trends, whether they are low fat or vegetarian, before their customers request them.

"We want to be ahead of the game," says Joe Elmaleh of Tri Elm Caterers (416-222-1230). "We're always going to food shows to see different ideas and implement them in our menus."

A large, kosher menu, which changes every six months, can be viewed on the Tri Elm website (www.trielm.com). Many of Tri Elm's customers are referrals who don't necessarily want to eat the same food that they ate at their friends' wedding. "We don't want to be served what has been served in the last year or two," Elmaleh says.

Tri Elm's menu is a guideline, he emphasizes, to give people an idea of what they can do. "Every customer puts a personal touch on the menu. We constantly customize menus to fit clients' themes and taste buds."

Elmaleh says grilled food is more popular than baked food these days. His chefs are using the grill a lot, for vegetables and steaks, along with fresh herbs, another current food trend. People continue to stay away from sauces, and although chicken and fish are still in demand, they are given an exotic flavouring during preparation. Lamb and veal are requested frequently, as is Tri Elm's specialty English rib steak.

Tri Elm Caterers' executive chef Saverio has 30 years' experience in the food industry and has travelled around the world, including to France, Spain and Morocco.

"With his travelling, he's worked at various places in these countries and has learned there," Elmaleh says. "He brings an Italian flavour to kosher catering, and French and Middle Eastern."

Tri Elm has a pastry chef on staff, which "gives us a choice to be very creative with our desserts and sweet tables," Elmaleh says. The latest addition to sweet tables is a candy table at which party-goers can make their own candy skewers.

Elmaleh says anyone hiring a caterer should know that the service is as important as the meal.

Since the caterer's bill for an event is 60 per cent of the cost, the caterer ought to be part of the function, he says. "The caterer should be someone to lean on. They need someone that's in it day to day, to be able to guide them, not just sell them a meal."

Besides the food, Tri Elm provides linens and table settings, although they don't offer FLOP – catering industry terminology for flowers, liquor, orchestra and pictures.

Tri Elm Caterers operates out of several locations, including the Pride of Israel Synagogue. Their newest venue is the Pearson Convention Centre, 15 minutes away from the Promenade Mall.

Tri Elm, which has been catering for 14 years, is a team of people who work together as equals, Elmaleh says.

"We put the customer ahead of everyone else and make their function as one of our own."

Other kosher caterers advertising in this supplement are: Ely's Fine Foods, 416-782-3231; It's An Occasion, 416-785-0996; Malmar Fine Foods & Catering, 905-771-1298; Miriam's Table Catering, 416-633-6554; Zuchter Berk Creative Caterers, 416-386-1086.

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PARTY PLANNER

For menswear, 'the tailored look is in'

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

In the men's fashion world, tailors see the full range of body types from the tall and sinewy to the short and plump, but regardless of the size, there is a universal maxim.

"You want to make a bad figure look good and a good figure look great," says Wendy Myles, paraphrasing for her husband Lou of Lou Myles Disegnatore.

"The silhouette is what flatters everyone's body."

With that cardinal rule, Lou Myles has custom tailored for an international clientele for 60 years, from the likes of Frank Sinatra to Shaquille O'Neal.

Myles says well known labels and no names are essentially cut from the same cloth and the actual design of the suit is what counts.

"The construction of the suit is what makes it look so good for so long," he says, adding that he recently did some alterations for a client who is still wearing a suit made by Myles in 1973.

Stars Men's Shop

Agreeing with Myles' assessment that the slim cut look is stylish is Kapil Khan of Stars Men's Shop.

"The tailored look is in," says Khan, adding that pin stripes and pastel colours are also gaining steam, especially in the summer months.

Another trend Khan has seen of late is for the groom to wear a tuxedo, while the groomsmen are attired in black suits.

That can also be economical, as the groomsmen will then have a suit they can wear to countless other affairs, Khan advises.

Key advice for suit shoppers is to find a knowledgeable and trained salesperson, say both Khan and Myles.

"They have be very courteous and they have to have great knowledge," says Myles, noting his company frequently delivers clothes right to the front door.

Myles says it's important for the salesperson to find out what the client does for a living, as certain styles are appropriate for particular professions.

Khan says salespeople at Stars Men's stores are trained to measure clients to ensure that if alterations are required, the final product is comfortable.

To that end, Khan says many of the Stars Men's stores have in-house tailors, which allows for a quick, two-day turn around to complete alterations.

"For a wedding, it's not a problem to come in a week and a half prior," he says, although early preparation isn't a bad idea.

With a custom tailor shop boasting 20 employees, Myles says he has the resources to make the hand-crafted and hand finished suit a perfect fit.

"A custom made suit is made properly," he says.

To contact Lou Myles, phone 905-738-6700 or log onto www.loumyles.ca.

To reach Stars Men's Shop, dial 416-650-1404 or online at www.starsmenshops.com.

Lou Myles Disegnatore

Another men's fashion place advertising in this supplement is: Le Club Menswear, 416-488-7848.

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Rentals are the best way to go

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

The larger your party, the more likely you are to need to rent items ranging from fine crystal to temporary flooring.

John Higgins, vice-president of sales and marketing at Higgins Party Rentals (416-252-4050, www.higginspartyrentals.com), and Mary Crothers, president of Chair-Man Mills Inc. (416-391-0400, www.chairmanmills.com), offer useful advice on choosing a rental company.

The main function of rentals, Crothers says, is to make things easier. "Think of an event like a seder. You can rent the dishes and send them back dirty. And it's especially easy with a one-stop rental house, where you find all the furniture and other accessories for your party under one roof."

If you're not familiar with party rentals or party professionals in general, Higgins recommends using the old-fashioned Yellow Pages. Many companies that advertise there will outline the services they offer and tell you how long they have been operating.

Higgins, whose company has been in business 23 years, advises choosing a supplier with a long track record. In a competitive business where referrals make or break you, staying power is a testimonial in its own right. Moreover, he adds, a long track record means a wealth of contacts in the party industry and related fields, which may be of extra help in making your party a success.

"We have plenty of corporate clients," Higgins says, "but we built the company on this philosophy of service to the individual, and we're keeping to it." He goes on to suggest that a family business like his is most likely to adhere to this philosophy.

Chair-Man Mills too owes much of its growth to the family trade. It is also a family business, one that has rented party furniture since 1911 and has branched out into dishes and other accessories. Its philosophy too is one of hands-on personal attention to each customer.

"The staff should know their company's products, and be eager to help you," Crothers says.

Service, for Crothers, means being on hand when needed, including the day of your event. It also means being open on weekends and for emergencies. Just knowing help is there, even if you don't have to call on it, can ease your mind.

Look for reasonable prices and wide selection, Higgins suggests, but since you want the best quality you can afford, prices shouldn't be too low. Crothers agrees with this. "Don't go for a low price," she warns, "if it means service is poor."

Continued on page B20

Chair-man Mills started out renting party furniture but has branched out into renting accessories.

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Bringing the spa to your party

By ELYSSE ZAREK
Special to The CJN

Spa and party: the two usually don't mix. But Spa Party has put an end to that. Fashion-conscious hosts and hostesses can now bring the spa to bridal showers, bar mitzvahs, corporate events and cottage parties.

The recently launched mobile spa company that has been featured on Breakfast Television and EZRock 97.3 provides pedicures, manicures, massages, facials and other spa services to clients "wherever they might be," says owner Rob Weingust (416-926-1934, www.spapartyevents.com).

Spas are typically a place where people receive treatments individually, Weingust explains. As a result, hosting a bridal shower at a spa, for example, can be frustrating because the group can't be together. With Spa Party, a group can enjoy spa services and their get-together at the same time.

Instead of a full manicure or pedicure, Spa Party's estheticians may offer mini-manicures and pedicures for the group. At a corporate event or bar mitzvah, the massage therapists may offer a mini-massage or a chair massage instead of a full-body massage, so guests don't have to undress or worry about ruining their hair or make-up.

The staff – registered massage therapists and estheticians – also cater to the specific needs of a bridal shower.

"They make sure that one hand is free to eat chocolate sushi, or sip a cosmopolitan," Weingust says jokingly.

Most people who attend spa parties tend to be female and between the ages of 20 and 60. He has already done several 30th and 40th birthday parties, and with cottage season coming up, he has booked several parties in cottage country.

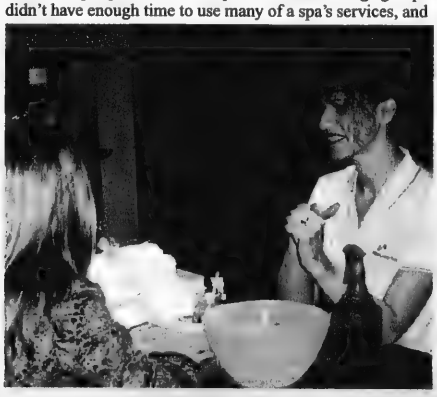
As the word "party" suggests, Spa Party only accepts bookings for groups of five and larger. Weingust encourages customers to take a look at his website first. He also emphasizes that Spa Party can customize services to accommodate different types of parties, budgets and group sizes. So if you want longer, more private sessions at your party, Weingust assures that it's possible.

If you want a room set up with a certain look, that's possible too. "We can decorate the place where the spa is held, from your living room to the ballroom at the Royal York hotel," says Weingust.

Weingust got the idea for Spa Party while working in the meeting and event industry. Two of the things that groups always wanted, he remembers, were spas and golf. Golf was easy because golf courses were equipped to handle large volumes. Spas posed more of a problem because large groups didn't have enough time to use many of a spa's services, and spas usually already had bookings and couldn't accommodate a group. Plus spas are pricey.

"Spa Party is cheaper than going to the spa as well," Weingust says.

Spa Party's staff are registered therapists and estheticians.



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PARTY PLANNER

Rentals make things easier

Continued from page B18

On the other hand, Crothers says, if the selection ranges from basic to deluxe, you should get quality service and supplies even on a moderate budget. With any reputable rental house, you can set a better table.

Higgins emphasizes the point that a visit to the showroom will tell you how eager the company is to earn your business. Look for a wide selection, quality goods and knowledgeable, helpful staff. The more important the event, the more money you're spending, he says, the more you need this personal contact.

Crothers says the rental house should also show you pictures of events where they have worked.

"Usually," Higgins says, "people who come to one of our showrooms [in Toronto and Oakville] choose us as their supplier.

"When you entertain, you want to celebrate. For celebration, the stress has to be low. To keep it low, spend the extra time and care now, choosing and working with your party suppliers, and save yourself worries when the big day comes."

Different companies have their specialties. Higgins, for example, in addition to renting the expected party items, has just bought Blue Sky Tents, and specializes in tents and all the outdoor furniture and accessories that go with them, including flooring.

Crothers places a lot of importance on versatility. For Chair-Man Mills, this includes experience in kosher service, satisfying observant clients.

"Choose a rental house which can handle any size event from 30 guests to thousands," Crothers says, "and one which will offer you anything from a single item to a whole party package. This will enable you to use the same supplier for different events, and develop a long-term relationship."

Other rental places advertising in this supplement are: Chair Decor, Etc., 905-731-9217; Starburst Coin Machines Inc., 416-251-2122.

A tent and party accessories rented out by Higgins.

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Natalie Bean-Sole

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Mr. Disc Jockey: The Pied Piper of your party

By RUTH SCHWEITZER
Special to The CJN

At bar and bat mitzvahs, interactive entertainers from Edwin Allen Productions can bridge the gap between a disc jockey – a human jukebox – and a live band.

Ed McMurtry, who heads Mister Disc Jockey and Edwin Allen Productions (1-877-473-3800, www.mrdj.com), says his interactive entertainers are party motivators who get everyone participating. "We do it in a fast-paced, elegant way. We're called Pied Pipers, the way we bring people to the dance floor."

His entertainers come along with a set or backdrop and, with the addition of some lively patter, entertain within the context of a choreographed evening.

A band that plays well enough to provide the many types of music required at a bar or bat mitzvah is usually beyond the average family's budget, McMurtry says. His entertainers can give clients the range of music they need, from energetic dance music to hits of the 1950s and '60s and horas, while staying within budget.

His interactive entertainers never single out the mother or father of the guest-of-honour to do an embarrassing skit, he says, nor do they dangle prizes such as chrome scooters or trucker hats to get guests onto the dance floor.

The entertainers work within the moment, with what's happening at the function at any particular time. "We don't ever stop the music to do a cheesy routine or some contrived interactive number," McMurtry says. "Each one of our entertainers has more interactive material up their sleeve than time will permit at an event."

A great entertainer may elicit only polite applause at a bar or bat mitzvah but when you bring bubbie out the applause is amazing, he says.

Professional dancers who perform in some of Toronto's major musical productions are part of the Edwin Allen Productions team. The dancers are included in the choreographed, theatrical events that are the company's trademark. The dancers may be dressed as ice kings and queens, McMurty says, or they may, as they did at one party, be wearing glow-in-the-dark costumes and lead the guests into the party in the dark.

Edwin Allen Productions received a Canadian events industry award for the most spectacular event under $40,000. For a bat mitzvah for a girl named Laura, the company won an award for best entertainment for a private individual.

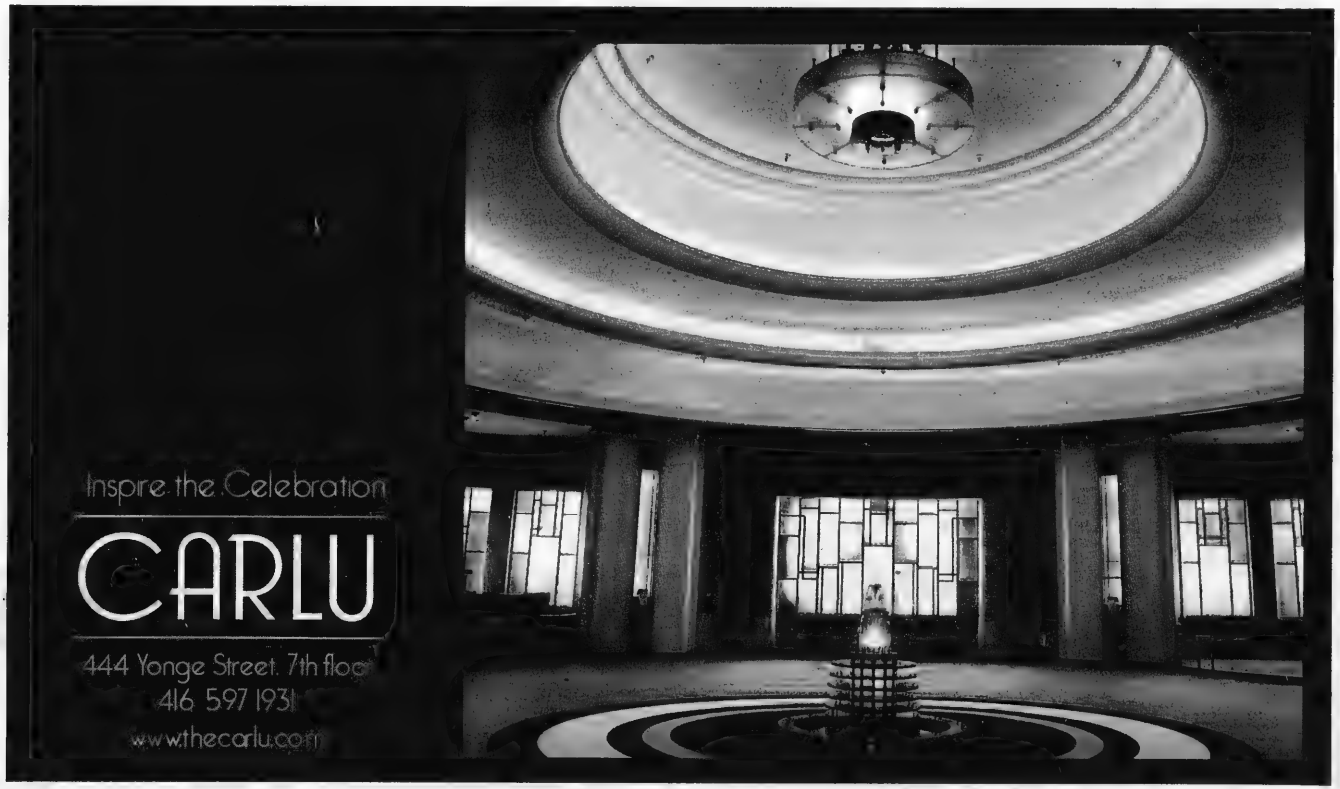
At Laura's bat mitzvah, the guests gathered for cocktails on a soundstage in a movie studio. There they were greeted by three buskers, who were dressed and made up as a mechanical Mountie, a pantomime juggler and Charlie Chaplin.

"When it was time to leave cocktails and go to the main event, Charlie Chaplin ushered the guests to the freight elevator," McMurtry says. "The freight elevator lowered the guests into a misty pool of dry ice. When they left the freight elevator, they walked onto the main sound stage, which was decorated as a starry night."

After eating the first course of their meal, the young people returned to the first soundstage, where they spent an hour dancing in an environment that was retrofitted to resemble Studio 54. The scene on the smaller soundstage was beamed down to the adults, who were dancing on the main soundstage.

Continued on page B24

McMurtry's entertainers get into the swing of things.



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A registry takes the guesswork out of buying a gift

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

Gift registries used to be only for china, glassware and other table setting items, but times have changed. A good idea, once it's out there, is bound to expand sooner or later.

Partners Carmela Bozzo and Josie Restivo of Desiree China & Gifts (905-850-2818; www.desiree.ca) and spokesperson Lisa Gibson of Canadian Tire (1-800-387-8803; www.canadiantire.ca) represent companies that offer quite different products. Both Bozzo and Gibson, however, agree that a registry makes life simpler for everyone.

A gift registry is a list where you specify the items you want to receive from your wedding guests. As items are purchased, they are checked off the list by the store you registered with. Aside from this, details vary from company to company. Canadian Tire, for instance, lets guests give cards that are like gift certificates.

> A gift registry is a list that specifies the items you want to receive from your wedding guests

In most registries, you can also specify brand names, designs, etc., as well as the priority of some items over others. Also, registries are now used for anniversaries and other milestone events.

You can see the advantages, as Bozzo and Gibson point out, both for you and your guests: you get what you want, because they know what to buy. Gibson adds that a well-run registry will also allow you to change your plans and make updates.

Take the trouble to register early, Bozzo says, and you save trouble later. Instead of duplication and unmatched or missing pieces, you get full, matched place settings of flatware and stemware, in the designs and price range you want.

While many people still think of tableware as a woman's concern, Bozzo sees more and more men taking an interest nowadays, especially when it's time to make final decisions.

"Just as women do," she observes, "men like to pick dishes and utensils up, to see how they feel in the hand."

Gibson sees a lot of couples too. "A lot of our products," she says, "define things couples like to do together, like cooking, camping or taking road trips."

Websites add to the convenience of a registry, Bozzo and Gibson say. A website is like an old-fashioned catalogue with its plethora of pictures, but with the advantage of speedy, regular updates and more interesting graphics. Even so, as Gibson points out, nothing beats the pleasure of coming into a store or showroom and handling things.

To work at all, a registry has to be well organized. In addition, Bozzo and Gibson advise, insist on a high standard of full, personal service. Staff should be courteous and knowledgeable, and along with an overall helpful attitude, there should be procedures in place, to ensure that you get maximum benefit from that knowledge.

At Desiree, staff walk you through every item on your gift list, so that you know all the choices available to you. Then they set up a table in the store, to show you how your choices will look together.

Desiree also provides a card to go with your invitations, to let your guests know you are registered at this store. They offer free gift wrapping, and they deliver free to a bridal shower on the same day, or to your home afterward.

One advantage of Canadian Tire's registry highlighted by Gibson is a range of price points to accommodate every budget, from a few dollars up. For expensive items, say a state-of-the-art barbecue with all the accoutrements, you can make a partial contribution.

The Canadian Tire registry lets you order from anywhere in the world, as long as the delivery address is in Canada. And with 452 stores across Canada, returns are easy.

Videographers create a visual memory of your party

By CARA EDELL
CJN Intern

Every party should create lasting memories, but those who want a more visual reminder of the experience can rely on a videographer.

"Video is very important for a party," says Abe Salzman of Video Affairs (905-889-0909, www.video-affairs.com). "It captures the decor, food, music, atmosphere, speeches and all of the friends and family."

Salzman, who has been in the videography business for 23 years, says videos become an "important keepsake," especially for older people, such as grandparents.

Video Affairs specializes in filming weddings and bar and bat mitzvahs. Salzman says his company has also done corporate work, training videos, music videos and seminars.

He says most people want every aspect of their party caught on tape, although all clients have the opportunity to decide exactly what they would like their video to include.

"Most people like to start with pictures and end with flashbacks," Salzman says. "They may also choose music, special effects and 3-D animation."

Salzman says his clients can even participate in the editing process, if they want.

While the videos he and his team put together are primarily for the interests and wishes of their clients, Salzman says he finds personal satisfaction in the reactions and feedback he receives for his work.

"What I like the most is watching the tears in my clients' eyes when they watch some of their video when they come to pick it up," he says. "Their compliments really make my day."

Salzman says his clients know he puts his heart into capturing events in a creative way, and he will do whatever it takes to make his videos shine.

"I try to encourage close family members who are not inclined to dance, to do so, for even a few seconds, just for the memory of being close to the person the party is for," he says.

"Unlike other companies that usually videotape from a tripod, I like to capture faces and emotions by being inside the action with the camera on my shoulder," he adds.

This filming technique is what gives Salzman's videos a unique look and feel, he says. Because he positions himself among the crowd, guests have a chance to speak to the camera and record their own messages.

For clients that prefer Salzman to stay on the sidelines, it's "no problem." He says he will do his very best job nonetheless.

Videos shot and produced by Video Affairs vary in cost, depending on the clients' budget and taste and what they would like to see on film, Salzman says. The company has prices as low as $995, which includes the entire event on DVD.

Their motto is "perfection at affordable prices," and Salzman says Video Affairs lives up to its claim.

For those who prefer an alternative to the "bells and whistles" that Video Affairs advertises, Memory Path Productions (416-785-3758, www.memorypathproductions.com) may be your best bet.

Mair Musafiya says his company has a different approach than others, in that Memory Path Productions is not "all about glamour. It shows real life."

He and his award-winning team film at "life cycle events" such as bar and bat mitzvahs, graduations, weddings, anniversaries and retirement parties.

Musafiya's company may be new, but he says his experience goes back to his days in Yugoslavia, where he worked as a television producer.

He says the original mission of Memory Path Productions was to create family biographies. His company's motto, "Those should not forget," alludes to Musafiya's vision that such videos are "links to the past."

Musafiya says the motto can just as easily refer to the parties he tapes, for "in capturing the past, memories of the future are preserved."

Memory Path Productions has a variety of packages to offer its clients, says Musafiya, who explains that they "treat the event as an entire day."

Abe Salzman

He says pre-shot videos can be played at an event, where, for example, friends and family reflect upon a bride or groom.

All videos are digitally edited and treated like television documentaries, Musafiya says. As well, professional, high-end cameras are used and brand new wireless microphones have been purchased.

Music, digital effects and a DVD with chapters can all be included in a video package.

"We fit every budget and we're very flexible," Musafiya says.

So if you're planning a party and want the action to last a lifetime, remember to turn to the pros.

As Salzman says, people are usually so caught up in the event that "they not only enjoy seeing everything again, but they also get to realize how much they actually missed."

Other videographers advertising in this supplement are: D.M.S. Video Productions, 905-470-4040; Lisa Productions, 905-764-1033; Northern Memory Productions, 905-881-0608; Rafael Studios, 416-667-9999; Redstone Pictures, 416-256-4666; Video Excellence, 905-731-4355; Video Productions by Josh, 905-709-9277.

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Interactive entertainers are party motivators

Continued from page B21

Laura didn't want to make a speech at her bat mitzvah. To replace her speech, McMurtry staged a Broadway-style musical, complete with dancers. The musical included Britney Spears, Marilyn Monroe and Madonna routines, a number about the competitive rivalry between Laura and her siblings, performed by her siblings, and a number about how much Laura loves her parents.

It took three days to set up Laura's bat mitzvah. But an event staged by Edwin Allen Productions doesn't have to be costly, McMurtry stressed. "Creativity goes a long way. We can take a modest budget and make it a spectacular event."

Edwin Allen staff works with the caterer, the videographer and other party professionals to ensure that functions run smoothly. "We make life for a lot of event co-ordinators very easy," McMurtry says. "Behind the scenes, we make them look good."

He encourages his prospective clients to look at vast amounts of video of some of his company's past functions. "They can take a look at what they like and at what they don't like," he says. "What's right for one family, isn't right for another."

Sue Rosenblat had her son's bar mitzvah at the Hockey Hall of Fame two years ago. She says she held the event there for the availability of games. Because her son was quiet, and not a dancer, she had decided against a dinner-dance. At the last minute, though, Rosenblat changed her mind about the dancing and called McMurtry for help.

"It was a real party atmosphere created by his entertainers. They really do entertain," she says. "Everyone was up on the dance floor, even those who are reluctant. Because of that, I didn't look anywhere else for my daughter's bat mitzvah."

Rosenblat is having her daughter's bat mitzvah at Casa Loma, where the party area is made up of three rooms – the Great Hall, the library and the conservatory. The conservatory is usually used for dancing, but McMurty had concerns about sound bouncing off the glass in the room. He suggested that the dance floor be in the library, where dinner takes place. "He is very familiar with venues in Toronto," Rosenblat says, "and what can and can't be done."

> 'What's right for one family, isn't right for another'

McMurtry got into the party-entertainment field after taking a professional disc jockey course in 1982, at the age of 22. He worked at the business part-time in the '80s, starting Mister Disc Jockey in 1988, and went full-time in 1990. In 1992, he launched Edwin Allen Productions.

Based in Newmarket, Ont., McMurtry's companies are made up of a production staff of 35, including choreographer Carol Ford, bar and bat mitzvah specialist and webmistress Laurie Rose, singer and actor Paul Saunders and technical engineer Al Oldham, who is responsible for the dazzling special effects at their events.

The team's latest bat mitzvah extravaganza is Ashley's Cotton Club. For it, they are creating an art deco environment. Gangsters will frisk guests at the door and the guests will be greeted by ushers wearing '50s-style pillbox hats. To add a contemporary twist, the opening number is *Roxy*, from the musical *Chicago*, with the name changed to *Ashley*.

McMurtry says entertainment has a high priority in Jewish culture and so the success of an event in the community depends largely on the quality of the entertainment. "If you have great entertainment, you'll have a great party. For some people, you're seventh on the list after flowers, but in the Jewish community you're Number One on the list."

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PARTY PLANNER

Handwriting expert a great judge of character

By CARA EDELL
CJN Intern

"Looking for a fun, positive entertainer who can amaze and make people laugh and feel good no matter what the event? You've found her!"

Her advertisement alone speaks volumes about her potential, but it is not until you witness Elaine Charal's talents that you can entirely appreciate her powers.

Charal is a certified graphologist — in simpler terms, a master at handwriting analysis — whose company, Positive Strokes (416-446-2903), has been in business over 13 years.

A leader in her profession, Charal can "do far more personal, individual analyses at an event than any other entertainer," she says.

At bar and bat mitzvahs, birthday parties, lunches, dinners, trade shows, sales meetings, conventions, galas and "every event where people come to enjoy," Charal says her analyses are a "positive activity and an excellent ice-breaker."

Elaine Charal, above, and in caricature, right

Charal will even add sparkle to an event by matching a sequined jacket to the party's colour scheme.

She says she will customize a sentence geared to the theme of an event on the client's own letterhead. Each participant will copy the sentence onto a sheet, and after three to five minutes of private analysis, guests will leave with a write-up of their session.

"The paper is a mirror of their personality," says Charal.

And I can attest to that.

After meeting with Charal to see the woman at work, I was quite impressed with her interpretation of my penmanship.

After examining my printing of "My 't's 'and 'd's' tell tall tales about me and my handwriting," Charal could conclude that I am "very single minded," "a free spirit," and a go-getter.

She says my stick letter "l's" show I am "factual" and a "realist." My large lower-case letters show I am "a strong person in a soft manner." The sharp points in my letters show I am "investigative." And the wide spaces between my words show I "will not be intimidated."

That is just a taste of what one client has called "analytical wizardry into the psyche of the signature."

Charal says at parties her analyses are light and uplifting. While the majority of activities at bar and bat mitzvahs are geared toward children, she says her station is "a nice perk for the adults as well as the kids."

Charal says handwriting analysis attracts both males and females, and people will "linger at the function for a longer time" because they are interested in her craft.

Charal says she tries to work within people's budgets when quoting her prices, but for corporate or private events, she usually charges between $100 to $150 per hour.

Aside from specializing in handwriting analysis, Charal is a keynote speaker who gives "upbeat" and "original" lectures to companies.

Her talk, "The Power of the Pen," is guaranteed to have guests "laughing out loud," she says.

The program has served corporate, association and individual clients "who seek to enhance self-understanding and effective communications," says Charal.

In her presentation, Charal identifies leadership traits and aptitudes from the writing of audience members and uses humour "to show how foibles and fears can be turned into strengths," she says.

Charal has appeared on several television stations, including CTV, CITY TV, Global, WTN and CHCH.

Charal says potential clients can fax their writing to her for analysis, which will not only fascinate, but "demonstrate how much fun their participants will have."

For those who want to adjust their writing to bring change to their lives, Charal has tips worth noting:

• If the lines of your writing gently ascend on the page, you are broadcasting your optimism.

• Joining your t-bars to the next letter and forming figure-eights with "g's", "f's" and "s's" indicates your fluidity of mind and your ability to think on your feet.

• If you use stand-alone t-bars, making them firm demonstrates strong willpower, while making them long shouts enthusiasm.

• If you underscore your name with one firm line moving from left to right, you are showing self reliance.

• Straight downstrokes on your "y's" indicate your determination.

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There's no party without music

By RANDI BERGMAN
Special to The CJN

Finding just the right music can be a crucial factor in the success of an event. Since music can set the tone of a party, it is important to find the most enjoyable entertainment for your guests.

If you are looking for a unique way to get your party going, you have many different yet amazing choices to consider. Two of them are Bais Groove (416-486-8417, www.baisgroove.com) and Superior Sound (416-745-0808, www.superiorsound.ca).

Bais Groove, which began as a group of music-loving friends, offers a youthful and innovative kind of entertainment.

The group started out playing music at events for organizations such as the United Jewish Appeal, and found that many people enjoyed their performances as much as they did.

"People were having such a good time with our music that they'd ask us if we'd perform at their simchah," says David Bloom, the band's percussionist.

Bais Groove expanded into a company that offers entertainment for many different kinds of events. The group can provide everything from an eight-piece band to klezmer music to a cocktail pianist for a smaller event. They can even mix it up many times in a single evening.

"We'll keep our young, Israeli vibe with a set of live music, then we can change to DJs and play music for the kids. We can do it all," Bloom says.

He refers to the group as a "one-stop shop" for entertainment. "Everyone in the band wears two different hats. For example, our guitar player is also a very talented DJ, and has been for quite some time."

Bais Groove perform recently at the Shuk In The Park festival.

Bais Groove is a great choice for simchahs because they offer such a dynamic mix. Their blend of Israeli culture and youthful, live music is unique to them.

"We truly enjoy playing Jewish music and being part of people's simchahs", says Bloom.

Bais Groove is currently offering a 10 per cent discount on bookings after the UJA walkathon.

Superior Sound has been a fixture in Montreal for the past 18 years. New to Toronto this year, the group is already responding to many requests from a growing number of fans in the city.

Superior Sound has a fresh approach to DJ entertainment, based on completely customizing the party to fit the needs of the client. "We can really fit any party," says Jordan Morra, who runs the company.

The simchahs they entertain at are fully interactive. The DJs and dancers go into the crowd to create a more exciting party. The parties have even been referred to as "the world's most high-energy aerobics class," Morra says.

Superior Sound's success is also due to their technical background. "The calibre of equipment used for large events can now be offered at a private level," says Morra. "They way we set up for a party is very pleasing to the eye because we use different equipment than usual."

Since Superior Sound is new to the Toronto scene, they offer "a breath of fresh air" to simchahs, he says. "We get the formalities such as candlelighting and speeches out of the way so we can really party Montreal-style."

When asked what he enjoys most about his job, Morra says, "Developing a creative concept with clients and then working to achieve their goals is great because they are really happy with the party in the end."

The company is dedicated to satisfying the client's every need.

"Your guests are superior, your event should be nothing less."

Although Superior Sound specializes in bar and bat mitzvahs, they are available for weddings and corporate events as well.

Other DJs/Interactive entertainers advertising in this supplement are: Times Square Entertainment, 905-881-6400; Freedom of Sound, 905-760-0040; Hart Entertainment, 416-762-2200; Magen Boys Entertainment Ltd., 905-513-6464; Mandell Entertainment Group, 416-923-7200; Mickey Lewin Band and D.J., 905-881-7972; Mister Disc Jockey, 1-877-473-3800; Sound Sensation, 416-410-4559; Starr Productions, 905-707-8211; Superfly Entertainment, 416-652-2232; Superior Sound, 416-745-0808; Surround Sound Productions, 416-739-0106.

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Let others do the work to make your kids' party memorable

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to the CJN

Your child's birthday's coming up and you're scratching your head trying to think of a birthday party venue that will pass muster for you and your child.

You've sworn off house parties – not that there's anything wrong with house parties – and you don't have the energy to run a bowling or laser tag party for 20 screaming kids.

Well, there are other options for birthday party-challenged parents and those looking for an exciting and creative venue to wow their young guests.

Two birthday party companies offering original programming and, best of all, assistants to run the parties are Loots (416-787-5668), located at 896 Eglinton Ave. W. near Bathurst Street, and the Wonderful World of Circus (905-479-2411), at 2600 John St., unit 204, in Markham.

Continued on page B30

These children enjoy a party on one of Loots's Party Buses. Each bus can accommodate 30 children.

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Photographers ensure your memories last a lifetime

By JESSICA HELLEN
CJN Intern

After the party is over and the food and flowers are gone, all that remains behind are the pictures.

That is why both Greg Dean (416-784-4488) of Signature Studios and Taralea Cutler (416-277-2493) of eyecontact photography. say photography is the most important aspect of the party.

"It's as important as the wedding ring and the marriage itself," says Cutler. "It's a lasting impression of a piece of time."

When choosing a photographer for a special event, Dean suggests checking the style of the pictures and the personality of the photographer.

"You're going to be working with the person for eight to 14 hours a day," Dean says. "The better the connection, the easier it goes."

Dean says it is extremely important for the client to have a good rapport with the photographer. The client will feel more relaxed and the photographer will be able to take better pictures.

"The photographer can get more out of people that way," he says."Otherwise it feels like work."

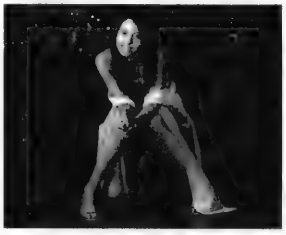

Photo by Signature Studios

Cutler says a great way for a couple to get acquainted with the style of the photographer before the wedding, is to have engagement photos taken. This allows the couple to become comfortable with the photographer.

According to Dean, communication between the client and photographer is necessary so that both remain "on the same page.

"I have to make sure I'm giving them what they want, and not what I think they want," Dean says.

Signature Studios has three styles, traditional, casual and funky.

"That way there's something for bubbie, something for the parents, and something for the bride and groom," Dean says.

"You gotta make sure that bubbie's happy too," he laughs.

Dean is proud that Signature Studios sends two photographers to a wedding, one for the portraits and one for the candid shots.

Photo by eyecontact photography

He explains that it's important to have both kinds of pictures when putting together an album after the simchah.

When Dean's company shoots more than one bar or bat mitzvah in a family, they make sure that the style and location of the pictures are different so that the children do not look the same in each one.

Signature Studios is heavily involved in the Jewish community. They take school pictures for United Synagogue Day School, prom pictures for Associated Hebrew Day School, and do charity work for the UJA, JCC, and Zareinu.

"We give back to the community," Dean says.

Cutler says eyecontact photography specializes in weddings and special events.

"We take a fly-on-the wall perspective," Cutler says. "We're unobtrusive, we enjoy standing back and watching, but we're also aggressive enough about getting the shot.

"It's about capturing the moment," she adds.

According to Cutler, clients should book a photographer six months to one year before their simchah.

Cutler advises asking if the photographer uses film or takes digital pictures. She suggests clarifying this before meeting with the photographer so that no one's time is wasted.

Cutler's company shoots with film, because they believe it has a better quality, and "stands the test of time."

Clients should also ask if a photographer is flexible, can stay later if needed, and if he or she shoots in black and white film, colour film or both.

Both Dean and Cutler are passionate about their work, and believe that a simchah is not complete without photography.

Even though the party might be over in a flash, the memories from the picture will last a lifetime.

Other photographers advertising in this supplement are: Florian Photography, 905-832-9576; Green Gecko Photography, 905-265-0009; Horvath Photography, 905-707-5770; Macdonell Photography, 416-481-4600; Platinum Studios, 905-709-7754; Sylman Photography, 905-889-0760; Twins Photo & Video, 905-707-2385.

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This award-winning landmark site is perfect for those seeking an alluring historic setting for Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, cocktail receptions, celebrations, weddings, anniversaries, holiday functions, breakfast meetings, power lunches, closing and retirement dinners, pre or post award parties. The Chamber Lounge with it's "old-world" soaring ceilings and glowing fireplaces is a magnificent setting for any private occasion. The Executive Chef and dedicated staff provide optimum in service and cuisine for an unforgettable event.

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Liberty ENTERTAINMENT GROUP

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Kids' parties are best held away from your home

Continued from page B27

Loots, which has built its reputation specializing in themed loots bags, has also been in the party business for some time, says owner David Leese. He stresses that the parties, which are held on the Loots premises on Eglinton, are original and interactive.

"For girls, we've really done it like a mini-bat mitzvah driven by dancing and prizes. There's dance, movement and karaoke. We've brought DJ entertainment to the children's birthday party business."

For boys, Club Loots offers "extreme video and sports," Leese says. "We have video machines, but we also want the kids to be more interactive. We do a mini-stick tournament, Nerf basketball, glow-in-the dark Bingo and remote control racing cars."

Loots also does mobile home parties. You choose one of two buses to come to your house. One is a disco with a DJ bus driver and the other offers video games and tournaments run by a party host. The cost of the bus party, is the same as that of Club Loots and also lasts an hour and a half, although the cost can be prorated. For more information, check out the Loots website, www.loots.com.

"The buses brought us into the entertainment business. I like the mobile marketing concept. It's the ultimate in serving customers," Leese says. "It would be great for a home bar mitzvah. Each bus can accommodate up to 30 kids. It's soften used for corporate functions. Loots is a company that thinks out of the box.

Veterans of the Moscow Circus and Cirque de Soleil now operate The Wonderful World of Circus.

We're trendsetters.

And the Loots Club parties are a breeze for parents, he says. "It's an all-inclusive professionally managed, innovative, clean environment. This is the easiest party for parents. I tell parents to grab a coffee and watch the show."

For those who love shows, a circus party may be just the thing for their youngster's birthday. Tatiana Zoubrilina, along with other family members, has established a circus school and camp – The Wonderful World of Circus – in the Thornhill/Markham area. Her popular programs attract children from the area who take courses in gymnastics, aerial gymnastics like trapeze work, trampoline, juggling, clowning and tightrope walking.

Zoubrilina and her husband, Oleg Kantemirov, both worked at the Moscow Circus for 15 years before immigrating to Canada. He performed with the Cirque du Soleil in Montreal for five years before moving to the Toronto area to start a circus school. The school is a family affair, with their son Arthur, 22, and Zoubrilina's younger sister Laricca teaching at the school as well.

They also have a well-known clown teacher from the Cirque du Soleil, she says.

Zoubrilina notes that the circus is very much a part of city life in Russia. "Many cities and large towns have circuses. The Moscow Circus has a new show every six months."

A native of Siberia, Zoubrilina recalls going to the circus at the age of four. "I decided right there and then to go into the circus. I took gymnastics and I went to circus college in Moscow."

She says a circus birthday party can encompass different interactive options such as trampoline, tightrope and low trapeze. The children are taught these skills by supervisors – there are usually four or five – on hand for the party. Other features available include clowns, birds, magicians and dogs that do tricks.

The minimum number of children for a party is 10, but the 9,000-square-foot premises can accommodate as many as 50 children. Prices begin at $15 per child for 10. For more children, the cost is $10 per child up to 20 and $8 per child if there are more than 20 children.

People interested in the birthday party or the circus school can visit the Wonderful World of Circus website at www.wonderfulworldofcircus.com.

Other kids' party places advertising in this supplement are: Beadology, 905-709-6562; Fairy Land Theatre, 416-663-1700; The Funstation/Funpark Amusement Park, 416-736-4804.

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Look your best on your special day

By SYLVIA BROOKE
Special to The CJN

Like a garden oasis amid the noise and bustle of the city, S.T. Spa welcomes its clients to a pampering, relaxing retreat. The spa, which caters to women only, is beautifully decorated, with soft green walls, fresh plants and orchid accents. The main wall is covered with words sure to set the tone of the visit: tranquility, calming, peaceful, wellness, rejuvenating, soothing, serene.

Makeup artist Estee Levine runs the spa. She believes in the importance of ongoing care and beauty treatments.

"Like when you paint a house, you've got to prime the walls and get everything ready." So too, skin that is neglected will not look its best, even when the most expensive makeup is applied, she says.

She stresses the need for proper cleansing and moisturizing with such quality products as Darphin, or Guinot of Paris.

Owned by Hershy Weinberg, S.T. Spa (416-789-9385) offers facials, pedicures, manicures, waxing and lessons in makeup application. Various massage techniques are also available including Swedish and holistic, and aromatherapy. They have even given massages to pregnant customers.

"We will be offering dermabrasion facials [a peel], as well as laser hair removal," Levine says.

It's in makeup application for formal functions, or to merely learn how to better maximize one's daily makeup routine that Levine really shines.

"My specialty is makeup. I've been doing makeup for 24 years. That's my love."

Taking different courses, including two offered by Mac cosmetics, and learning from different fashion makeup artists, Levine has developed her own style over the years. "I do work very natural."

She even finds time to volunteer at the Look Good Feel Better program at Sunnybrook Hospital once a month, helping women coping with cancer to feel good about themselves.

The spa also accepts Zareinu dollars.

For esthetic and hair care services under one roof, Matthew's Hair Salon (416-398-5228) is a top quality salon that blends up-to-the-minute style with the latest breakthroughs in skincare.

"We do almost every service here for the hair and skin," says owner Matthew Odisho.

With products by such top names as L'Oreal, Yonka and the much-coveted OPI line for nails, the salon can virtually give customers the head to toe treatment. Odisho has been working as a hairdresser for 23 years. Since opening his salon almost five years ago, he has more than doubled his clientele.

"We specialize in difficult hair, curly or frizzy hair," he notes. "We could make any curly hair straight without using a flat iron. I keep everything clean and simple."

With a background in art, Odisho is always looking at the latest styles, taking in competitions at the Toronto Convention Centre. "I'm not stuck in time, not afraid to try something new."

Up-do's for the bride or any formal occasion are approached with much consideration. Odisho asks the client about the type of dress to be worn for the function and it's colour.

"Communication solves a lot of problems to get something right for the client. To look simpler is better. I always try to keep the bride who she is. You want to look at that picture 10 years from now and you want to still love that picture."

Matthew's Hair Salon uses Kerastase hair products exclusively and applies extensions from Great Lengths. Open 7 days a week, gift certificates are also available.

Other esthetics places advertising in this supplement: Dani's Hair Studio Inc., 416-787-4322; Ferro Hair Art, 905-731-6567; Let's Makeup, Heather Stein, 905-882-9494; Mindy Levy, 905-731-3085; Spa Party, 416-926-1934.

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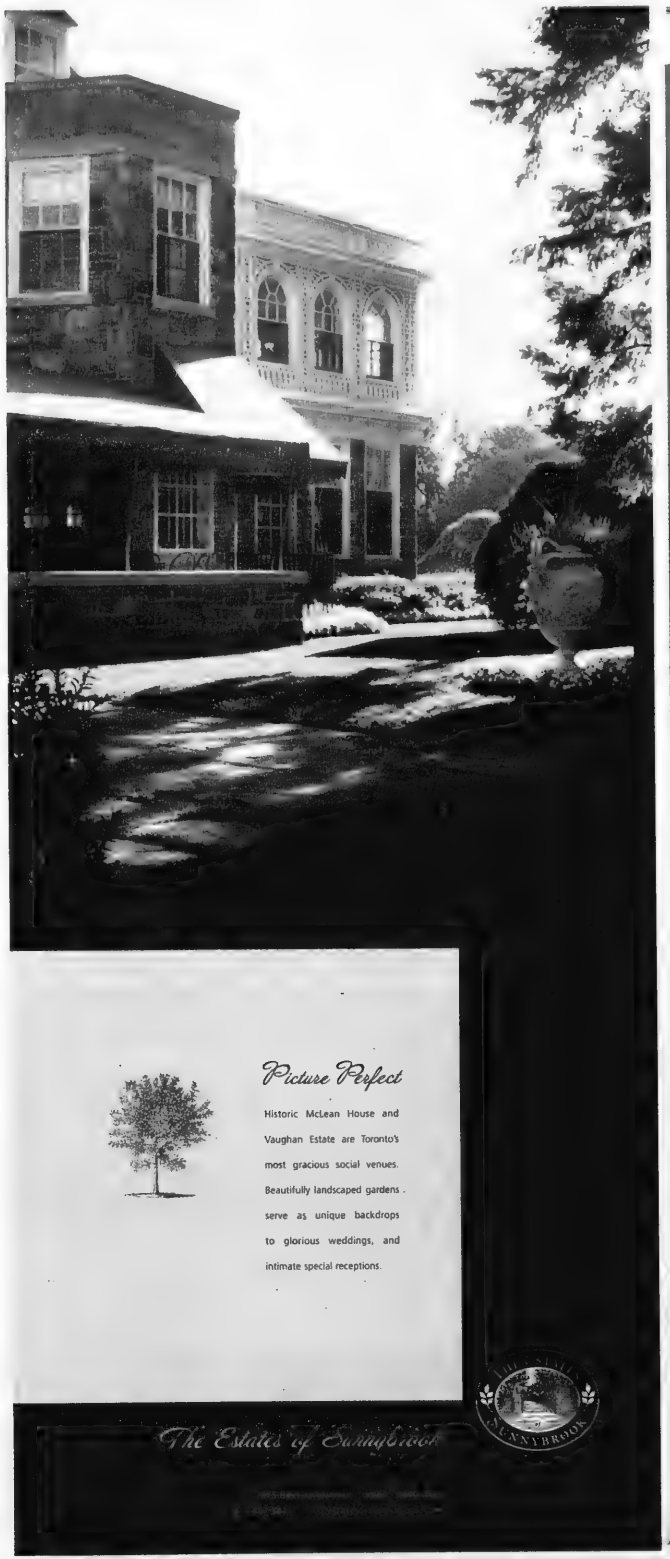
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Custom made kippahs can be fun for you

By JESSICA HELLEN
CJN Intern

Finding a creative kippah for your simchah is not always easy.

Brad Etlin (647-227-4800, 1-866-KIPPAH-4-U, www.finderskippahs.ca) discovered this when he was shopping for Judaica and felt that most of the kippot available were "kind of boring."

So a year ago, Etlin created Finders Kippahs, a business that makes custom kippot for any event.

"I produce cost effective, top quality, creative kippahs while providing customers with fantastic service and choice in the products they buy," Etlin says.

> 'It's an excellent way for Jewish organizations to fundraise'

Finders Kippahs makes kippot with a variety of different themes, including holidays, Judaica, flags, animals, English names, Hebrew names, initials and sports.

"It's the kippah that someone's going to wear again," says Aliza Katz, Etlin's fiancé and business assistant.

Customers can also send in their own designs for Etlin to embroider on a kippah of their choice.

Etlin creates these colourful custom designs on kippot made from suede, leather, satin and moire, which is a type of taffeta.

Finders Kippahs will soon be going to bar and bat mitzvahs, where Etlin and two or three assistants will make kippot on the spot. Kids will be able to choose a colour, select a type of kippah and write down their Hebrew name, English name or initials. At the end of the party, they get to take home a "gorgeous embroidered kippah that they will actually use over and over.

"It's an excellent keepsake," says Etlin. "Most people take something away from the bar mizvah and it's great for that night, but then they never see it again. Who's going to throw away a kippah with their Hebrew name on it? It's something they're going to keep for the rest of their lives."

With his portable embroidery machine, each kippah takes Etlin three to five minutes to make. The more intricate the design, the longer it takes him.

Etlin also makes kippot for babies. These tiny kippot tie under the infant's chin and are perfect for fidgety babies.

For girls, Etlin embroiders special designs on kippot, dance socks and hats. The designs include rhinestone initials, ladybugs, flowers, butterflies and hearts.

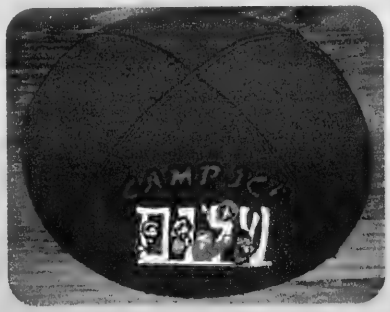
Customers can buy kippot in bulk for their function. Etlin imprints the date of the party and the guest of honour's name inside the kippah. He can also coordinate the kippah with the theme of the party.

Etlin donates a portion of his proceeds to tzedakah, helping people make aliyah to Israel.

"We feel it's important to give back to the community wherever possible," he says, adding that he loves contributing to the Jewish community.

Finders Kippahs also works with Hebrew day schools, synagogues and Jewish camps, embroidering their logo on kippot.

"It's an excellent way for Jewish organizations to fundraise," says Etlin.



Katz says the Jewish holiday theme pack is a great gift for bar mitzvahs and birthdays. This set contains kippot decorated for Chanukah, Passover, Purim, Rosh Hashanah, Shavuot and Sukkot.

According to Etlin, the kippot are also educational and help children learn about Judaism.

He says the response to his kippot has been great. "A lot of people are quite impressed," he says. "It's so exciting, nurturing and evolving my concept into products and services my clients love."

Finders Kippahs has been providing custom kippot to clients across Canada and in the United States.

Clearly many people have found that these creative kippot are a great find.

Party Guide website helps you make decisions

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

Ten years ago, band leader Rick Levine (905-881-6400) wanted to do something unique to promote the Rick Levine Band. He started his party shows for this purpose, working with established bridal consultant Lynn Cohen. Then he began to develop the shows as an enterprise in their own right, under the aegis of Tyme to Party.

He founded the Toronto Party Guide website in 1999 – www.torontopartyguide.com – and he and Cohen still work together. While she is the co-ordinator and planner, Levine looks after marketing and promotion.

Lynn Cohen and Rick Levine, Toronto Party Guide Show partners.

As far as Levine knows, he is the first to create a website for weddings and bar or bat mitzvahs together, a site people will find useful in planning any other kind of event as well.

The site complements the services offered by planners and consultants whose advice and organizational skills are irreplaceable, working on the premise that you want your special event to be unique, one of a kind, and this uniqueness requires the personal touch.

Still, if it's your party, you have to do some of the work, and planning can be confusing and stressful. Where do you start? And how do you choose among the huge number of companies and professionals offering their services?

One of the things Levine's site does, is keep you informed and up to date. You not only find a wealth of names and addresses for individuals and companies providing every kind of party service from flowers and invitations to caterers and bands, you can hear audio clips and watch videos.

The information is reliable, compiled by party professionals who know your needs and offer helpful tips on organizing your event.

The site, which is regularly updated to stay as current as possible, is useful for every kind of event, traditional or modern, family or corporate, large or small, with or without a theme, in any season of the year. Moreover, you can order many items online.

You can spend as much time visiting the site as you want, when you want, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There's no stress or pressure. And there's no charge.

The site is tied in with the live party shows Levine organizes twice each year. These shows draw people in the party industry, as well as those who are planning simchahs of their own. There is no admission, and the public is welcome.

"The only thing you pay for," Levine says, "is the gas to get there."

The most recent event was at Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto, and it was very well attended. This is the first time Levine has done a show in May. The next is planned for Tuesday, Oct. 9, at Beth Tzedec Synagogue.

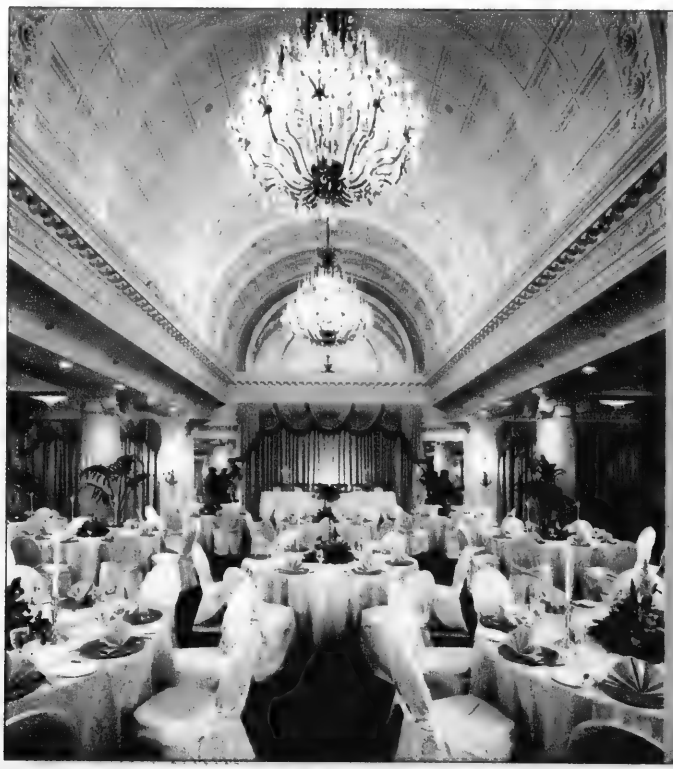
"Beth Tzedec is an excellent location, which I've used before," he says.

Usually, though, he changes the venue for each show, to give party hosts and professionals a chance to experience different places. Also, if space at the venue permits, Levine uses these events to showcase bands, DJs and singers.

These shows support the website: the vendors pay for their booth at the show, and their fees cover the cost of the site. You can send information by e-mail to info@torontopartyguide.com. The site is hosted and designed by Infinity Web Services (www.infinityws.com).

And Levine hasn't forgotten where he started out. The Rick Levine Band is still active, and he has just launched a new band, Good Vibrations.

A typical booth at a live party showcase organized by Rick Levine for the city's party service providers.



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PARTY PLANNER

Finding a mate is serious business

By ALEXANDRA J. WALL
The Jewish news weekly of Northern California

So you're over 35, single and want to find a husband – quick. Many a Jewish woman finds herself in this predicament. So like a superhero, author Rachel Greenwald is coming to their rescue.

The Harvard Business School graduate, who has marketed everything from jewelry to bottled water, is using what she learned to help her fellow women snag a man. Among her more salient tips: Always wear a push-up bra – after 35, it can't hurt.

That kind of advice may prompt some to ask, "For this she went to Harvard?" But Greenwald knows of what she speaks. The Denver consultant wrote *Find a Husband After 35*, which offers what she calls "a simple 15-step program."

Simple, sure. But also exhausting, no doubt.

"In any goal, if you dedicate yourself to something 100 per cent, before a lot of other things in your life, your chances are much greater," said Greenwald, speaking from her home in Denver. "If you're unemployed and you really want a job, at some point you have to decide your job search will be your No. 1 priority. The good news is, it's short term, 12 to 18 months."

Greenwald believes that if a woman fully dedicates herself to what she calls "The Program," it's only a matter of time before she'll be prancing down the aisle in a white poofy dress.

"I'm really passionate about what I do, and I can't tell you how rewarding it is to have women say to you that they've found someone they never thought existed. That's the best thing I can think of to do with my life."

Interestingly enough, Greenwald never found herself in that predicament. She knew she wanted a husband and a family – she's 39 now and has three kids – and not long after graduating with a B.A. in psychology from Wellesley College, she began hunting for Mr. Right.

"I was precocious," said Greenwald, who grew up in a Conservative Jewish family. "I looked ahead and thought how much more difficult it was to find someone after 35, and decided I was going to start a very organized plan in advance."

Attending an all-women's college taught her she had to be proactive in meeting men.

"Instinctively, I developed a lot of these tactics in my 20s," she said, the same tactics she details – and gives marketing terminology to – in her book.

Once Greenwald found herself happily married – to a Jewish man, she noted – she began coaching her single friends informally. Five years ago, she was advising a single 41-year-old friend who hadn't found the right guy. Greenwald had an epiphany.

"I realized I was telling her classic business approaches to her dating life," said Greenwald. "As we talked about improving her appearance, we were talking about packaging. As we talked about systematically calling everyone she knew to ask them if they could fix her up, we were talking about telemarketing. The whole thing took shape during my process of helping her, and I guess it really jelled at some point that this analogy in the business and dating world was so powerful."

Hence "The Program," which teaches women how to take business strategies and apply them to finding a mate.

Actually, there's nothing revolutionary in Greenwald's program. But as she said, it's how a woman sets about to meet someone that makes the difference.

For example, many people recommend women take an adult education class. But Greenwald advises rather than take one that genuinely interests you, take one you know is bound to have men in it.

Another of her strategies is asking others to set you up with people they know. Again, many people do that. But in the step she refers to as niche marketing, Greenwald suggests taking six women out on "dates" to do so.

They shouldn't be six close friends. They should be women chosen specifically for their wide range of friends, and it's better if they are from differing social circles. For Jewish women, that can mean a rabbi, or someone she went to summer camp with years ago.

"This is not just a casual thing on the phone, asking your friend if she knows anyone," said Greenwald.

"You must do your homework. You must come armed with knowledge about this woman. If she's in a book group, for example, ask her to ask her book group members if they know anyone. If her husband plays golf, ask her about his golf buddies. If she has an adult son in college, ask her to ask her son if he has any friends with divorced dads."

Get the picture?

Being this specific may "help her trigger some resources," rather than just asking, 'Do you know anyone?'" said Greenwald, who further suggests sending a follow-up thank you note, and even a gift if a friend does indeed set you up.

Greenwald is a big advocate of online dating, and she gives advice on how to go about doing it, for those singles who haven't yet tried. This opens a whole potential pool of men, but be careful, she says. If you're doing things right, you're corresponding with several men at one time, always keeping several balls in the air. You will need to keep a journal to keep all of them straight.

In the short time she's been doing this, Greenwald has lectured widely on this topic. And among Jewish groups, she frequently hears from Jewish women who have trouble meeting Jewish men.

"One of the biggest things Jewish women can do is to increase the distribution channels by which they meet Jewish men," she said. If a woman is attending a singles group, and is using JDate, the online Jewish dating service, that's only two things, she said.

Men do prefer women with longer hair, Greenwald said. That's the truth, and she didn't create it. And a woman is more likely to catch a man's eye if she's wearing a flattering colour and something feminine. Not a power suit.

"For some women, they are not going to change a thing, and they will still find a wonderful husband," said Greenwald. "But this program is about increasing your odds. If doing something fairly easy like that can increase your odds, then why not do it?"

How to Find a Husband After 35 by Rachel Greenwald (336 pages, Ballantine).

Desserts and treats please everyone

By ELYSSE ZAREK
Special to The CJN

If you're searching for the perfect gift for a teacher, a new parent, a new homeowner or the person that has everything, look no farther than Baskets and Stuff (416-250-9116).

The Toronto store that makes gift baskets stuffed with edible goodies for every occasion also tries to use as many Israeli products as possible, and the cookies, candies, chocolates, nuts, coffees and teas are all from Israel.

What customers find most convenient is that they can tell Nili Dzaldov what they want in the gift baskets, and she puts it all together.

"It's a no-brainer. You need a gift and we discuss it, and you don't need to run around. We do it for you," says Dzaldov. "Especially if you don't know the person well, if you send a basket with goodies, anyone can eat it."

Baby baskets, one of Baskets and Stuff's staples, usually include a sturdy riding toy, an outfit, a receiving blanket, towels, baby booties, stuffed toys, a brush and comb and goodies for the new parents. They can also hand-paint furniture, like a rocking chair, stepstool or toy chest, and fill it with baby toys.

Dzaldov also puts together gift baskets for out-of-town guests that can be left in the guest's hotel room. She has also stuffed beach bags and purses, which she says make great items to carry around after the edibles have been eaten.

Sometimes, the basket itself is edible too. Chocolate baskets or houses with candies inside are popular house-warming gifts, says Dzaldov. "Some people put them on a plate and display them," she says.

Baskets and Stuff can also prepare peanut-free baskets, with dried fruit instead of chocolate, nuts and cookies. All dried fruit is prepared in-house.

***

When it comes to more substantial desserts, Sweet York Desserts (416-783-4293) can provide mouth-watering feasts to end any meal, ranging from wedding cakes to flambé and crepes to chocolate fountains filled with fruit.

The dessert menu that Sweet York develops depends on the meal, says caterer Sharon Firestone.

"Some people have an elaborate wedding cake and that becomes their focal point. Then we serve a plate of beautiful fruit," she says.

On the other hand, a lighter dessert, such as coffee and biscotti, can be paired with an extensive sweet table, she suggests.

Other things to take into consideration when planning desserts is the number of courses served in the meal, the timing of the meal and the personal preferences of the bar mitzvah family or wedding couple. But one of the things to be aware of when planning a dessert menu or sweet table is the quantity of food. After a heavy meal, guests may not be able to eat any more.

> 'It's a no-brainer. You need a gift and we discuss it, and you don't need to run around. We do it for you'

More dessert options might be available depending on the season of your simchah. Fresh fruits are a traditional summer dessert, when peaches, cherries and berries are in season.

"We tend to do something lighter in the summer," says Firestone. "Fruit is always a popular dessert, and fruit ice is always popular after any meal."

However, Firestone says that there is nothing really standard when it comes to desserts. Sweet York will try out new recipes and styles to accommodate nearly any dessert desire. "We treat everybody's party as an individual entity. We can work with all themes and budgets."

Although Sweet York doesn't have a storefront, it has cakes and desserts available individually through their catering office at Beth Tzedec Synagogue. A minimum of 48 hours notice is required for individual made-to-order cakes.

Other kosher specialty food places advertising in this supplement are: Chocolate Charm, 416-787-4256; The Chocolate Moose, 416-784-9092; Churrisimo Cafe, 416-488-2096.

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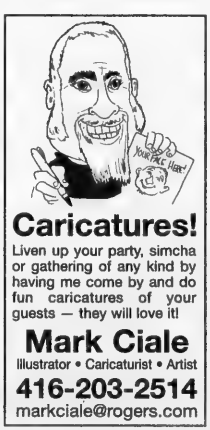
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No stress, no fuss: Hire a planner

By SYLVIA BROOKE
Special to The CJN

Planning a party is a big job. Lots of little details have to be remembered, phone calls returned, and everything has to run on schedule. Hiring a professional party planner can relieve a lot of worry and help keep a simchah exactly the way it should be – happy.

Party planner Judy Stein (905-764-2728) has 27 years of experience in this field. Her hours logged work to the client's advantage, she says. "I have the experience, and I work with many different professionals in the city. I've done the shopping for my clients already as far as the legwork. Through my experience I can lead them in the right direction."

She keeps up on the latest fashions, constantly looking through catalogues, magazines and the Internet to get different ideas and spare clients the effort.

Stein can cater to the client's needs in many areas. Recently, she put together an affair for a 9 West store opening. She co-ordinated the catering, the décor and the music.

During the actual event, she does her job flawlessly while blending in with the other guests.

She's currently working on a wedding for a family that is using her services now for the second generation. Stein was the bridal consultant at the mother's wedding, later she co-ordinated the daughter's bat mitzvah and now she is working on arranging the daughter's wedding.

Ricky Bessner on top stair and Fern Cohen

"It's really nice to grow with the family and stay in touch with them," Stein says.

Sometimes, though, an event might not span generations as much as it does miles. Event co-planners Ricky Bessner and Fern Cohen (905-731-2005) had to plan just such a wedding. The groom's family was French and the wedding was to take place outside of Toronto. Their skills went into full swing as they whipped up an award-winning wedding, complete with local wines, pumped in power, arranged for a tent and even had a wedding cake transported in a refrigerated truck. With the artful blending of different customs and a little help from Bessner's francophone abilities, "we managed to pull it off," Bessner says.

"We specialize in making parties wonderful, in making our clients [feel like] guests at their events," she notes. "We love to see people smile and laugh."

Adds Cohen: "When they walk into their party, it's just worry free."

Members of the Canadian Special Events Society, the two were recently nominated for best wedding of the year.

When they meet with a client, they try to personalize the event. They listen to the client and try to identify what their objective is for the party. They also stress the importance of the clients' meshing with their chosen party professionals. In this way their experience working with various professionals over the years can be very helpful to the client.

"We resource all the time – new and exciting people. We're always in the know," notes Bessner.

Planner Risa Gold (905-882-4343) knows the importance of co-operation among party professionals to maximize the event.

"We have to work together with all the professionals and help them, if possible, to do their job properly."

Continued on page B64

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Party entertainment should have mass appeal

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

There are many pieces to the party puzzle, but if there is a central one, it is the entertainment.

That's why the entertainment you hire must have mass appeal, say Nicholas Page of Party Impressions and entertainer Debi Sander Walker.

Nicholas Page

"You want to make sure that the (entertainment) appeals to all your friends and everyone at the party," says Page.

"That's why I visit the client before the party for a free consultation to go through what they like, [what their] budget is and we'll have something tailored to the party."

Party Impressions offers a mélange of trendy activities and mementoes for party guests.

Professional artists enrich the party experience by offering guests such things as custom designed vintage T-shirts, air brushed body art and stylish graffiti adorned hats.

Page says clients like it when guests leave the party with something tangible.

"We want to give something they're going to wear and use beyond the party," he says, adding that the clothing he provides is typically seasonal, such as toques for the winter and perhaps a custom made laundry bag for kids heading off to overnight summer camp.

A fashion buff, Page travels to England and New York every year to take the pulse of the latest trends, which he then incorporates into Party Impressions' product list.

"We change with the times," he says.

For corporate affairs, Page says everything from massage therapy to shoe shining has become trendy.

One trend that never seems to die is having a live performer put on a show.

Singer, song writer, actor and event planner Debi Sander Walker of the namesake company offers a zany and hilarious array of character sketches to crack guests up.

For instance, the high pitched, whacky red-headed "Carmellina" garners "shock value" every time she plants a big kiss on a bald and beautiful guest.

"It blows the audience away," Sander Walker says. Sander Walker encourages party hosts to seek out an entertainer that is versatile, so that they can cater to the sense of fun of a wide range of guests.

"The diversity is what we offer," says Sander Walker, who recently released a CD entitled Full Spectrum.

The comedic entertainer, who can incorporate her own band or a client's band of choice with her performances, has also delivered pre-wedding singing telegrams as a tension breaker for soon to be brides and grooms.

"It gets the person to relax and be appreciative of their partner to be," she says.

Both Sander Walker and Page encourage clients to meet with either the performer or the person planning the entertainment to make sure they get precisely what they're paying for.

Continued on page B40

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Entertainment is the key to your party

The three faces of Debi Sander Walker

Continued from page B39

"I just sat down with a kid for an hour to get a feel for the type of person he is and what he likes and what his friends like," Page recalls.

"He likes rock n' roll and sports and his friends like sports and music, so those were the types of activities we did."

To reach Party Impressions contact 416-963-8302 or log onto www.mypartyimpressions.com.

Debi Sander Walker can be reached at 905-275-4744 or online at www.debisanderwalker.com.

Other entertainers advertising in this supplement are: Party Extras, 905-707-9919; Party Props, 905-417-3280; Planet Dance Entertainment Inc., 905-709-2411; Adam Swaye, 416-545-0741.

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Decor: The Professional Touch

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

Tammy Heisel of Artistic Creations (905-770-9335, www.tammyswebsite.ca) and Joseph and Brigitte Bouganim of Decorevents (905-709-4979) are professionals in party decor. If you ask them how to choose the right decor people for your party, they emphasize different factors, but they both set high standards for themselves and urge you to work with professionals who do likewise.

Joseph and Brigitte are a husband and wife team. Brigitte is the idea person who can design anything from a centrepiece to a backdrop. "Decor isn't a business for me," she says, "but a passion."

A decorative floral arrangement by Decorevents

Joseph says he can build anything "from a centrepiece to a house."

He sets out to teach his clients to enjoy their parties. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime event," he points out. "You'll have only one chance to get the most out of it." And to enjoy the party, you have to relax and let the professionals take over.

There are a multitude of choices in decor, he explains, and party professionals will help sort them out.

The Bouganims put a high priority on building long-term customer relations, and they get plenty of referrals. They have good people working with them, and Brigitte is not afraid of comparison with competitors. "Look around," she says confidently, "and come back."

If you're choosing a decor house for the first time, Heisel and the Bouganims advise you to look for two things: quality items and materials in the showroom and quality service.

Heisel also stresses the importance of experience, rapport with the customer, organizational skills and the ability to network with other party professionals such as florists.

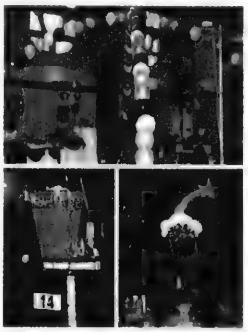
If you want the name of a good decor house, Heisel suggests you talk to people you trust who have put on events similar to yours.

"Ninety per cent of my business is from referrals," she says, "though I get calls from ads too."

You will want quality decor and accessories, Joseph says, but you'll also want to work with people who are right for you and your individual needs. Not only should they be familiar with lighting, backdrops, chupahs, linens, centrepieces, and whatever else you need, they should be able to assist with organizing. And for this, you have to spend a bit more.

`A good decor house will deal with quick changes and have someone on hand to help with emergencies. Even so, Heisel recommends booking early: anywhere from a couple of months to 2½ years, depending on the event.

"A bar mitzvah boy," she elaborates, "might change his theme from hockey to basketball. And it's one less thing for you to worry about, if you already have decor people booked."



Decor by Artistic Creations

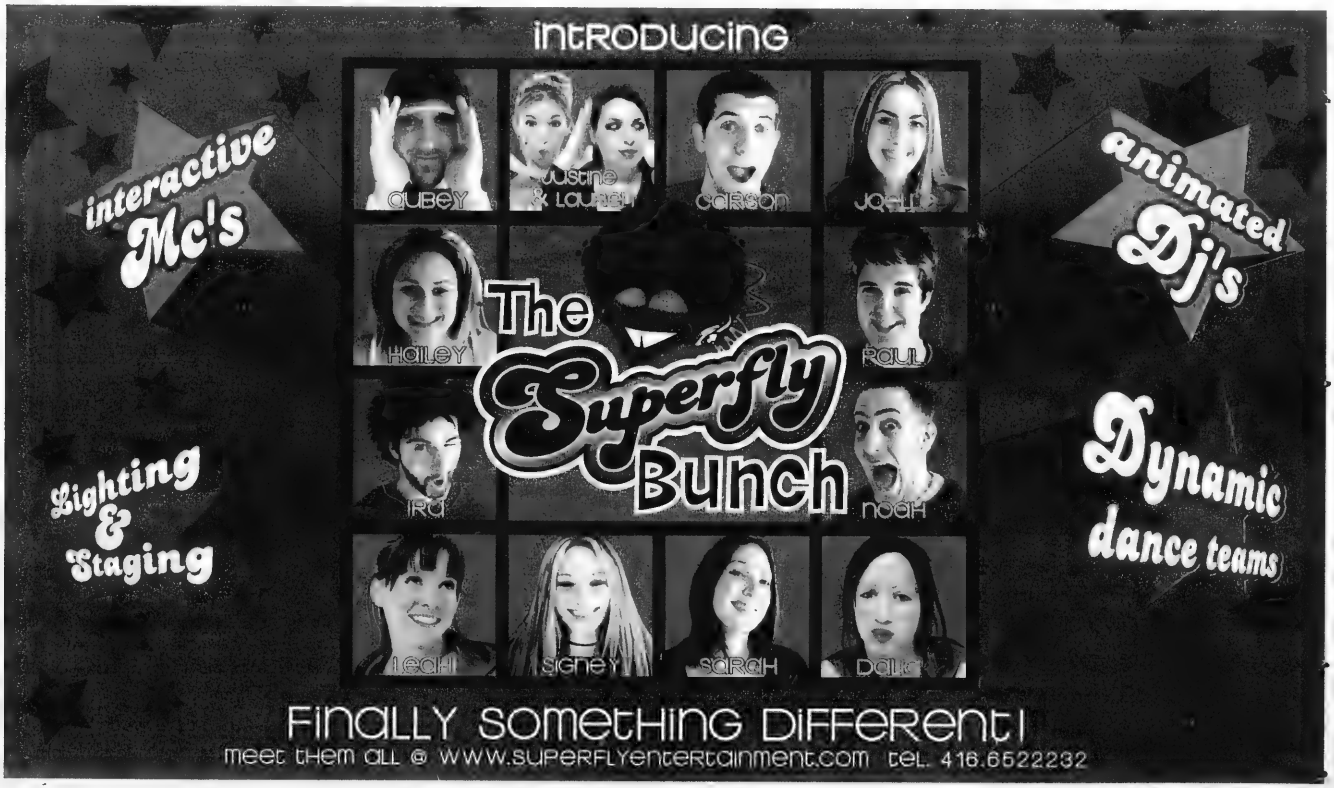
Heisel goes on to stress the importance of keeping within your budget and choosing decor people who respect it. And, while you have the final say, choose people who will be honest enough to tell you when something won't work.

Heisel observes that many of her customers enjoy the artistic satisfaction of creating their own decor. She's glad to work with them, assisting them with her talents in areas such as creating mockups of designs.

Decorevents offers a wide range of floral and themed centrepieces and also specializes in henna parties. Before a big event such as a wedding or bar/bat mitzvah where, as Joseph puts it, "you invite everyone including people you don't know," it's a Sephardi custom to throw a smaller, more intimate party called a henna. This can be a separate event or incorporated in the main simchah – usually after the main course, before the sweet table.

Heisel has a background in art and has done cartoons and animation. Her experience also includes graphics and package design, and she does her designing by hand. She will fulfil all your artistic needs, from room design to centrepieces and place cards; and rather than have you come to a store or showroom, she will visit you personally at home.

Another decor place advertising in this supplement is: Partyzazz-Heather Hennick, 905-881-5736.



A meaningful Shabbat spent in a trailer park

By NICOLE NATHAN
Special to The CJN

Friday afternoon, erev Shabbat. I'm in the midst of the usual preparations; the table is set, the chicken soup is steaming and the challah is finally in the oven.

The only difference is, we are in a trailer park in Urbanna, Va. We have driven here from Toronto, convoy-style, with another family, and we are about to spend our first Shabbat in a camper.

I hear some banging outside my door and glancing out, I see our two men folk, fiddling with fishing wire, measuring tape and a hammer. Despite the fact that Chesapeake Bay is renowned for its catch of trout, I know this fishing wire will never make contact with a float or a hook. In fact, it will never be cast across the waves; it is part of our makeshift eruv.

Having surveyed the topography of our two campsites, the *eruvites* start by planting a few wooden posts. The plan is straightforward; they will simply hammer small hooks into the posts and wind the fishing wire through the hooks until it encircles us. With this in place, we can carry food to our outdoor dining room and elegant Shabbat table with its white plastic cutlery and matching cups. And, our families' nine kids can enjoy playing with their toys on our lovely grass patch. As for the adults, we intend to spend a meaningful Shabbat, books in hand, flopped in our beach chairs.

The eruv team, however, is having slight difficulties. Husband 'A' has somehow managed to tangle himself in the wire and is squirming and flapping about like a freshly caught halibut. Husband 'B' has hammered himself. He too is jumping up and down, although he is busy mumbling incoherently with his thumb plugged in his mouth.

I ignore these squealing, thumping sounds. I must turn my full attention to baking. Before long, the wonderful, enticing aroma of freshly baked challah envelops the RV and wafts out the door. It ambles along to the playground, gently nudging our children, reminding them of Shabbat's arrival. Excitedly, they run home, shower and jump into their RV best: shorts, polo shirts and baseball caps for the boys; sundresses for the girls. We are hundreds of miles from the nearest gefilte fish and do not want to draw attention to ourselves. However, given the dress code of this trailer park, our kids still look overdressed.

> 'The wonderful, enticing aroma of freshly baked challah envelops the RV'

"Attention fellow RVers. The eruv is officially up. Anyone who approaches it, touches it or breathes on it will suffer dire consequences…"

Our *eruvites* sternly deliver this public announcement, proudly dust off, drop their tools and promptly dive into the beach chairs. Upon questioning this behaviour, the female contingent is told that the eruv designers and installers have taken upon themselves a very important responsibility; namely, they must guard the eruv from infiltration. This apparently requires great concentration and an ability to sit still and stare for long periods of time.

The sun dips behind the trees, glimmering through the branches. Long shadows are cast across our dozing sentinels. With just a few minutes before sunset, I go through my Shabbat list: unscrew the fridge and freezer lights, check; turn on bathroom light, check; fill up and plug in the urn, check.

I kindle my white Shabbat candles and the flickering light envelops us in a calm, warm caress. We sing songs to welcome the Shabbat and the children start to dance in circles, giddy from the joy they palpably feel every Friday night. We may be miles from home, but the feeling here is equally magical; just as the flames rise up and away from the wax, we feel uplifted and enriched – freed from that fast-paced, tense world of our everyday affairs.

We sit down to a delicious Shabbat dinner and our songs echo beneath the black starry sky. One by one, we drop off to sleep. For four harried adults traveling with nine over excitable kids in two tiny RVs, Shabbat is a much-needed pit stop for refueling and tuning up.

In fact, I like to take this refueling concept very seriously. Come Saturday morning, I challenge myself by trying to wake up a little later. The problem is, some pesky bug is busy brushing my eyelid, trying to peel it open. I rouse myself to swat at it but catch my daughter's chubby hand. This is her irritating yet highly effective way of ordering juice – and my wake-up call for a hot coffee.

Guess I was pretty exhausted when I fell into my sleeping bag last night; I am still wearing last night's clothes. My skirt is so creased, it looks like a candy wrapper that was stuffed into a child's pocket and then went through the wash. I grab my coffee mug, whip on my baseball cap and make a beeline for the magic urn outside.

Continued on page B43

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Spending Shabbat in a trailer park in Virginia

Continued from page B42

The urn is steaming on this fresh spring morning and I can already picture myself in one of those beach chairs, sipping my coffee and contemplating life. I place my mug under the urn and press the lever. It spits back at me in disgust. One tiny droplet crawls into the cup. Bewildered, I tilt the urn, knock it, plead with it. Remember when Moses tried to get water out of a rock? He hit it with a long staff and water gushed out. Did we pack a staff? I now look like a mad woman scrambling for a fix.

> 'I don't think the neighbours will help you make a minyan'

Since I hate suffering alone, I wake my husband with the bad news. He is incredulous. We return to the forlorn place, empty mugs in hand. We soon realize that in my haste late Friday afternoon, I turned the temperature on the urn to the highest setting, transforming our coveted coffees into condensation.

"Would you like some milk and sugar with your water droplet?" he asks me.

I scowl at him and curl up in my beach chair empty handed. A moment later, the door to the other RV is thrown open wide and out comes our friend draped in his tallit, siddur in hand. "Oyyyyy, Shabbat," he yells at the top of his voice.

"Shhh!" I hiss back at him. "I don't think our new neighbours will help you make a minyan." I point to the adjacent campsite.

A gleaming RV has pulled up next door. The driver is polishing his fancy trailer, while his wife is setting out the patio furniture and arranging their landscape ornaments. They have a miniature windmill ruffling in the breeze, a few coy looking gnomes and a fancy birdfeeder that looks like Notre Dame Cathedral. She places a basket of azaleas on the flowery tablecloth, then hangs up a sign: 'Betty Sue and Chuck's humble home.' Their Golden Retriever dozes outside his very own red-shingled dog house.

"I bet that dog's pillow is more comfortable than mine," my husband comments, then pulls the tallit over his head.

I throw a nervous look at our wax buffing, gnome loving neighbours with their perfectly groomed Golden Retriever. They fit in so well here with their cute welcome sign and droopy-eyed gnomes. As for us.... I shoot a furtive look at my husband, his tallit flapping in the wind.

"What if Betty Sue and Chuck ask us about our fishing wire?" I ask.

The tallit brigade is completely unfazed by my question. "It's very simple," my friend explains, his voice booming. He pats my husband on the shoulder. "You see, he is my patient and I am his physician. This man is completely and utterly insane. Originally he spent most of his waking hours sequestered in closets. Only through intensive therapy have we been able to get him to this point. Now he only requires to be enclosed by a thin string in order to function normally."

> Many miles from home, yet the feeling is equally magical

My husband plays along and starts to twitch nervously. Suddenly our kids run out, surging forward like the stampede scene in *The Lion King*. Within seconds, I hear a 'snap.'

"Eruv's down. No more carrying," I yell out. Our kids promptly drop their toys and the procession moves on. It's only 7:20 a.m. and our site is already a hodgepodge of sand toys, monster trucks and bedraggled dolls – not to mention the dangling fishing wire. And with the eruv broken, we can't pick anything up.

The new challenge is how to prepare lunch with ingredients that are in two RVs – without carrying anything outside. We have the mayonnaise and our friends have the cold cuts; we have the challah and they have the cutting board. This promises to be a very interesting day.

As I go inside to do a food inventory and menu redesign, I notice our neighbour's gnome is missing. On closer inspection, the windmill and doghouse are also gone. Before I know it, the fancy RV disappears down the road in a cloud of dust. I imagine they went searching for greener, cleaner and saner pastures. I guess we stick out like my poor husband's sore thumb.

Oyyyy Shabbat. Those short-lived neighbours have no idea what they are missing.

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Invitations inform and excite

By CARA EDELL
CJN Intern

When a simchah is brewing and the word must be spread, party planners use invitations to inform and excite their guests.

"Invitations are the first contact you have with a party," says Veronica Waisbein of Visual Dreams (905-761-8675).

They are also the link that unites family and friends from across the globe in preparing them for upcoming events, she says.

"Invitations bring people together," Waisbein explains. "At my son's bar mitzvah, people came from all over, and it was the invitations that were in charge of that."

Gilda Lefton of Stationery Plus (905-881-5588) says invitations are tremendously important, as "they are the first glimpse of an affair."

Invitations by Visual Dreams (above) and Stationery Plus (top right)

She says hosts get the most "mileage" from their invitations because while a party only lasts a few hours, invitations are regularly seen by guests for weeks or months in advance.

At Stationery Plus, invitations can be ordered for weddings, bar and bat mitzvahs, office parties, and luncheons, says Lefton.

She says invitations do not have to be high end in order to impress, but notes there are certain stylish trends clients may choose to follow.

Overlays, where a layer of paper lies on top of the actual invitation, have become quite popular, Lefton says.

"It's like a little present, lifting up the top layer to expose the writing."

Bows, pressed petals and waxed seals are common touches, says Lefton, and shimmery, glittery or satiny finishes have maintained their appeal.

"Some things should never go out," she says.

Waisbein considers herself and her team to be invitation artists and designers, and says she offers her clients "dreams worked on a card."

Visual Dreams prides itself on its custom-made creations, where no two cards ever look alike. Each set of invitations flaunts a unique style and flare.

"Everything is original," says Waisbein. "We try not to make any look popular."

But there are certain consistencies that Waisbein upholds when choosing the layout of her projects.

Continued on page B46

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PARTY PLANNER

'Wedding invitations tend to be conservative'

Continued from page B44

Wedding invitations tend to be conservative and elegant, with a beige, white or green colour scheme. Bar and bat mitzvah invitations, on the other hand, are usually more flashy, with bright and vibrant detail, she says.

"With bar or bat mitzvah invitations, we have the liberty to create more. Here we can fly."

Waisbein says she also makes invitations for corporate events, blending the logo of the company or organization into the card.

Waisbein says when deciding what will go into each work of art she need only "look at the eyes of people." Through personal consultations with her clients, she is "able to get a feeling of what they are about."

In a series of visits to a client's home, Waisbein says she develops ideas with the input of the client.

"It's usually the mother that makes most of the decisions," she says.

Waisbein says she knows people operate on hectic schedules, so the convenience of a home service saves clients both time and travel hassle.

The invitation creation process at Stationery Plus also involves client input, says Lefton.

"We listen to the client, try to determine what they're saying and then develop ideas," she says.

Some clients go for custom designs, while others like to customize an invitation from a book, she says. Copying a sample directly is doable as well.

"Sometimes people just love what they see," says Lefton.

Lefton says she is diplomatic when it comes to the decision making, but always honest when sharing her opinions.

She says that orders should be placed about six to eight months before an event, although a year ahead of time never hurts.

"This really leaves the field open for the client," says Lefton. "But when they order their invitations depends on their comfort level."

At Visual Dreams, a period of about two months is required for invitation meetings, sample showings and labour on the final product, says Waisbein.

While the company does not have an official motto, it goes by a "no rules" policy.

"The sky is the limit," says Waisbein. "We don't go by the books."

There is no set price for invitations by Visual Dreams; it all depends on the demands of the client, she says.

The layers of paper needed for each creation, as well as the amount of work, the quality of materials and the types of ideas involved all contribute to the cost.

Lefton says there is a broad range in what she charges her clients. While invitation packages at Stationery Plus can start at $300.00, Lefton has sold work valued at $18,000.

Her invitation packages can contain any or all of the following items: envelopes (lined or unlined), response cards, thank-you notes, valet or parking voucher cards, out-of-town guest information cards, seating cards, wedding programs, menus and kippahs (personalized or not).

Because her business has operated almost 25 years, Lefton says it is not unusual for a family to rely on her invitation expertise for every major milestone "as the page turns."

With feedback such as "The invitations look great! We are all thrilled!" Lefton is equally as greatful for her clients as they are for her.

Other invitations places advertising in this supplement are: Aragon Group, 416-597-0777; Ben's Printing, 416-363-8331; Designs by Sharon, 905-881-5884; Designs by Goldie, 905-886-0727; Partyzazz-Heather Hennick, 905-881-5736; Invitations by Design Inc., 416-789-7367; Invitations by Carla, 416-780-0016; Note Worthy, 905-944-9066; Paper Expressions, 905-764-9812; The Printed Word, 416-484-4600.

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Coming up Roses in Jerusalem

By WENDY ELLIMAN
Israel Press Service

When your TV screen shows placard-waving Israelis exercising their democratic right to protest, chances are they're doing so from Jerusalem's Wohl Rose Park.

The park's 19 landscaped acres between the Knesset and the Supreme Court have hosted hundreds of thousands of social and political demonstrators over the past 30 years, as well as the more usual park populations of strollers, joggers, ballplayers, tourists, children and rose-lovers.

"With the park so intensively used, much of our budget goes to clean-up and maintenance," says its director, landscape architect and law school graduate Lior Bar-On. "We never expected any prizes!"

The 37 national rose societies of the World Federation of Rose Societies, however, thought differently. Last summer, at their world convention in Glasgow, Scotland, they bestowed on the Jerusalem park – which was created by the Jerusalem Foundation in 1981 with a donation from Vivienne and Maurice Wohl – their prestigious Award of Garden Excellence.

"There are many wonderful rose gardens around the world, but some are truly exceptional from a historical, educational and/or visual point of view," said the federation judges.

"The Wohl Rose Park of Jerusalem is an expansive municipal public park devoted to roses and maintained to the highest standards."

Judged not only for the number of rose varieties grown and special rose varieties developed, but also for its appearance and upkeep, its accessibility to the public, the number of visitors, its website and its involvement in the life of the city, the Wohl Rose Park scored high in all categories.

A lawn facing the Knesset, part of the Wohl Rose Park, which is used for official state receptions.
IPS photos courtesy of the Wohl Rose Park.

"It's good to see Israel in the news for something unrelated to politics or terror," says Bar-On. "In fact," he continues, "the Wohl Rose Park has more to say about the real Israel than any number of slanted newscasts."

The area was first designated parkland in 1949 and for a decade was used solely for official government ceremonies until public pressure forced it open to everyone. Developed, supported and maintained by the Jerusalem Foundation and the City of Jerusalem, it is Israel's largest rose park and has won a central place in the life of the city.

Colorama, a highly scented red hybrid tea rose with star-shaped petals that are creamy yellow on the reverse – one of the 400 rose varieties in Jerusalem's Wohl Rose Park.

Its success owes much to careful planning, with open, embracing hills and valleys. Spurning formal flowerbeds, the park's 15,000 rose bushes are displayed naturally in great asymmetric swathes of colour.

A Garden of the Nations – comprising sections donated by cities and countries worldwide – occupies the park's upper level, each section displaying roses and other features that typify the contributing country. Switzerland's contribution, for example, is a garden for the blind, with highly scented roses and Braille signs, based on a rose park in Rapperswil.

At the heart of the Wohl Park is a split-level pond filled with aquatic plants and ornamental fish.

A garden of fragrant deep yellow Freedom roses in Jerusalem's Wohl Rose Park.

A waterfall tumbles from natural exposed rock above the pond, once used as a quarry. Along the park's north-eastern side is a wooden pergola, covered with scented yellow roses. In its north-west, wild rose species grow, and on its eastern border is an experimental section, where new rose varieties from all over the world are tested for their suitability to Israel's climate.

"We have some 400 different rose varieties spread across the park's lawns, hills and valleys," says park curator Dalit Kaslassi.

"Some are original rose species from which the flower was first bred 300 years ago; others are old garden roses, the products of early breeding; and others still are modern roses, such as hybrid tea roses, floribunda, polyanthus, miniature roses, rose shrubs and modern climbers."

As well as preserving and developing different types of rose, a park goal is demonstrating the variety that rose gardening offers, she explains. "You can have blossoming cloaks of color or roses climbing up pergolas and pillars; there are 'sculpted' rose shrubs, rambling roses and standards roses, as well as roses with decorative fruit."

If life in Israel is not always a bed of roses these days, in the Wohl Rose Park in Jerusalem at least, with an international award in hand and myriad plans underway for the future, prospects are looking rosy.

Although there are many stars in the universe
only one shines the brightest

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By SYLVIA BROOKE
Special to The CJN

Precious children deserve to be dressed in only the best, especially so for a special occasion. Carmen's Designs for Children (416-656-9856), specializes in custom-made fashions in superb designs, from infants to teens.

Owner and designer Carmen Romao is a natural designer. She remembers as a young girl sitting while her grandmother sewed and designing clothes for her dolls. She now designs exclusively for "living dolls", in the most original and delicate of fashions.

Peruse through her boutique and the eye rests on one-of-a-kind dresses in exquisite materials of peau de soie, dupioni silk or organza. An original design often featured for the junior attendants incorporates silk flower petals that appear to float in the skirt of the dress. They stand out against a neutral background and can be matched accordingly with the wedding colour theme.

A tulip dress, with a scalloped hem that mimics tulip petals, is fashioned in tulle with sequins. Ribbons, bows, beads and cord are all elegant accents, artfully placed to enhance a look. As Romao gestures at the clothes around her, she states, "we are more of a special occasion kind of store. It's very important to me that the client is completely satisfied. Most of these are just one-of-a-kind."

Prom dresses too can be made up to size 20. Teenage girls are often at that "in between" stage notes Romao, "they can't always find something in the adult store, or in the children's store, so we make it to measure." That's the advantage of custom design.

With two locations, the boutique offers one-stop shopping for custom-made clothes, accessories, even shoes - ballet slippers with pearl trim are made to match the outfits. Suits or tuxedoes can also be made to match dresses in the wedding party. The same material or colours used in the dresses can be picked up on with a matching vest or tie.

***

Crawford Boys (416-782-8137) is a store specializing in boyswear. A family run business since 1952, and originally a menswear store, the shift to boyswear exclusively came in 1989.

A sportcoat and pants from Perry Ellis, one of many formal clothes available for boys at Crawford Boys.

"We specialize. Boys' clothing is all that we do so I carry a bigger inventory, far more variety than other stores," says owner Paul Spiars. "I can take chances buying more colours and styles. Because we specialize, I devote almost one third of my floor space to husky sizes."

The advantage is greater selection, availability and top notch service for boys ages 4-16 years. The store is laid out like a young men's store, with a full complement of accessories like belts and ties. Such names as Guy Laroche, Point Zero, Hilfiger and Perry Ellis are represented in the merchandise.

Their ties are made from the same materials used in men's lines, so they're always current silks.

"We have them cut to our specifications for the younger boys. We've been told that we've probably got the best selection of boys' ties anywhere," notes Spiars. To complete the look, they carry at least 30 different shades of dress shirts and smashing suits, sure to do justice to the most proud bar mitzvah boy.

Spiars believes in involving the boys in the decision-making process when choosing a suit or outfit.

His staff talks to them at their level, not down to them. At the back of the store is a pinball machine and basketball net, for shooting a few hoops. The front of the store boasts a showcase with a nice collection of hockey memorabilia. This further illustrates Spiars philosophy, that the store be "fun, it isn't a stiff clothing store."

"We have people calling us from Halifax, Calgary, Winnipeg, Vancouver. They can't find what they want back home, and we've been able to help them over the phone."

But Spiars has no intention of opening another store, he explains "With one store, I can keep track of everything that's going on, who's coming in and what they want. The store's run more effectively, more friendly. This is a service business, I don't think there are many stores that can compare to us when it comes to going the distance."

Other kids' fashion places advertising in this supplement are: Zero 20, 416-532-4459; Beatties, 416-481-4459.

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Historic island synagogue perfect wedding venue

By FRANCES GOODMAN PELLATT
Special to The CJN

Engaged couples very often want to create an atmosphere for their union that is meaningful, memorable and uniquely their own. Some brides and grooms who want their event to be wild and unconventional have exchanged their vows in hot-air balloons, on roller coasters or even while bungee jumping. As if the thrill of actually getting married is not enough.

Destinations

More and more, men and women today are choosing to get hitched on foreign ground and combine their wedding, honeymoon and vacation for guests all in one. One couple had their wedding nuptials in Prague's Altneu Synagogue, where they were surrounded only by immediate family members. Another couple invited friends and family to join them in Cuba for an out-of-the-ordinary union on a beach. Everyone took a vacation at the same time.

One exotic place for a wedding that combines the atmosphere of the above two examples is a historic and architectural gem: the Hebrew Congregation of St. Thomas. The synagogue sits in the middle of the Caribbean, but is still part of the United States.

Although the congregation was founded in 1796 with a membership of about nine families, the present synagogue dates from 1833, when a new building was erected for its 64-family membership after a city-wide fire destroyed the sanctuary.

The current rabbi is Arthur Starr, who hails from New Hampshire. There are 105 member families, which includes residents of St. Thomas and the surrounding islands.

Thirteen children are in religious school and about 55 to 60 people regularly attend Friday night services. The synagogue building is the oldest in continuous use under the American flag and performs 15 to 18 bar mitzvahs a year for mainland families.

The Congregation of St. Thomas – known as the Congregation of Blessing and Peace and Loving Deeds – is steeped in history. The architecture of the building is Spanish since the original community in St. Thomas was Sephardi Orthodox (today the synagogue is Reform). The original European candelabras, which used to be lit with oil, have been electrified, except for two in front of the Ark that are used, with candles, only on Kol Nidre night. Three of the Torah scrolls are more than 200 years old and the smallest one, from Czechoslovakia and written in 1771, was recovered following World War II.

The Hebrew Congregation of St. Thomas.

The glistening mahogany chair of Elijah, used for brit milah ceremonies, stands in the corner. It used to be carried from house to house when needed. The menorah is of Spanish origin and dates back to the 11th century. The four pillars that support the structure were handmade in Denmark especially for the synagogue and symbolize the four matriarchs of Judaism: Sarah, Rachel, Rebecca and Leah. The thick hurricane-proof walls protect everything in the building.

An unusual feature in the synagogue is the sand covering the tiled floor. One legend is that it is symbolic of the desert through which Moses and the Jewish people travelled for 40 years. Another more significant story is that it is in remembrance of Converso Jews (more commonly known as Crypto or Marrano) who were forced to convert to Catholicism during the Spanish Inquisition in 1492, but who continued to practise their religion in private. They would congregate secretly in their basements and cover their basement floors with sand to muffle their singing and prayers.

Given that the congregation was originally Sephardi, "this is the more likely story and in commemoration this floor has always been covered with sand," Rabbi Starr says.

To learn more about The Hebrew Congregation of St. Thomas, visit their website at www.onepaper.com/synagogue.

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PARTY PLANNER

Cookies and bars you can make ahead for your party

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

The old adage, if it ain't broke, don't fix it, certainly applies to the series of baking books created by best-selling author Esther Brody. It's apparent that her publisher is not about to tamper with a formula that sells.

The Calgary grandmother has sold more than 100,000 books since 1998 when her first book in the series, *The 250 Best Muffin Recipes*, was published by Robert Rose.

Another 250 Best Muffin Recipes was issued in 1999, followed by *The 250 Best Cookie Recipes* and *The 250 Best Brownies, Bars and Squares* in 2000 and 2001 respectively.

Brody's latest offering, *The 250 Best Cakes and Pies*, has been out since last September on the heels of a new edition of the muffin book, encompassing all 500 of recipes. Brody recently completed a sixth manuscript on cupcakes, custards and cobblers, and she insists that this is the final book in the series.

After doing six books in six years, Brody says she wants to relax a bit and spend more time with her five-year-old granddaughter, Natalie Arielle Pinchas, to whom most of the books are dedicated.

Brody says she's not giving up writing. She wants to do a book on rhubarb, crab apples and other garden recipes, but at a slower pace, she says. "I don't want to have to work with a deadline. The book will get done when it gets done."

Brody was always a good cook and excellent baker. "I take after my mother," she says, "I loved to watch my mother bake and cook." But she says she never planned to make a career of it. Her foray into the food business and book publishing was a serendipitous journey that began with a batch of her home-made muffins some 20 years ago.

At the time, Brody, a single mother of two young children, supported the family by doing freelance legal secretarial work. A colleague had tasted her muffins and asked if she could make some for a law society meeting because "the benchers were sick and tired of doughnuts."

This meeting led to further requests for muffins and Brody soon found herself supplying stores and filling private orders. "I would be up baking in the wee hours. I'd deliver the muffins fresh the next morning."

She says she welcomed the business. "I worked at three or four different jobs. When you're a single parent and you have to support two young children, you think of everything possible."

The muffins soon became a full-time business, and in Calgary, Brody came to be known as the Muffin Lady. However, she could not keep up with the demand, especially when the Seven-Eleven convenience store chain approached her. "I would have had to supply all their stores."

So Brody stopped baking muffins commercially and decided to share her recipes so that other people could make them. Inspired by *The Best of Bridge* cookbook series, she set out to create a muffin bible.

Six years and 600 pages later, she completed *All My Muffins*, a hand-written book, that Brody self-published in 1994.

"I didn't know a thing about publishing," she recalls. "I hired a photographer to taker pictures of the muffins in my house."

Brody was also her own marketer and distributor, going from town to town in Alberta, Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Manitoba, selling the books from her car.

"I had a 1985 Mercury Grand Marquis with a huge trunk. The car was loaded up to the ceiling with books. I'd come back with an empty car and go home and fill up.

"I never imagined I could travel like that, stopping in small towns. I met really interesting people. Every store bought a book."

She had a print run of 3,000, selling most of the books for $39.95 a copy.

Impressed by this success, Brody's son encouraged her to write more books, she says.

He sought out a publisher and eventually connected Brody to the Toronto-based cookbook publisher Robert Rose. As luck would have it, the company was in the market for a muffin book.

For Brody, her odyssey as a cookbook author has been "very exciting. I never dreamed that I would be writing a book."

All her books include traditional recipes for Jewish holidays and festivals.

The following recipes are sweet treats that would be ideal for any party.

ESTHER'S FAMOUS KOMISH BREAD COOKIES
From *The 250 Best Cookie Recipes* by Esther Brody.

3 cups all-purpose flour
½ tsp. salt
1 tsp. baking powder
1-2 tsp. cinnamon
3 eggs
1 cup granulated sugar

Continued on page B51

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Tasty treats for entertaining guests at home

Continued from page B50

1 cup oil
1 tsp. vanilla
1 cup chocolate chips

Sugar Cinnamon Mix
½ cup granulated sugar
2 tsp. ground cinnamon

Preheat oven to 350. Grease a cookie sheet. In a bowl, mix together flour, salt, baking powder and cinnamon. In another bowl beat eggs, sugar and oil until blended. Mix in vanilla. Add dry ingredients and mix well. Fold in chocolate chips.

On a floured surface, divide dough into 3 portions. Shape into 3 rolls about 2 to 3 inches wide. Place at least 2 to 3 inches apart on prepared cookie sheet. Bake in preheated oven for 30 to 35 minutes until lightly browned and a toothpick inserted into the centre of one of the rolls comes out clean and dry.

In a small bowl combine sugar and cinnamon.

On a cutting board, cut hot rolls into slices about ½ in. thick. Dip each slice into sugar-cinnamon mix until well coated. Place on cookie sheet and leaving oven off, return to oven to dry for 20-25 minutes. Makes about 4 dozen.

CREAM CHEESE CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

1 package (10 oz.) mini-chocolate chips, divided
2¼ cups all-purpose flour
1½ tsp. baking soda
½ cup softened butter
1 package (8 oz) softened cream cheese
1½ cups granulated sugar
1 egg
½ cup chopped nuts

Preheat oven to 350. Use an ungreased cookie sheet. In a saucepan over low heat, melt 1 cup chocolate chips. In a bowl, mix together flour and baking soda.

In another bowl, beat butter, cream cheese and sugar until smooth and creamy. Beat in egg until well incorporated. Beat in melted chocolate until well combined. Add flour mixture and mix well. Fold in nuts and remaining chocolate chips.

Drop by tablespoons about 2 inches apart, onto cookie sheet. Bake in preheated oven for 10 to 12 minutes or until cookies are firm around the edges. Immediately transfer to wire rack to cool. Makes about 4 dozen.

CHOCOLATE CHIP MERINGUE BARS

From *The 250 Best Brownies, Bars & Squares* by Esther Brody

2 cups all purpose flour
1 tsp. baking soda
½ cup butter or margarine, softened
½ cup granulated sugar
1½ cups packed brown sugar, divided
2 eggs, separated
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1 tbsp. water
1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips or pieces

Preheat oven to 325 and lightly grease a 13x9-in. cake pan. In a bowl, mix together flour and baking soda.

In another bowl, beat butter, granulated sugar and ½ cup of the brown sugar until smooth and creamy. Beat in egg yolks until incorporated. Stir in vanilla and water. Blend in flour mixture. Spread mixture evenly in prepared pan. Sprinkle chocolate chips evenly on top, pressing lightly into dough.

In a clean bowl, beat egg white until soft peaks form. Gradually beat in remaining brown sugar until stiff peaks form. Spread evenly over dough. Bake in preheated oven 30 minutes or until meringue is golden brown. Place pan on a rack to cool completely, then cut into squares.

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PARTY PLANNER

Eglinton Theatre transformed into Eglinton Grand

By RUTH SCHWEITZER
Special to The CJN

One of Toronto's historical landmarks, the Eglinton Theatre, has undergone a $3.5 million transformation and has re-opened its doors as The Eglinton Grand, a special-event venue.

The Eglinton Grand

Designed by Kaplan and Sprachman, the Eglinton Theatre, at Eglinton Avenue and Avenue Road, won the 1937 Royal Architectural Institute of Canada Bronze Medal for its advanced and beautiful art deco furnishings. It was once the flagship for the Famous Players national cinema chain.

By 2001 Famous Players decided to close the theatre following an Ontario Human Rights Commission ruling to make the theatre accessible to the disabled.

A group of local residents formed Save the Eglinton Theatre and collected nearly 10,000 signatures on a petition and another 1,700 online. Last August, Dynamic Hospitality & Entertainment Group acquired a 20-year lease on the building and renovations began.

The Save the Eglinton Theatre group has been 100 per cent behind The Eglinton Grand (416-485-5900, www.eglintongrand.com) as the theatre has been recreated, not destroyed, says Sandra Brega, general manager of Atlantis Pavilions, which is part of the Dynamic Group. "A number of historical elements in the building have been maintained and restored."

The Eglinton Grand's 1930s art-deco splendour was recreated by Elite Construction Inc. and architects Munge/Leung Design Associates.

The Grand's construction alone involved 96 tradespeople, including painters, carpenters, plumbers and electricians, who worked for 30,000 hours. The amount of electrical wiring used inside The Grand is equal to 218 football fields or 36 CN Towers standing on top of one another.

The Three Muses

Two original statues from the theatre, *The Sirens*, which stood on each side of the movie screen, have been restored and now anchor the front of The Grand's main space. An original hand-made mural made out of etched glass, *The Three Muses*, had to be recreated as it was too badly damaged to undergo restoration.

The marquee has been returned to its former glory and the refurbished ticket booth will be used by valet car jockeys.

The main floor of the Eglinton Grand accommodates 350 diners with a dance floor and 400 without one. Cocktail style, the main floor has room for 550. The capacity of the mezzanine without a dance floor is 130, accommodating 275 cocktail style. Cocktail-style, the lobby has space for 175.

The Grand is fully accessible, with washrooms, ramps and lifts.

If you rent The Eglinton Grand for a function, the venue is exclusively yours, Brega says. Services and options at The Grand include on-site ceremonies, a bridal room and audio visuals, including a 16-by-20-foot retractable screen at the front of the main space.

"There's a customized sound system installed in the room that provides surround sound in the entire space," she says, adding that The Grand "has wonderful acoustics because it was built as a theatre."

Preferred kosher caterers for The Eglinton Grand include GMB Culinary Productions, Rhonda Litwack Fine Food and Zuchter Berk Catering & Event Design. Room rental includes set up and tear down of tables and chairs, white floor-length tablecloths, napkins, glassware and the services of a kitchen supervisor and a function manager.

The Eglinton Theatre opened its doors in 1936, attracting people from all over Toronto who lined up for hours to get a glimpse of Toronto's newest movie theatre and to see *King of Burlesque* starring Jack Oakie. Many of Hollywood's biggest stars could be seen on the Eglinton's screen at one time or another.

The theatre remained competitive until the late 1990s when it began to lose its edge because of competition from movie houses that gave patrons multiple-viewing options under one roof.

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'Great Dress' bears an interesting history

For more than 500 years, the *keswa el kbira* bridal ensemble has been fondly referred to as the "Great Dress" of the Moroccan Jewish community. The style rose out of clothing worn by Spanish Jewish women in the 15th century and variations of the *keswa el kbira* were brought to Morocco by Sephardim fleeing Spain and Portugal in the late 15th century.

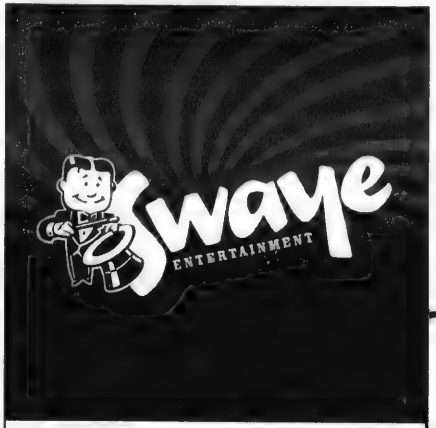
***Keswa el kbira* is fondly referred to as the 'Great Dress'.**

The *keswa el kbira* has a number of regional variations and was made of different colours and styles in different regions of Morocco. Velvet was the most commonly used fabric.

The "Great Dress" consists of five separate pieces. The *jeltita* is a wrap-around skirt with a heavily embroidered front corner. The *gonbaiz* consists of a jacket or a bodice with shirt sleeves. The neckline is a deeply scooped keyhole shape and there are heavy bands of embroidery on the neck and sleeves. The *puntaktel* is worn with the *gonbaiz* and is a close-fitting plastron or breastplate made of heavily embroidered material. The *kmam* is a scarf or a pair of sleeves, which is worn draped across the bride's shoulders. The *hezam* completes the costume. It's a sash or woven belt wrapped around the waist.

Gold embroidery is applied to all the pieces of the dress. This mode of dress was especially popular in the 19th century. The *keswa el kbira* was usually worn by brides from the Spanish speaking urban communities of Northern Morocco. The families living in big centres were able to afford it more than those living in the outskirts.

Many of the Jewish women exhibited great artistic skill and they were paid for doing the embroidery on these dresses.



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A Memorable Wedding in the Holy Land

By WENDY ELLIMAN
IPS

A ruined Scottish castle, New York's Central Park and the Spice Islands of Zanzibar are now among choice locations for weddings with a difference.

Or notching up the experience yet further, bride and groom can arrive at their Fijian beachside ceremony by war canoe, or depart their Sri Lankan nuptials on elephant back.

For those in search of a more Jewish experience, however, including kosher food on the table, Jerusalem is a highly popular destination. And if it's Jerusalem, as often as not it's that most venerable of Jerusalem institutions, the King David Hotel.

"Every major city has its special hotel, and in Jerusalem it's the King David," says Charley Blacher, executive assistant manager of food and beverages.

"Some 85 to 90 per cent of our wedding clients generally come from abroad."

Guests, he says, are attracted not only by the King David's name, facilities and service, but also by its stunning Old City views. "We're well aware of this and hold all wedding ceremonies, receptions and dinners in halls and terraces that frame the Old City."

Clients from abroad will generally fly in to plan the wedding, and then return later for the actual event, often with a planeload of relatives and friends who stay at the hotel.

"Everyone has their dream of how their wedding – or their daughter's wedding – will be," says Blacher. "We listen carefully, and then try to guide them, especially if what they want sounds unrealistic. What's important, we emphasize to them, is that the event is memorable in the best sense."

Guests are usually very thankful – sometimes embarrassingly so. "None of us here will forget one bride who came to thank the staff when the evening ended," says Blacher. "We're used to being thanked, but this lady insisted on embracing each one of us – chefs, waiters and managers. We all felt pretty awkward!"

The hotel's wedding packages run from about $65 per head to $165, including flowers and wine. An upper-end-of-the-scale event could include a chupah on one of the hotel's outdoor terraces overlooking the Old City, a reception around the pool in the King David's famed gardens, with cocktails and canapés, and a four-course sit-down dinner followed by a dessert buffet.

Champagne would be offered on entering the hall and dinner would be comprised of goose liver hors d'oeuvres, a soup, salmon en croute, followed by fillet Rossini with side dishes.

Viennese desserts would be laid out buffet-style – cakes, tarts and strudels, warm chocolate pie, local baklava and fresh strawberries, washed down with sweet Turkish coffee and tea with fresh mint.

"I believe our catering is on a level with the best hotels anywhere," says Blacher. "And as far as gourmet kosher catering is concerned, we're probably better than anywhere else."

What happens to all this food when a wedding is called off? "That has happened," says Blacher. "The bride, groom and many of their guests had come in from the United States. The food had been prepared – the wines brought in, meat cut, and so on – though fortunately not cooked. And then the day before, the bride got cold feet and cancelled everything. She was unable to reach many of the guests, and so it fell to us, standing at the entrance to what should have been the wedding reception, to tell people as they arrived that the wedding was off."

A chupah on one of the King David hotel's outdoor terraces with a stunning view of the Old City in the background.
[IPS photo courtesy of the King David]

The food was used in the hotel, he says, the wines went into the cellar and the extra staff was cancelled, but there was nowhere to put all the flowers that had been ordered. "The bride's family asked us to have them taken to a local hospital," he recalls.

The most nerve-wracking wedding that Blacher has organized at the hotel was for the daughter of one of the King David's owners. "They had the chupah and reception on Mount Scopus and the dinner in the hotel," he says.

"We catered everything – which meant we had to be the first to arrive at each event and the last to leave. We worked out a minute-by-minute schedule, kept in touch with one another by walkie-talkie, and pulled it off without a hitch (and with an enormous sigh of relief!)."

While the wedding is the main event for the client, to the King David staff it's often no more than part of a day's work.

"At breakfast next day, the bride and groom will see one of us, and want to talk about it all," says Blacher. "By then, we're probably neck-deep in organizing the next simchah. Or perhaps a foreign dignitary or two is staying in the hotel while the wedding takes place. Security and press converge for the dignitary. He's holding a private function in the hotel. Meanwhile, the wedding guests are pouring in. Our job is to make sure that one doesn't affect the other."

"Officially I'm an assistant Food and Beverage manager," he says. "But more often than not I feel like a juggler, keeping a lot of fast-moving balls safely in the air."

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Mandell continues to be fresh and exciting

By SYLVIA BROOKE
Special to The CJN

In the area of interactive entertainment, one company surpasses all others as the greatest innovator and trendsetter, the granddaddy of them all – Mandell Entertainment (416-923-7200).

Moving into its 17th season, this is one group not satisfied to rest on its laurels. Company president Jarred Florence explains, "we always like to come up with new and different ways of entertaining everybody. We're really and truly building our business on becoming unique from week to week; we have to because kids these days are going to more parties than ever. You want them to walk into a party and feel that they're seeing something they've never seen before."

Company president Jarred Florence

Inevitably one of their party experiences proves to be fresh and exciting.

Over the last year their own band has become very popular: The Mandell T-Dot Band. It fills in the gap between having a D.J. playing recorded music and a band playing live music. "It's funky, it's sleek and yet it's finished.

"Everything flows perfectly," adds Florence. "I can say without having an ego that I think that my staff are the best."

"We're very good at being competitive and staying within certain budgets. We can produce and create any type of event that people would want, if they're willing to go that far with us. We don't just play a CD and wait for everything to happen, we're always in the crowd with the people we're entertaining."

Current popular party giveaways are yoga headbands. The girls pick the colour, style, and a patch from a choice of thousands for a customized headband. The same can be done with wristbands or a trucker hat. Camp paraphernalia such as rugs or laundry bags can be personalized by a professional graffiti artist.

Summer camps throughout the province are well acquainted with Mandell Entertainment. With their annual camp summer tour, each major camp gets a visit monthly by the top entertainment crew, including D.J.'s, all the lights, production and the support of their sponsor, Roots. With inflatables and prizes in tow, the camp enjoys a full day of fun, Mandell-style. Notes Florence, "we're getting geared up for the 2004 camp summer tour. We want to make sure that we make it different from last summer with something that's never been done before at any camp."

For a very fun and original idea instead of traditional place cards, Mandell Entertainment recently used personalized bobble heads at a function. The guests were asked in advance to send in a picture of themselves, and later the photos were placed into bobble heads and placed around the dinner tables.

Ever involved in the community that's so embraced them, Mandell Entertainment has provided the venue for many charitable organizations, including The Association for Soldiers in Israel, Mount Sinai Hospital and the Starlight Children's Foundation. This year as they have for the last several years, they set the tone for The United Jewish Appeal Walk with Israel. They produced the pre-walk activities, and co-ordinated everything from the main stage ceremony to the D.J.'s all along the actual walk. A Mandell Ultimate Home Party was even the grand prize for whomever raised the most funds for the walk.

With event themes from casinos to clubs, Mandell Entertainment can do it all. Their dancers, D.J.'s, laser and lights, pyrotechnics, video shows, and party rentals are limitless, they can even create the feel of a pool party indoors, with lights rippling across the dance floor to simulate the look of a pool.

You can see what they offer by visiting www.mandellworld.com

Corey Mandell with his brother Jeff, CEO and COO of Mandell Entertainment respectively, have together opened Lobby in downtown Toronto.

Florence refers to it as "the hottest place to come to dinner, all the celebrities that come to town go to Lobby."

So what's the best way to ensure you and your guests can enjoy yourselves to the fullest at your next function? Book Mandell Entertainment and party on!

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Donating your leftovers makes a great mitzvah

By DONNA GORDON BLANKINSHIP
Special to The CJN

Sometimes the smallest details are the ones that make the biggest impression. You remember the pretty napkins or the mints with dessert. You remember the bride walking down the aisle with both her parents instead of just her father. You remember the way the bat mitzvah girl wore a hand-made yarmulkah.

Chances are you don't remember the decoration colour scheme or what was served as a main course for dinner. But if a mitzvah project is part of the celebration, it will be one of the details noticed and appreciated, no matter how small the effort.

After Debra Nielbulski returned from a family gathering in St. Louis, she remembered the unusual centrepieces on the tables at a family brunch. The beautifully decorated baskets of food served a dual purpose: as centrepieces and as a mitzvah project.

Nielbulski brought the idea back to her home in Seattle. She put together a committee and created the fundraising project that has supported the Jewish Family Service Food Bank for many years.

The project has grown geographically over the years, with similar efforts in other cities in North America. Some families continue to put together the baskets on their own and donate the food to a food bank of their choice.

On a related theme, depending on the time of year, baskets of school supplies or socks and other necessities would be appropriate for bar mitzvah decorations. How pretty the mitzvah is remains up to the family, so decorating the social hall with baskets instead of flowers doesn't mean you have to sacrifice your colour scheme.

You can even pay a private basket company to do the donation centrepieces together in an attractive way. Be sure to hang a pretty tag from the basket explaining where the food or other items will be donated.

Tables are the place to look for another celebration mitzvah project. One detail to think about while you are planning your simchah is what to do with extra food after the event. A number of organizations are interested in sharing your leftovers with others.

For more information, look in the yellow pages for food banks and homeless shelters and find out if they take donations of party leftovers or if they know of an organization that does.

In some cases, you may have to drive the trays over to your local homeless shelter, but think of all the hungry people who will share your simchah. And don't let anyone try to convince you that donations like this are illegal. You cannot be held liable for the food you donate, as long as it didn't sit on someone's plate first.

A national Jewish organization called Mazon: A Jewish Response To Hunger offers another simple way to help the hungry while you are celebrating a joyous family occasion.

Mazon encourages families to donate a percentage of the cost of their simchah to help feed the hungry. Mazon funds projects that deliver meals to the homebound, provide food to kosher kitchens, offer nutritional counselling for low-income women with children and advocate for long-term solutions to hunger.

"Mazon is, of course responsive to hunger among Jews, but in keeping with the best of our traditions, it also responds to all who are in need," a Mazon pamphlet says.

The organization was founded in 1985 to "build a bridge between Jews who enjoy the blessings of abundance, and the millions of children and adults who are hungry or who live at the very edge of hunger each day."

Visit www.mazoncanada.ca for more details.

For brides who have no real plans to wear their beautiful wedding gowns again, a mitzvah project in Israel might appeal to you. The Rabbanit Bracha Kapach gives used wedding dresses to brides who cannot afford their own, in addition to a wide variety of other relief projects she conducts in Jerusalem. Danny Siegel in his book *Mitzvahs* suggests sending your wedding dress to the rabbanit in the hands of a friend who is visiting Israel. The rabbanit also needs wedding rings. You can contact her at 12 Lod St., Jerusalem, 249-296.

This is only a small sample of the many possible mitzvah projects a family might undertake to celebrate a wedding or bat mitzvah. For additional ideas, ask your rabbi or read Siegel's book *Mitzvahs*.

Here is a listing of Canadian places that accept food donations:

Alberta

• Edmonton Gleaners Association, Edmonton, Mark Trip, 780-425-4190: Accepts non-perishable food only. Non-kosher. Donations can be made at any major grocery store or firehall.

• Calgary Interfaith Food Bank, Calgary, 403-253-2059: Accepts perishable, non-perishable food donations. Non-kosher.

Continued on page B57

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Donating your leftovers makes a great mitzvah

Continued from page B56

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• Jewish Family Service Agency, Vancouver, 604-257-5151: Accepts non-perishable kosher food.

• Surrey Food Bank, Vancouver, Robin Sobrino, 604=581-5443: Accepts perishable and non-perishable food donations. Non-kosher. Public and corporate donations are widely accepted.

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• Winnipeg Harvest, Winnipeg, Sheila Dore, 204-982-3581: Perishable food is accepted but non-perishable food is preferred. Non-kosher. Donations can be made directly to the warehouse.

New Brunswick

• Food Bank Moncton, Moncton, Neil McKeil, 506-386-0898: Accepts perishable and non-perishable donations. Non-kosher.

Newfoundland

• Community Food Sharing Association, St. John's, Marlene Marshall, 709-722-0130: Accepts perishable and non-perishable food donations. Non-kosher.

Nova Scotia

• Metro Food Bank, Halifax, Allan Clayton, 902-457-1900: Accepts perishable and non-perishable food donations. Non-kosher.

Ontario

• Beth Sholom Synagogue, Toronto, 416-783-6103: Accepts non-perishable kosher food donations.

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• North York Harvest Food Bank, Toronto, 416-635-7771: Accepts non-perishable food donations. Non-kosher.

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• Greater Hamilton Food Share, Hamilton, 905-560-3881: Accepts non-perishable food donations and possibly perishable food donations. Non-kosher.

• Hamilton Kosher Food Bank, Hamilton, 905-648-0605: Accepts perishable and non-perishable kosher food donations.

• London Food Bank, London, Ont., 519-659-4045: Accepts non-perishable and perishable food donations. Non-kosher.

• Ottawa Food Bank,Ottawa, 613-745-7001: Accepts non-perishable and perishable food if dropped off. Non-kosher.

• Jewish Family Services of Ottawa-Carleton, 613-722-2225: Accepts kosher non-perishable food donations.

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• MADA Community Centre, 514-342-4969: Accepts perishable and non-perishable kosher food donations.

• Chai, Montreal, 514-344-2424: Accepts non-perishable kosher food donations and fruits and vegetables.

• Le Mercaz, Montreal, 514-344-8845: Accepts non-perishable kosher food donations.

• B'nai Brith Food Baskets. Montréal, 514-363-4660, #29: Accepts perishable and non-perishable kosher food donations. Also accepts non-kosher food donations for some of their other programs.

• Tomchai Shabbos, Montreal, 514-733-1300: Accepts non-perishable kosher food donations. Perishable food donations may be accepted.

• Multi Caf, Montreal, 514-733-0554: Accepts non-perishable food donations. Perishable food may be accepted depending on their needs. Please deliver small donations. Non-kosher

• NDG Anti-Poverty, 514-489-3548: Accept non-perishable food donations. Perishable food may be accepted depending on the quantity. Non-kosher.

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• Regina and District Food Bank. Regina, Linda Tiveron, 306-791-6531: Accepts perishable and non-perishable food donations. Non-kosher.

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Historic archives recorded arranged marriages

By ELAINE COHEN
Business and Supplements Co-ordinator

Today's Jewish singles have more means than ever to meet prospective mates. The list includes traditional matchmaking organizations, Jewish online dating services, Internet chat rooms, e-mail, synagogue and community social programs, singles clubs, and connections through relatives, friends or colleagues at school or work.

Years ago, Jews lacked the freedom to travel and network that people in modern society take for granted. Nevertheless, our astute ancestors figured out neat ways for their progeny to meet and marry. While many North American singles may not appreciate the idea of an arranged marriage, it's interesting to see how the system worked in Ashkenazi and Sephardi communities of the past.

> According to tradition, Abraham was the first parent to use a matchmaker

Back then, shadchanim, Jewish matchmakers, were hired to arrange appropriate matches. Ideally, they were supposed to check references, consider compatibility and personality traits, and see if the families would get along. After the introduction, the shadchan would check to see if things went well.

According to Jewish tradition, Abraham was the first parent to use a matchmaker, charging his servant Eliezer to seek a wife for his son Isaac. Even today, in some haredi circles, the couple barely meets before marriage and has virtually no say in the match.

> An unmarried girl of 21was considered a spinster

In a charming book called *From My Grandmother's Kitchen*, American author Viviane Alchech Miner discusses her rich Sephardi heritage. A descendant of the Benaroya and Alchech families, Miner's ancestors left Spain in 1425 and sailed to countries that were then part of the Ottoman Empire. At the beginning of the 20th century, a branch of the family settled in Switzerland, where Miner spent the first nine years of her life. She immigrated to the United States in 1954. Miner's family tree has a long line of rabbinical and talmudic commentators and kabbalists that stretches back to the 1600s.

Miner says marriages in her family were arranged for centuries in order to maintain social and religious traditions and family ties.

"The parents of a prospective couple would sit down together at a table laden with sweet jams, cakes, wine and Turkish coffee," she says. "Each family reported the various household goods, money or property that would be given to the newlyweds. If this dowry satisfied the parties, the wedding took place within three months."

Girls married at 16 and boys at 18, but once in a while, a young girl married a man who was 20 years her senior. This only occurred if the girl was breathtakingly beautiful or the man was wealthy. A girl who reached the age of 21 without marrying was considered a spinster.

Today, North American wedding ceremonies and receptions take place on a specific date. Sometimes, other festivities are also reserved for close relatives and friends. Before the turn of the century, Jewish communities in eastern Europe invited everyone to participate in week-long Sheva Brachot festivities. This included blessings after meals for six consecutive days, excluding Shabbat, after the wedding.

Jewish registers in eastern Europe at the turn of the century indicate that multiple marriages took place within days of each other. Since the ceremonies usually took place in the bride's town, the marriage records enable historians to trace the ancestors of those getting married. The groom's town of registration and that of his father-in-law are also usually listed in the marriage register.

Sometimes neither the bride nor the groom were from the town where the marriage took place. Given that most weddings were multiple, it is most likely that the family of one of the people getting married had relatives living in that town who were getting married at the same time.

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Planning for an out-of-town event

By FRANCES GOODMAN PELLATT
Special to The CJN

One day, my husband and I got invited to a wedding in Chicago. But when I told him about the invitation, he quickly replied, "How nice, but we're not going."

My response was an emphatic "Why not?"

Without taking a breath, he said: "It's too far. I have to work over the weekend. I can't take a day off. We don't really know the bride and groom. It'll cost too much. Pick any one of the above."

But I argued that since we had never been to Chicago, this would be a great opportunity to visit the city and have a mini-vacation to boot. And so we went.

Having gone to a multitude of weddings, bar mitzvahs and special events out of town, I speak from experience when I say a great deal of preparation is required for the trip.

And yes, it is definitely more costly. Besides the expense of a gift, there is transportation and accommodations, not to mention meals, and of course, shopping. How can you be away from home and not go shopping? Also, if your event is in the United States, there is the exchange rate to consider.

If you're travelling by car, you will want to arrange your schedule so you get to your destination with enough time to participate in all the festivities planned for the out-of-town guests. Some other issues to consider may include asking for time off from work. If air travel is required, there is the question of ground transportation. Will you need to rent a car once you are at your destination? And of course, most important, where will you be staying?

Very often, party planners make arrangements at a local hotel for their out-of-town guests. They will frequently get a reduced rate for a block of rooms, and it is usually a good idea to stay there since it is more than likely one of the planned events will be held in the hotel.

Destinations

On the other hand, sometimes relatives or friends can put you up for a long weekend and this will cut your costs considerably. If this is what you decide to do, remember: you are in someone's home, not a hotel. Pick up your wet towels and soiled clothing and leave the bathroom neat and tidy. Do not expect to be waited on, and if you help yourself to a snack, clean up your mess. Most importantly, do not forget to bring your hosts a gift and thank them for their hospitality.

> 'Never think you will get what you need when you arrive at your destination'

Once the travel and accommodation issues are settled, it is time to deal with packing your luggage. What will you need for a three- or four-day weekend of celebrations? It is a good idea to make a list of the types of clothing and accessories you will need, including toiletries, cosmetics, medications, sleepwear and jeans or sweats for lounging or shopping.

If your closet holds several party outfits that are appropriate for the time of year, that's great. If not, you may need to supplement your wardrobe. Women can buy a fresh sweater or blouse to compliment last year's pant suit, or they may want a whole new outfit. Men may also want to buy a new tuxedo shirt or a cummerbund and matching bowtie. This is another added expense, but one you can always justify by knowing that these items will be in your closet for future parties.

It is sometimes practical to have mix- and-match pieces so that you can reduce the amount of luggage but still show up at the different events in a new ensemble. Both men and women can use this method: several shirts/blouses, sweaters, jackets or vests with one or two pairs of trousers/slacks or skirts will give you several outfits and different looks.

Another thing to consider is footwear. You will need a dressy pair for formal wear, sneakers or comfortable shoes for walking or exercising and possibly a third pair of casual shoes for any other outfits you may have.

Toiletries should be packed in plastic containers when possible and stored in plastic bags before placing them in your suitcase to avoid possible leakage onto your packed clothing. Medications should be carried with you if you are flying as should any special jewellery you may want to take with you.

One last important point is: never think you will get what you need when you arrive at your destination. You rarely have enough time and you will not always find the store you need. So make sure you have your camera and enough film, sufficient panty hose in the right colours and your nails and hair done at home.

Now, go and have a good time.

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PARTY PLANNER

Workbook helps couples cope with money management

By ELAINE COHEN
Business and Supplements Co-ordinator

Financial understanding and planning contributes to a successful relationship in marriage, says clinical psychologist Jonathan Rich.

Rich, a former professor at California State University who is in private practice in Irvine, Calif., has helped many couples over the years. He has also taught counselling techniques to family therapists.

Rich says marital discord often stems from money woes. To help couples with their financial difficulties, he created a softcover self-help workbook that looks at money management on every level. *The Couple's Guide to Love and Money*, distributed by Raincoast Books in Canada, is a wise choice for couples who are contemplating marriage as well as those who have been married for years.

> Financial understanding contributes to a successful marriage

Depending on the family situation, money can represent power, control or freedom. Rich teaches readers how to negotiate with partners about finances and shared responsibilities.

The workbook format is enlightening and interactive. Readers engage in thought-provoking exercises and quizzes. The 22 chapters are organized in three sections. Part I examines relationships with partners. Part II suggests ways to improve relationships. Part III offers leads on how and where to find help. Rich adopts a positive attitude, but he is realistic and says success depends on each spouse's level of commitment. He includes an exercise that enables partners to see how they measure up. He laments that gambling, alcoholism and drug addiction can make a relationship unworkable.

At the outset, Rich asks both partners to check off their individual short-term goals. Here he deals with the psychology of money. Upbringing, culture and disposition are topics rarely discussed in theoretical financial texts. Financial gurus prefer to focus on dry figures. Rich, on the other hand, delves into these issues.

> Quarrelling over finances is commonplace among couples

Quarrelling over finances is commonplace among couples, and so the exercise on page 8 is universally applicable. Readers are invited to consider their views on the following topics: how to spend money; where it should come from; security versus taking risks; the meaning and importance of careers, family roles and trust. Does money cause problems in the marriage? How much? Partners are asked to circle one of the following phrases: no problem, small problem, some problem, big problem or huge problem.

Rich uses case histories to illustrate his points. In one instance, a woman who wants physical security insists on a new car with airbags. But her husband believes a used car is sufficient for her lifestyle. Rich offers ways to sort out these problems without fights or resentment.

Even in this age of dual-career families, gender differences do exist, Rich observes. Researchers have found men and women view money differently. Rich uses references to back up his findings. Women, he argues, are less likely to take financial risks. They are less likely to be speculators, but more likely to seek long-term investments. Women think they know less about money than men, but actually know just as much as men do and they tend to be just as good as men at investing.

One of Rich's innovative exercises aims to help partners who argue over money. The exercise asks each spouse to write a summary of what their partner did or said during their spat and how they reacted. Space is provided in the workbook, so readers need only a pen or pencil.

In Chapter 8, "Where does money come from?" the author lists three places couples can maximize income without sacrificing happiness. Work is a time-honoured solution. Love-money is acceptable, provided it's based on a loving relationship. Ulterior motives don't count. Taking a risk that can result in financial loss or great gain isn't worth the worry, especially if the risk-taker is about to retire.

Chapter 10 surveys the money circle. If a couple starts off and continues to share the same philosophy about money and how to spend it, that's fine. But that's not the norm, Rich says. Most partners handle money differently and must consider one of three choices: change the way you think – align your view with your partner's; change your partner's view – "Good luck!" Rich says; or work out a compromise, but "don't silently simmer or bicker."

Rich includes diagrams with exercises on handling finances and keeping the family financially stable. Other topics include spending and debt, depending on family money, risking security to accept career challenges, career changes, creating ideal work situations, investments, savings and insurance, financial planning for the lifestyle you want and money-saving strategies.

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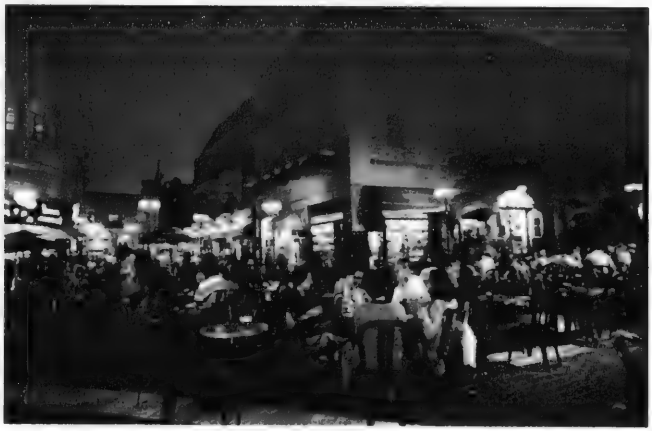

Vacationers enjoy an outdoor dinner in Jerusalem. [IGTO photo]

Celebrate your simchah in Israel

By ELYSSE ZAREK
Special to The CJN

If you want a meaningful way to celebrate your child's bar or bat mitzvah, consider a family trip to Israel.

"There has been a huge resurgence of people taking their children to Israel to celebrate bar mitzvahs," says Stanley Morais, El Al's Canadian general manager.

Part of the renewed interest, he explains, is because people are getting used to the situation in Israel and adapting to it. At the same time, they hear from friends and family who have gone to Israel recently and returned with stories of how great it is there, says Morais, who just returned from a week in Israel, adding that the restaurants are full and there are people out on the streets all the time.

Destinations

"We are realizing that we can't not go to Israel because of what we see in the media," he says.

Morais says that he has been seeing an increase in multi-generational family trips to Israel, with grandparents taking grandchildren.

"It links and strengthens the bond between generations that a trip elsewhere in the world does not do," he says.

Other trips that have become popular are 25th or 50th anniversary trips and bar mitzvah trips that are timed to coincide with Passover. This past year, Morais says there have been hundreds of Passover trips that centred on celebrating a bar mitzvah.

"El Al has a unique ambience on its flights," says Morais. "It's the feeling of Israel before you actually arrive in Israel." The flight announcements are always done in Hebrew first, then in Hebrew-accented English.

El Al also boasts of having one of the best safety records in the aviation industry, and there have been discussions recently of outfitting El Al planes with a missile defence system that will protect passenger aircraft from missiles.

El Al is increasing the number of flights on its Toronto-Tel Aviv route to eight times a week, with double runs on Sunday, Tuesday and Friday. El Al does not fly on Shabbat and holidays.

***

Emile Aufgang of Aufgang Travel (416-789-7117) also knows a thing or two about Israel trips. Although his travel agency can make travel arrangements for anywhere in the world, Israel trips are his specialty.

Aufgang usually deals with two types of trips: the organized trip where travelers book into a package tour, and the customized trip, which Aufgang organizes personally.

He recently arranged a customized trip for a family of 15 to go to Israel simply to have fun. It included rafting on the Jordan River, a Bedouin dinner, camel trekking and the air force museum, as well as the more traditional tourist sites. Because Aufgang has been to Israel so many times, he knows many of the tour guides personally and selects one he thinks will mesh best with a given group.

He too has also seen an increase in multi-generational trips where the grandparents will take the whole family along. Although finding activities that will appeal to people of every age group can sometimes be a challenge, he finds that most grandparents have been very flexible about what they are willing to see. Some grandparents are willing to join the young ones on a raft in the Jordan River or sift through dirt on an archeological dig, while others are content to sit back and watch the family have fun.

"Some grandparents inevitably say, 'Make the children happy,'" he says.

Aufgang has also put together custom vacations to other corners of the globe, including a six-day group trip to Ireland.

One of the most important things to keep in mind when planning a vacation is the type of hotel you want.

"Know what level of hotel you're getting," he says. The old adage that you get what you pay for often rings true when it comes to hotel accommodations. Make sure that the level of service and quality matches up with the price you're willing to pay. Otherwise, the results can be disappointing, Aufgang cautions.

Enjoying quality time with guests

By ELAINE COHEN
Business and Supplements Co-ordinator

Weddings and grand social gatherings present an opportunity to celebrate an auspicious occasion with relatives and friends. But when the guest list is large, it's difficult to devote quality time to each guest, and hosts are rarely able to get into an in-depth conversation without interruption.

As columnist Marcelle S. Fischler noted recently in the *New York Times* ("Field Notes," March 7, 2004), "It isn't until the waning moments of their weddings that most couples come to recognize just how little time they were able to devote to their guests."

Everyone wants to take advantage of significant festivities. But whether the wedding takes place in New York City, Montreal or Toronto, it's no secret that toasts, speeches, multi-course dinners, dancing, and posed photo/video sessions monopolize most of the evening. And sophisticated party-goers will acknowledge that, amid the din of blaring music and background banter, a wedding reception isn't the time or place for heart-to-heart chats.

Fischler suggests holding intimate gatherings to ensure meaningful contact between hosts and guests. Instead of figuring out how to chat with every guest in one full swoop, wedding hosts will find multiple opportunities to shmooze.

Most hosts are considerate and plan dinners, luncheons and brunches for family and out-of-town guests. The advantage of these intimate gatherings is the chance for serious chatting in a relaxed, quiet setting.

Here are some effective ways to spend quality time with each guest and let out-of-towners feel at home.

Shabbat dinner: Out-of-towners often arrive Friday afternoon before a Sunday evening wedding, so they will appreciate an invitation to observe Shabbat and enjoy a heimish repast with the wedding hosts. Since there is still time before the wedding, things will be relatively calm. Shabbat, a day of rest, follows, leaving time to stroll and catch up on the news.

Shabbat lunch: After services, everyone settles down to lunch and it's another quiet, informal opportunity to find out what's new. Post-Shabbat dinners are also popular, provided they end early enough to let everyone to get some rest before the big day.

Brunches after the wedding allow hosts to say goodbye to their guests and wish them a safe trip home.

Rehearsal suppers, bridal showers, and other prenuptial and post-nuptial events are also great vehicles for quality socializing.

And who knows, maybe we'll see the return of the formal reception line of yesteryear. Until the 1960s, it was customary for members of the bridal procession to form a reception line and formally greet every guest as they entered the reception hall after the ceremony.

While some may regard these lines as archaic, the formality served a useful purpose. Today, guests must scurry to track down the bridal party and wish them mazel tov. Sometimes, dinner is well under way before they have been able to hone in on a busy host's time.

Fortunately, it is customary for hospitable hosts to visit each table during dinner and greet their guests. While these short welcoming sessions fail to substitute for meaningful chats, they are a way for everyone to touch base.

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Planners ensure all is perfect

Continued from page B38

She cites an incident when place cards arrived very late for a dinner, and the caterer needed help getting them set up. Gold stepped in and was able to lend an extra set of hands.

As Gold has become known by her excellent reputation, she now has brought in others to work with her. "I have other consultants that have been trained by me. Because I have associates, I'm able to offer different services, and there is always input from myself. No matter who the clients are, I do get involved in one way or another."

Some clients may be looking for help from the early planning stages of an event, others only require assistance on the day of the event.

"People are looking for someone to take care of everything for them that day," Gold says, someone to keep checking on the details, ensure the photographer's on time, the table's set properly and such. There have been a lot of requests lately for such services for a bar mitzvah.

For a wedding, an assistant always comes along with a consultant. "Basically there are two people there that day working on the job," Gold says. One may help the bride with her train, while another guides the wedding party in for the ceremony.

As a courtesy, Gold has begun offering talks at her office, with guest speakers on topics pertinent to event planning. Issues such as the stresses of planning a party, talks on marriage and makeup demonstrations have been covered in the past.

Other consultants/party planners advertising in this supplement are: Lynn Cohen, 905-889-1007; Heidi Gruenspan, 905-738-5030; Gayle Kertzman, 416-484-4467; Marla Kay, 905-882-2042; Cherry & Baker & Associates, 905-771-1121; Tamara Temes, Bridal Consultant, 905-770-7977; An Event to Remember, 905-771-7661; Party Planners Inc., 416-256-7078; Up & Coming Events, 905-886-8148.

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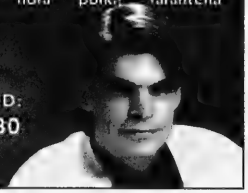

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Creative chupahs are a labour of love

By DONNA GORDON BLANKINSHIP
Special to The CJN

Nancy and Kim Goldov wanted to personalize everything about their wedding. She sewed her own gown. He composed music for the ceremony. They both created a new last name to share: combining Stolov and Goldschmidt into Goldov. So it probably didn't surprise anyone that the couple spent months crafting a one-of-a-kind chupah to say their vows under.

"The rabbi used the image of weaving our lives together," when he commented about the way Nancy and Kim carefully planned their creative wedding, with the help of friends and family. Nancy says they decided to make their own chupah out of hand-dyed silk and hand-crafted wood in part because they wanted to create a lasting memory.

"The wedding became a focus for all of our creative energy," she explained. They also were able to take such a creative approach to the chupah because they had lots of time and friends who were craftspeople and willing to help with the wood-working and dying of the silk.

"It wasn't a sudden wedding. It was a very planned wedding," Nancy said. "It's not something every couple could do or want to. ... We kind of went overboard."

But now, thanks to their hard work, Nancy and Kim also have a beautiful canopy over their bed. They can look up and see the magical "tree of life" with pomegranates, apples and figs. The tree surrounds a star of David made from a piece of spalted maple wood found in a park. The four posts of the canopy are a delicate combination of several different kinds of wood.

Nancy says the chupah cost a few hundred dollars to make, but is now considered a priceless family heirloom. She is having a quilt made for their bed that mimics the design of the tree. Someday she may change the chupah in some way to signify their children.

One of the questions Nancy asked concerning her creative chupah was whether it adhered to Jewish law concerning wedding ceremonies. According to *The Jewish Catalog* and Rabbi Maurice Lamm's book, *The Jewish Way in Love and Marriage*, the chupah is affected more by tradition than law.

Traditionally, the wedding ceremony took place under the stars as an omen that the marriage should be blessed with as many children as stars in heaven. To create a more intimate space for the ceremony, rabbis in the Middle Ages allowed the use of a chupah.

Rabbi Lamm says the chupah symbolizes the groom's home into which he invites the bride. It is required only for the seven blessings and only the bride and groom need to stand under it.

"It teaches that this simple, fragile room which is now common to both partners launches the marriage," Rabbi Lamm explained.

As with any wedding ceremony decision, it is best to discuss chupah ideas with your rabbi before you start collecting materials and assembling the structure. Depending on whether the rabbi is Reform, Conservative or Orthodox, he or she may have different ideas about what is required.

> 'The chupah symbolizes the groom's home into which he invites the bride'

Some of the more common kinds of chupahs involve a tapestry or tallit hung fastened to the top of four poles. The poles can be held by four friends or put in some kind of stand. Keep in mind the length of your ceremony before making a decision about whether to have people hold the poles. Some brides prefer to decorate the tapestry with flowers.

How elaborate a chupah you choose also depends on how much time and energy you want to put into the project. A combination of creative energy and a little chutzpah helped Jenifer Thornton and her mother create a special chupah for her wedding.

"I'm in a creative field and I knew that I didn't want to just do the standard," Jenifer said. They researched whether they could rent a creative chupah but found nothing to their liking.

"We just kind of thought, if it works out, great." The only problem was — and this would be a big problem for many brides — they didn't know what the chupah was going to look like until an hour before the wedding. They couldn't put it together in advance and then move it to the location of the ceremony.

Jenifer and Philip Thornton's chupah consisted of plaster columns, adorned with lace netting, green plants, ivy and copper ribbon. "It was beautiful and everyone loved it. The only thing I would change would be the lighting," she said, indicating she would recommend backlighting the chupah for a greater impact.

She says it wasn't expensive, but warns that finding proper columns can be a challenge. Most replicas that can be rented are too light and easily toppled by sudden movement.

"It's difficult to rent them. They have to be heavy. You definitely don't want them to fall over," Jenifer said. She rented the columns from a friend who doesn't usually loan them out.

Another approach to creating your own chupah is to consult with an architect or a landscape designer. When Julie Israel got married about five years ago she was lucky enough to have an architectural designer right in the family, her mother, Linda Haugen.

The chupah for Julie's wedding to David Israel consisted of "marbleized" wooden columns and a trellis covered in ivy and flowers. The structurally dramatic chupah fit in well with the architecture at her synagogue. "It was a very dramatic and important structure and it added considerably to the whole ceremony," she said.

Fitting the chupah to the setting and the personalities of the bride and groom is very important, but perhaps the most critical aspect of the project is getting prepared to build it the night or morning before the wedding in just a few hours.

Her experience in architecture and the theatre prepared Linda for the project. "If someone wanted to have a chupah like ours, they should turn to someone with our level of experience. It would be difficult for the average person to do it. It really involves a lot of thought and coordination," she said.

When asked if such a structural chupah could have a second life after the wedding, Linda said one could consider reconstructing it in their garden. She adds, "It's your first house and that's what's so lovely about it."

Savvy celebrants exercise poise at receptions

Once a couple sets a wedding date, their social life takes on a new meaning. Instead of blending in with the crowd, they assume the spotlight at prenuptial events. By practicing party etiquette, the celebrants set a good example. Hence, everyone will feel confident and enjoy the wedding festivities.

Conventions change but good manners never go out of style. In 1922, author Emily Post's first edition of *Wedding Etiquette* became a bestseller. The author's great granddaughter-in-law, Peggy Post, carried on the family tradition and now readers seek advice from the fourth edition of the book.

In response to the query, what makes a perfect wedding, the late matriarch noted the bride and groom both look like there was "sunlight behind their eyes, as though their mouths irresistibly turned to smiles." To ensure those bright eyes and smiles, Peggy Post points out the importance of becoming familiar with all the social and familial obligations and traditions a family entails.

Hilda Klinkenberg of Etiquette International (www.etiquetteintl.com), a New York based firm that trains private citizens and corporate executives in the social graces, is convinced good etiquette helps people become "more poised, polished and professional."

Klinkenberg is the official etiquette consultant for the Miss Universe organization. Here is a sampling of practical party guidelines to ensure success, when thrust in the spotlight.

Adjust your attitude: Perform whatever mental gymnastics it takes to put yourself in a positive frame of mind before you get to the party.

Keep your purpose in mind: The bar or the hors d'oeuvres table should be your last port of call. Concentrate on greeting and meeting people and on getting into conversation. Remember to make eye contact while having discussion. No one wants to talk with someone who is looking elsewhere instead of listening.

Never drink on an empty stomach: Make sure to have a snack before the event. The risks of losing control or being indiscreet are too great. In addition, pace your alcoholic intake throughout the course of the function.

Don't juggle hors d'oeuvres and accoutrements: According to Etiquette International, the party-goer should hold everything in the left hand. Put the cocktail napkin between the ring and baby finger of the left hand. Then, spread the ring and middle fingers to act as a base for the plate of hors d'oeuvres. Use the thumb and index finger to hold the stem or base of the glass and to stabilize the top of the plate at the same time. With the left hand in control, the right is free to greet guests.

How to tackle toothpicks: Food served on toothpicks or cocktail sticks keeps your fingers clean, but there is the problem of what to do with the sticks. Don't litter, but don't put them back on the serving tray. It is unappetizing to others and it is unhygienic. If you cannot find a container, put them in an ashtray, on a dish or on the tray when the waiters are collecting empty glasses. If nothing is available, wrap the toothpicks in a napkin and dispose of them later.

How to tackle toothpicks:

How to handle difficult foods: Certain foods can create problems. For example, olives with pits are held in the fingers and eaten in several bites, then the pit is discarded on the side of the plate in an ashtray or into a napkin.

Crudites are dipped into the accompanying sauce only once. Never dip something from which you have already taken a bite back into the sauce. Hold your cocktail napkin beneath the vegetable to catch any drops of sauce that may fall.

Bite carefully into cherry tomatoes or puff pastry to avoid spraying yourself and everyone within arm's length. Always exercise caution to avoid burning yourself when biting into hot hors d'oeuvres. Test the temperature unobtrusively with the tip of your tongue and remember that the inside is usually quite a bit hotter. When an hors d'oeuvre tastes unpleasant, don't spit it out. Turn your back to the crowd before transferring it from your mouth to the cocktail napkin. Find a waste paper basket to dispose of it immediately yourself.

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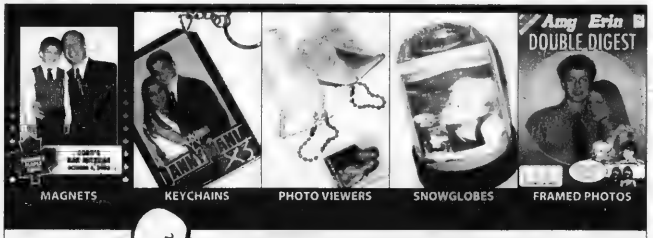

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Down-to-earth tips simplify packing for honeymoon

By ELAINE COHEN
Business and Supplements Co-ordinator

Engaged couples are so preoccupied with pre-nuptial parties and wedding festivities they are apt to put off packing for their honeymoon. But last-minute packing is risky. Since newlyweds tend to be tired and in a rush, they often pack indiscriminately. Some even delay purchasing items until they arrive at their destination. Travellers will save time and money if they buy the items they need and pack them before departure.

Advance planning is a boon to honeymooners. Before leaving town, provide a family member or friend with a photocopy of your itinerary, passports and traveller's cheque receipts.

Savvy travellers know that too much baggage is a burden. Try to avoid duplication by sharing such items as a camera or toothpaste. To save space and to increase wardrobe potential, co-ordinate separates with colours and styles that mix and match.

Select comfortable and wrinkle-free clothes. Many experienced travellers enclose garments in plastic bags or use tissue paper to prevent creasing. In addition, they make sure to break in new shoes before their trip. Sometimes luggage is lost, late or misplaced in transit. Therefore, it's wise to pack essential items and a change of clothes in a carry-on case.

To simplify packing, keep this list handy. After placing an item in the suitcase, tick it off the list.

Selection depends on where you're going, the climate, your length of stay and what you're activities will be. For example, the attire a couple dons for an upscale Caribbean cruise differs from the gear they wear for a fishing trip at a desolate camp site. The apparel and equipment on the following list can be tweaked to suit each traveller's needs.

Destinations

For currency rates of exchange, visit www.xrates.com.

Must-haves

Airline tickets or e-ticket confirmation
Passports/visas, drivers' licenses, credit cards (necessary ones)
House keys for your return
Contacts or prescription glasses
Traveller's cheques
Travel itinerary
Baggage locks
Prescription medication in original containers (for proof at customs)
Insurance coverage
Phone numbers of close relatives, friends, pharmacy, family physician and credit card company
Two sets of photocopies of aforementioned documents
Identification tags for luggage
Identifiable ribbon, decal, or bow to distinguish your baggage. Remember, 90 percent of luggage is black.

Apparel for her

Two bathing suits
Swimsuit cover-up
Bathing cap
One pair jeans or cargo pants
Light jacket or pullover that can be tied around the waist
Dressy outfit – skirt, pants or ensemble
Cardigan
Four casual tops – t-shirts, tank tops or button down shirts
Two pairs of shorts
Pair of running shoes or comfortable walking shoes
Pair of sandals
One pair of evening shoes
One small purse
Generous supply of underwear and stockings
Accessories – belt, scarf, jewelry (semi-precious)
Sleepwear
Bathrobe

Apparel for him

One pair of jeans or khakis
One pair of dress slacks
Windbreaker or light jacket
Four casual t-shirts or short sleeve button down shirts
Sports jacket
Dress shirt and tie – for upscale resort or ship
Swimsuit
One pair of running shoes
One pair of dress shoes
Generous supply of underwear and socks
Pajamas
Bathrobe

Toiletries and other important items

Toothbrushes
Toothpaste
Shaving items
Deodorant
Soap
Shampoo
Insect Repellant
Sunblock
Antiseptic ointment
Body lotion
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Facial tissues
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Gourmet gift ideas make delicious 'scents'

By ELAINE COHEN
Business and Supplements Co-ordinator

Today's career-oriented couples have less time to prepare daily dinners than ever. But when newlyweds settle down, they are eager to try out their culinary skills. Retailers always report numerous gift requests for small food appliances, kitchen and tableware.

In addition to introducing innovative gizmos, astute manufacturers are constantly upgrading traditional appliances. Cuisinart, Hoover, KitchenAid, Krups, Lagostina, Moulinex, Oster, Philips, Proctor Silex and T-Fal are just some of the companies responding to the renaissance in gourmet cooking and entertaining in the home. The costs of these items add up, so newlyweds appreciate receiving these items as gifts.

> It pays to do a little detective work

Although you may find small appliances out-of-town or on sale, consider the fact no couple wants to receive five electric can openers that cannot be returned. Therefore, it pays to do a little detective work.

Find out if the couple has arranged for a bridal registry at a place that stocks small appliances, kitchen and tableware. Also, inquire whether the bride and groom have any particular interests in cooking, baking or entertaining. The beauty of a bridal registry is the couple can exchange items and avoid duplication or unwanted gifts. Furthermore, if an item costs more than you want to spend, you can chip in with relatives and friends. If it's a colleague at work, invariably a staff member is appointed to buy the gift. A modest sum from each employee adds up to a reasonable amount.

If the bride or groom enjoy gourmet cooking, an electric breadmaker is a great gift. Since it is not a necessity, newlyweds would not ordinarily spring for it on their own. However, once it's in their possession, a breadmaker will be put to good use. Even modest cooks can create many different varieties of bread. Baking a two-pound loaf is possible without making a mess. And if the breadmaker has an automatic time-delay, a couple can rise and shine to the aroma of fresh bread. Some deluxe models can also be used to toast buns, bake cakes, make pizza or pasta dough and prepare preserves.

> Kitchen appliances are terrific time savers

Today's stand mixers, handmixers, blenders, food processors, toasters, toaster/ovens, coffeemakers and cookware are all built with the busy career person in mind. Unlike the contraptions of yesteryear, these products are terrific time-savers. A pressure cooker serves as the perfect vehicle for preparing healthy food in a jiffy. Flavour and nutrients are locked in and cooking times are reduced by two-thirds. Pressure cookers are ideal for preparing soups, roasts, puddings and vegetables. Look for models with patented safety release valves, safety plugs, handle locks and stay-cool replaceable handles. The latter should be ergonomically designed for comfort and ease of handling.

On the subject of safety, manufacturers of cordless electric kettles deserve credit for making great strides in craftsmanship. Numerous kitchen fires and burns have been prevented due to these cordless models with automatic switches. Furthermore, the kettle interior is easier to keep clean. Seek out one that has a separate power base, cool-touch handles, automatic shutoff, a drip-free removable cover and a drip-free spout.

In a two-career family, both husband and wife spend most weekdays at the workplace. At the end of the day, they look forward to lingering over a luscious meal. With the convenience of a slow oven, dinner is ready when the couple arrive home. Diverse recipes can be prepared ahead and placed in a slow cooker. Look for one with easy-to-grip handles that features a keep-warm setting as well as a tempered glass lid.

To conserve counter space and electric energy and prevent a mess, nothing beats a toaster oven that heats, toasts, broils and bakes. But some people are still hooked on the conventional toaster. Unlike the old-fashioned models, today's deluxe four-slice toasters are roomy enough to hold bagels, buns and rolls. With a light touch, it's easy to regulate defrost and browning elements.

The convection/microwave oven is another double-duty space-saver that is a boon to modern cooks. The convection mechanism ensures even baking and the oven can be used for defrosting and top-browning. Look for one with a full range of controls that includes auto shut-off and a non-stick interior surface.

Quick grilling indoors is simplified with lightweight modern grills that fit on a counter or tabletop. Some models are so efficient they grill the top and bottom of the food simultaneously. Furthermore, the fat drips directly into a tray. Look for a grill with an adjustable temperature control and a non-stick surface.

Coffee aficionados love a fine brew first thing in the morning that gets them off to a good start. Coffee makers vary from simple to supreme, but it's the fresh brew that counts. So choose a simple one or go for a sophisticated 12-cup model with a programmable digital clock timer and automatic shut-off. For a gift to please gourmet coffee drinkers and their friends, check out the latest cappuccino and espresso coffeemakers.

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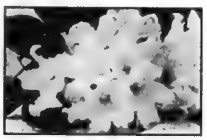
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Wacky weddings a feature of the Mideast's only democracy

By MICHAEL FOX
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

Many of the films I have seen recently have featured weddings. There have been monsoon weddings, Georgian late weddings and big fat Greek ones. But no movie could prepare the uninitiated for an Israeli wedding. You, who sympathize with the plight of average Israelis – subjected as they are to bombings, reserve duty, heavy taxes and road rage – do not know the half of it. Israelis also have to endure Israeli weddings.

Secular or religious, in Savyon or in Dimona, the ubiquitous feature of an Israeli wedding is the noise. It's not just that you can't hear what your neighbour at your table is saying – that could be the only good thing that happens to you all evening – but the din is so painful that if a political prisoner were subjected to it, he would make an emergency call to the B'Tselem human rights organization.

My wife and I have a standard wedding kit consisting of two sets of earplugs and a corkscrew. No explanation is needed for the earplugs, but without the latter, you can suffer the fate of Tantalus. There will be a bottle of wine on your table, but you will lack the means to open it. The waiter you ask to open the bottle will go off, purportedly to fetch a corkscrew, and, like Captain Oakes, will never be seen again.

The earplugs will remain handy during the blessed, but sadly brief, period that the music is switched off. Remember that the greatest bore in literature, Coleridge's Ancient Mariner, was also a wedding guest. Your neighbour at your table will tell you, not of an albatross (which reminds me of my trip to the Galapagos Islands – I can show you the photos when we next meet at a wedding), but of his prostate. The band's return will not silence him, and courtesy will require you to try to follow him by lip-reading.

And be careful if you bring a gift. According to a television program I saw recently, it is a solecism of the worst order to give the couple any gift other than money. I was amazed to learn that, among young Israelis, the parents do not pay for the wedding. The couple pays on the proven assumption that they will clear a substantial profit on the evening.

A minor compensation is that speeches are rare at Israeli weddings. It has been tried, but Israeli guests will not listen to speeches – even from their hosts. If you are really unlucky, you might, in place of a speech, get entertainment from the family. This generally takes the form of a song with inaudible but inordinately long verses that don't rhyme, sung by children who should be in bed and egged on by parents who should know better.

I have left the ceremony for last. Never be afraid of being late for the ceremony, because however late you are, the ceremony will be later. But eventually, it will take place.

And you should expect anything! Israeli ceremonies come in all shapes and sizes, but are always unpredictable. I was at one wedding where the officiating rabbi had liberally helped himself to the sacramental wine before the ceremony. He stood more or less upright while the bride, a skimpy bridal dress that just barely covered her nakedness, tripped down the aisle to the deafening sound of the music from *Star Wars*. When she arrived under the chupah, the rabbi somehow got through the Hebrew blessings, but was defeated by the tongue-twisting Aramaic of the marriage contract. He should have taken lessons from Mel Gibson.

To be fair – something I find it hard to be when it comes to weddings – the shameless mockery of the marriage service that is so common in this country is not generally found when the bride and groom are from traditional backgrounds. When the couple is religious, you would not see, as I have, the bride accompanied to the canopy by a samba band led by a shapely young woman clad in a bikini, playing the maracas.

You might well ask why, if they have such contempt for custom, people go through the travesty of what is, after all, a religious ritual. To understand why they do, you will need a little background.

In Israel there are two truths that we hold to be self-evident. The first is that Jerusalem is the eternal, indivisible capital of the Jewish people, and if I forget that, may my two typing fingers lose their cunning. The second is that Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East.

I have been pondering this last axiom while reading about the issue that has lately dominated public discourse in the United States: gay marriage. It is not a question frequently debated here. Israel is not about to legalize same-sex marriage for the simple reason that it even raises obstacles to opposite-sex marriage. Democratic Israel – light unto the gentiles, beacon of enlightenment amid a fog of bigotry, island of freedom in a sea of oppression – has laws of personal status that would seem harsh to an ayatollah. I do not discuss here the archaic Jewish laws of divorce or the pitiful situation of the agunah, the wife who cannot trace her husband and is unable to remarry. My subject is marriage.

> Noise is the ubiquitous feature of an Israeli wedding

If half of a couple is not recognized as Jewish by Jewish law, as is the case with some half a million of Israel's new citizens from the former Soviet Union, they may not marry under Jewish law. If you are a cohen – born into the priestly caste – you may not marry a woman who has been divorced. If you are the product of such a union, or if you are the child of an adulterous union, you may not marry at all unless you are lucky enough to find an unfortunate person in the same position.

Fair enough, you might say. If you choose to marry according to religious law, you must abide by the rules, the rules in this case being those laid down over the centuries by Halachah. If you cannot have an Orthodox wedding, you can marry according to Conservative or Reform rites; or if you are not religiously inclined, you can always exercise the rights of the citizen of any Western democracy and marry under its civil laws. Well, no, actually, you can't. The only democracy in the Middle East does not permit civil marriage and insists that marriages only be conducted by an Orthodox rabbi.

When a bill for the legalization of civil marriage was recently introduced in the Knesset, it was roundly defeated. It found little support even among the supposed standard-bearers of civil rights. Government ministers from the Shinui party, elected on an anti-clericalist platform in the last general elections, betrayed their voters by abstaining. Perhaps even worse, most Knesset members from the once-great Labor Party failed to support it.

It remains a matter of astonishment to objective observers that an outwardly Western nation with democratic institutions still compels those of its citizens who wish to marry to do so according to the rites of a religion they may not believe in. The alternatives are unappealing. One is non-marriage. Couples live monogamously together in stable relationships and produce children without troubling to go through a ceremony that they regard as hollow. Others will leave the country in order to go through a civil marriage, which – strangely – is then recognized by Israeli law. The tourism industry in Cyprus has Israel's marriage laws to thank for much of its income.

But those who wish to regularize their union in Israel in the only way legally possible must go through an Orthodox ceremony. If they treat it with disrespect, can they be blamed?

Party Planner

An active cure for the night before

By BRURIA ATAR
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

We've all had those mornings. You know, the one where as you step out of bed you swear to yourself you'll never drink again.

Like all promises, inevitably, this one gets broken. And at special occasions, like a wedding, you can avoid, or at least reduce, a hangover by taking some moderate exercise

For someone who is athletic, the effects of alcohol can be more serious and even more dangerous than for a heavy-drinking couch potato. Having said that, physical activity can avert the morning-after hangover, says Esther Gonen, a sports dietitian.

The hangover is one of the most common effects of excessive drinking. It is caused by loss of fluids and dehydration, since alcohol is a diuretic. To avoid the discomfort, the usual advice is to eat well before drinking, preferably food with a relatively high fat content. This allows the stomach time to empty, the alcohol is absorbed more gradually and the enzyme that breaks down the alcohol can work more efficiently.

> Drink lots of water before going to bed

Nutritionists suggest drinking alcohol slowly and drinking lots of water before going to bed, in order to dilute the alcohol in the body. Another suggestion is drinking coffee with a light meal the next day.

Gonen has her own recommendation for avoiding a hangover, apart from all the good advice above: hangovers can be prevented or at least reduced by physical activity, which helps the body get rid of the alcohol rapidly. If you have overdone the drinking, a 30-minute walk or some other physical activity gives you a reasonable chance of avoiding a hangover.

Women suffer more from hangovers than men, Gonen says. Strong drink goes to their heads more quickly and remains in the system longer, because the enzyme that breaks down alcohol is found in a lower quantity in the female body than in the male.

Furthermore, the bulk and weight of the female body is typically less than that of the male, the amount of water in the body is less, and consequently the hangover effect is more extreme. If a man and a woman with the same body weight drink an identical amount of alcohol, its concentration in the woman's bloodstream will be higher.

Female athletes, says Gonen, are at even greater risk. The most common symptoms of a hangover in a woman are tiredness, dehydration and headaches; in a man sweating and vomiting.

Alcohol can harm the body in many ways, though the level of damage is individual and related to age, gender and genetic and environmental factors. Alcohol at first has a pick-me-up effect, and for that reason many depressed people drink. But after the initial sense of well-being, depression can set in. The loss of fluids that accompanies drinking can produce a rise in body temperature and even heat stroke.

Alcohol contains no important nutrients – no vitamins, minerals, fats, complex carbohydrates or protein – and if its calories are not exploited at once for energy, they turn into fat. Alcohol travels through the body in the bloodstream and affects all the body's systems: the brain, the stomach, the internal organs, the liver, the kidneys and the muscles.

In contrast to the conventional wisdom, Gonen says, alcohol does not warm up the body. The converse is true: the rush of warmth felt when drinking alcohol is caused by the dilation of the blood vessels, which allows heat to escape the body, but in reality, drinking produces heat loss.

Despite all this, not every alcoholic drink is harmful. Today it is understood that there is even some benefit to certain beverages if consumed in moderation. Red wine and beer contain substances that prevent blood clots, for example. Several recent studies suggest that an alcoholic drink daily can reduce the risk of developing Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia by 50 per cent.

The finding reinforces the claims for the health benefits of drinking in moderation as a defence against heart disease and stroke. Researchers credit the characteristic effect of alcohol in thinning the blood and reducing cholesterol levels as responsible for lowering the risk of dementia, a condition that is sometimes brought on by vascular problems.

Others believe that small quantities of alcohol stimulate the release of acetycholine, a chemical substance in the brain that improves learning and memory.

With all that, alcohol still falls under the definition of a drug, namely, "an active substance capable of changing the structure or activity of body tissue, and the emotional state or behavior of the user."

So, if you must drink at an upcoming simchah, drink in moderation and eat well. And, above all, make sure you don't drive.

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This Week

National

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Toronto teens to face hate charges in vandalism case. *Page 6*

Tribute to Israel

A nation of brilliant blue. *Section B*

Federal Election '04

Thornhill, Ont., Canada's largest Jewish riding, could be in for a tight race. *Page 31*

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Arab world incubator of anti-Semitism, author says. *Page 43*

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Sailors take to the sea in competition

Each year at about this time, the different bases in the Israeli navy hold a sports day in which the sailors compete in a variety of water sports activities. The competition is a welcome change from normal duties and high levels of vigilance. *[Israel photo]*

Stephen Harper

Israel's security non-negotiable: Harper

A new party and a new leader – and he's leading in the polls. Stephen Harper, the head of the Conservative Party of Canada, even went so far as to predict last week that he will win a majority government in the June 28 federal election.

Harper and his fellow Conservatives have, on many occasions, spoken out forcefully for Israel, earning kudos from Jews angered by the Liberals' record on the Mideast.

Harper, 45, was elected leader of the Canadian Alliance in 2002. Last October, he signed a deal with Progressive Conservative leader Peter MacKay to create the Conservative Party, and he won the leadership in March.

The CJN has requested interviews with the leaders of the three main parties. Harper was first to respond. He spoke by phone to reporter Ron Csillag for 10 minutes last Thursday.

CJN: *Can you talk about what a Conservative government would do to alter Canada's policy toward Israel, if at all?*

Harper: Our Conservative party in the past, certainly under my leadership and in the past couple of years, has been very supportive of the State of Israel. Like all Canadians, we want to [see], eventually, a democratic Palestine co-exist with a secure Israel. But the security of Israel,

Continued on page 32

'Reason for hope and optimism'

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

Canadian Jewish Congress 27th plenary assembly

OTTAWA — Amid the stories of doom and gloom, rising anti-Semitism and violence in the Middle East, there is still reason for hope and optimism, said presenters at the 27th plenary assembly of Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC).

Four hundred people from across Canada met at the Westin Hotel on Sunday to welcome the incoming slate of officers who will lead the CJC for the next three years, as well as to vote on resolutions that will affect the direction of the organization and to discuss issues of importance to the Canadian Jewish community.

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Shabbat Rosh Chodesh: Korach
Candlelighting: 8:43
Havdallah: 9:48

Greater Toronto Area

Sharon prepares for Gaza pullout — please see page 35

Canada

Zimbabwe Internship

TORONTO — Ve'ahavta: the Canadian Jewish Humanitarian & Relief Committee has extended the deadline to apply for its Zimbabwe internship to June 18. Offered in partnership with the Canadian International Development Agency, the 10-month position is open to post-secondary graduates aged 18 to 30 who are Canadian citizens or permanent residents and unemployed or underemployed. For details, visit www.veahavta.org, or call Sarah Zelcer at 416-964-7698, ext. 15.

World

*Passion*ate Beatification

NEW YORK — The Anti-Defamation League is upset about the Vatican's plans to beatify a nun whose visions inspired Mel Gibson's *The Passion*. The beatification – the last step before sainthood – of Anne Catherine Emmerich could harm interfaith relations, the ADL said in a statement. Some of the more controversial scenes in the film came from a book attributed to Emmerich, who lived from 1774 to 1824.

Herzl Honoured

PARIS — Paris' city council is naming a street or square after Theodor Herzl. A resolution on the matter was unanimously adopted by council last week. Herzl reported on the trial of Capt. Alfred Dreyfus from Paris, which led him to believe the only solution for the Jewish people was the creation of a Jewish state. Herzl wrote his utopian vision of a future Jewish state in a Paris hotel. Meanwhile, Budapest marked the 100th anniversary of Herzl's death last week at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. He was born in Budapest on May 2, 1860.

Libel Suit Dismissed

HOLLYWOOD, Fla. — A Jewish woman who sued Jews for Jesus for saying she was a follower of the group had her case dismissed last month on the grounds it's not defamatory to call someone a Christian or a believer in Jesus. Edith Rapp of Delray Beach, Fla., sued the missionary group late last year for $1 million (US) because it did not answer requests for an apology and retraction of a statement in its newsletter that said she tearfully accepted Jesus when her husband was dying.

Birthright Israel Gets 5-year Reprieve

JERUSALEM — Birthright Israel has pledged to continue the program for five more years.

The commitment was made official last week at a meeting in Israel of Birthright's steering committee, comprising Israeli government leaders, philanthropists and representatives of the North American Jewish federation system.

The program, which provides free trips to Israel for Diaspora youth, has suffered shortfalls in funding from the federation system and the Israeli government. It hopes to boost participation from 18,000 in 2004 to 20,000 in 2005.

Despite the length of the pledge, noted Robert Aronson, CEO of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit and the federation system's liaison to Birthright, funding operates on a "year-to-year basis."

Aronson said that "the federations have come up with a guarantee of funding for this year and next year," but the Israeli government's commitment for next year is still "up in the air."

Greens Pull Poster

BERLIN — The German Green Party withdrew a campaign poster with an anti-Israel slogan. A representative of the party, which is a partner in Germany's governing coalition, apologized to the Israeli ambassador for a European Parliament campaign poster with a photo of a London peace march featuring the banner "Victory to the Intifada."

Security Beefed Up

SYDNEY — Australia's main Jewish community is spending $13 million (Cdn) to beef up security against terrorist and anti-Semitic attacks. It has also hired 1,000 unarmed guards to protect Jewish sites and is meeting with police and intelligence agencies. Jeremy Jones, head of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, said hundreds of Jews will also act as observers for police. During the recent trial of Jack Roche, who admitted to a plot to bomb the Israeli Embassy, plans were revealed to attack Melbourne businessman Joseph Gutnick.

Murder Probe Sought

VILNIUS — The Simon Wiesenthal Center is calling for Lithuania to probe evidence about the participation of the country's basketball players in a wartime massacre of Jews. The centre protested after the Lithuanian prosecutor dismissed evidence last week the Perkunas team killed Jews as a prize for beating a German team in a July 1941 game.

Art Lawsuit OK'd

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that a California woman can sue Austria to recoup art stolen by the Nazis. The court ruled 6-3 last week that Americans can sue foreign countries for actions taken before U.S. laws restricting such lawsuits were passed. Maria Altmann, who fled Austria, sued the country to retrieve six paintings it displayed in the Austrian Gallery after the Nazis stole them, including two depicting her aunt. The ruling also could allow Holocaust survivors to sue European countries for their actions during that era.

Crackdown Promised

PARIS — France pledged to respond more firmly to anti-Semitic attacks as it released figures last week showing Jews were still attacked or threatened with violence at a rate of more than one case a day. The justice ministry registered 180 anti-Semitic acts from Jan. 1 to June 6 – 104 against property, 46 against people and 30 published anti-Jewish writings. The figures indicated a fall in anti-Semitic violence in France, which saw 588 attacks and threats against Jews last year and a high of 923 in 2002.

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March of the Living set to expand in 2005

Will mark 60th anniversary of liberation of Nazi concentration camps

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Every spring since 1988, as Jews around the world mark Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day), thousands of young people travel to Poland and then on to Israel as part of the March of the Living.

An average of 7,000 high-school students make the trip each year, but organizers have something special planned for 2005. To mark the 60th anniversary of the Allied victory in Europe and the liberation of the Nazi concentration camps, March of the Living coordinators have set their sights on bringing 18,000 people to Poland.

To attain that ambitious number, they are reaching out to Holocaust survivors, educators, older students and Christian friends of Israel, who they hope will sign on to the historic program.

David Machlis, international vice-chair of March of the Living, was in Toronto recently to promote the program to representatives of Jewish organizations and evangelical Christian groups.

His pitch: 2005 might well be the last opportunity to bring large numbers of survivors to Europe to bear witness to the Nazi barbarity that claimed six million Jewish lives.

At the same time, March of the Living is sending invitations to leaders such as Russian President Vladimir Putin, former New York mayor Rudolph Giuliani, and Polish and Israeli officials to take part in the auspicious anniversary, he said.

Organizers are hoping that as many as 1,000 survivors and their children will go to Poland, where their presence will inspire and educate younger participants, Machlis said.

The program is meaningful for both survivors and the young people who participate, said Eli Rubenstein, national director of March of the Living Canada and a member of the organization's international committee.

"We realize that, unfortunately, survivors don't live forever," he said. "We want to get as many survivors on the program as possible to say kaddish for their dead relatives."

For survivors, being in Auschwitz-Birkenau and seeing Jewish dignitaries such as the chief rabbi of Israel honoured, as occurred in past trips, while young people proudly fly Israeli flags, "gives them hope," he added.

For student participants, "there is no better or stronger lesson" than seeing "this horrific site through the eyes of a survivor." It also serves as a timely reminder of the consequences of anti-Semitism. "The message is, 'Look what happens when you let things go,'" Machlis said.

Machlis has been working for the past several months to expand March of the Living to include evangelical Protestant and Roman Catholic participants.

Recently, he and Abraham Hirchson, founder of March of the Living, were invited to a prayer breakfast for the well-being of the State of Israel sponsored by the Religious Roundtable, an umbrella group of evangelical organizations that met in Memphis, Tenn. Hirchson was invited to deliver one of two keynote addresses to the prayer meeting and took the opportunity to discuss next year's march.

March of the Living is currently in the process of reaching out to Catholic educators already involved in Holocaust education, and last month Machlis met with Eugene Fisher, director of inter-religious relations for the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Continued on page 16

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WE WISH OUR GRADUATING CLASS CONTINUED SUCCESS IN THEIR FUTURE EDUCATION

Greater Toronto Area

Our duty to know

From the editor's desk

One of the chief reasons for the pessimism that some people feel about the chances for coexistence in the near future between Israel and the Palestinians, indeed between Israel and its Muslim neighbours, is the recent, seemingly unrestrained proliferation in the Arab world of anti-Semitic expression.

Ron Rosenbaum, the renowned journalist and author, has carefully chronicled this very worrisome modern development in his new book *Those Who Forget: The Question of Anti-Semitism*.

In an interview with *The CJN* (see page 43) he succinctly characterized the situation by saying: "Hitlerism is alive and well in the Arab world."

As with all conditions of prejudice, bigotry and hatred, it is inappropriate to look to the victims, the objects of the prejudice, to implement strategies for ridding the haters of their hatred. Only the bearers of the bacillus of anti-Semitism, for example, can sufficiently change their ways and their attitudes so as to heal themselves of that age-old illness.

But the victims do have a duty to themselves and to society at large to be as informed as possible about the activities and the identities of the bearers of hatred. First and foremost, it is a matter of survival, but it is also a matter of working for the betterment of the world.

There are many agencies and organizations throughout the Jewish world that are the "antennae" of our community, picking up, recording and disseminating information about the purveyors of hatred.

One such organization is the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs. Based in Israel, the centre publishes monthly bulletins on a range of public policy issues affecting the Jewish world. (In this week's paper, *CJN* columnist Lawrence Hart also points to the work of the centre.)

In the June 1 issue of the centre's publication *Post-Holocaust and Anti-Semitism*, co-publisher Manfred Gerstenfeld records an interview with Joel Kotek, a political scientist at the Free University of Brussels, on the subject of Arab-inspired anti-Semitism.

Kotek has just written a landmark study on the anti-Semitic images that appear in the Arab world. Published in French, the title of the book translates as *"In the Name of Anti-Semitism: The Image of the Jews and Israel in Caricature Since the Second Intifadah."*

Kotek's book was based on 2½ years of research and examines about 2,000 sordid images. He categorized the cartoons he examined into 10 themes.

I reproduce Gerstenfeld's précis of those categories:

1. *The oldest anti-Semitic motif, demonization of the Jew.* In the Islamic world, the Jew's status – like that of Christians – is that of a *dhimmi*, a second-class citizen.

2. *Deicide.* Originally, a Christian motif, the Islamic world has appropriated the theme to engender sympathy among Christians. Israeli soldiers are often depicted as Roman soldiers in their confrontations with Palestinian children, who are made to suffer horribly in those depictions.

3. *Israel as a Nazi state.* This is based on two contradictory allegations, which Islamists try to reconcile: "that the Shoah never happened, but that if it did, it has caused more damage to the Palestinians because they are being treated worse than the Nazis treated the Jews."

4. *Zoomorphism.* It dehumanizes the Jews by turning them into animals, such as snakes, pigs and cockroaches.

5. *Masters of the world.* This echoes the classic conspiracy theme, that the Jews control the world.

6. *A corrupting force.* This is a derivative of the theme that Jews dominate the world with their money.

7. *Blood libel.* This too originates in Christian anti-Semitism. "In today's Arab world, this image of unbridled hatred has mutated into the alleged quest for Palestinian blood… There were so many of these cartoons that I could select only a few for my book. Blood-drinking Jews are frequently shown…"

8. *Infanticide.* "This is the most extreme image… the concept that the Jews not only murder, but preferably target children."

9. *Arabs want peace; Israel does not.* "Israel is a 'perfidious' country which does not want peace."

10. *Apologies for suicide bombers and terrorism.* These cartoons called for outright murder. I did not find a single [cartoon] depicting the Israeli as a civilian. He is always a soldier or an ultra-Orthodox Jew. He has no father, mother or child."

Among his conclusions, Kotek writes that the many aspersions against Israel have also begun to permeate Western European society, as they resonate with the long-standing prejudices against Jews there.

This is not pleasant reading; but it is vital that we know – for our own sake and for the world.

* * *

As readers will learn by reading his column in today's paper, this is Robert Sarner's last column as a regular contributor.

Robert has been a sharp-eyed, incisive observer of the ordinary rhythms, pressures, and paces of the hurly-burly, poignant, sweet and bitter existence we call Israeli life. We thank him for having shared his observations with us and wish him the very best of good luck in all his endeavours.

—MBD

SeeJN

SIDDUR PARTY:

The junior Grade 1 students of Or HaEmet Sephardic School enjoyed performing at their recent siddur party.

CCCJ forum members urge curbing of hatred

By CARA EDELL
CJN Intern

While the Canadian mosaic is recognized as being a model for the world, "recent events have proven that hatred is alive and well, even in this great country of ours," said Alan Schwartz, president of the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews (CCCJ), at a recent multi-faith forum.

"Newly released Statistics Canada data indicate that 43 per cent of hate crime in Canada is religion-based, with 25 per cent of hate crimes directed at Jews and 11 per cent at Muslims. This is just not acceptable and cannot be allowed to continue unchecked," he told guests, among them clerics representing the Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and Sikh religions.

Mayor David Miller, Minister of Multiculturalism Jean Augustine and Imam Syed Muhammad Rizvi of the Jaʻfari Islamic Centre spoke about the need to curb hatred and the role education plays in building a just and equitable society.

Imam Rizvi said, "We are going through a time which is indeed a time of test and trial for all religions and all nations."

Augustine warned of the danger of complacency. "I think all of us are here because we recognize that to do nothing is to do something. And to say nothing is to say something," she said. "In other words, to remain silent and indifferent is the greatest sin of all."

She said the Canadian government is concerned about racism, hate and discrimination, and public education is a key element of Canada's multicultural program.

Imam Rizvi added that the task of creating awareness of intolerance should start at the early stages of a child's upbringing and that school systems should be "more proactive on this issue."

Schwartz said the CCCJ is expanding its existing programs and developing new initiatives designed to expose young people to the values, traditions and customs of the religions that contribute to Toronto's diversity.

One of the council's vehicles for promoting "interfaith dialogue and understanding," said CCCJ national executive director Amanda Sherrington, is the Schools Interfaith Program.

Since the program's launch two years ago, nearly 10,000 student participants have visited Buddhist, Hindu and Sikh temples, churches, mosques and synagogues, and learned about native peoples' faiths at their community centres, she said.

Michal Gill, vice-principal of Jewish studies at United Synagogue Day School (USDS), Bathurst campus, told the guests at the forum that the program has given her students "the opportunity to broaden their horizons."

Bonnie Abramsky, a Grade 9 student at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, spoke at the forum about her experience with the schools program last year at USDS.

"Many times, our only understanding of others is what we see on TV or read in the newspaper," she said. "Many times, this information is not a true reflection.

"The Schools Interfaith Program has made me realize that we are all a branch on this tree of life. Whether it be a big branch or a small leaf, we all play a part in this world. It is programs like this that will allow us all to contribute more positively to the community around us."

At the forum, the CCCJ unveiled the new Schools Interfaith in Action Award, which will honour a student and the school he or she attends. It will recognize a student who has made "an outstanding effort to build community understanding and respect for others of different faiths and ethnic backgrounds," Sherrington said.

All students in the CCCJ's Schools Interfaith Program will be eligible for the award, which includes a crystal sculpture designed by Mark Raynes-Roberts and a cash prize.

ISRAEL DAY FESTIVAL: The 9th annual Israel Day festival, sponsored by Canadian Zionist Federation, was held at Mel Lastman Square on June 9. It included a live stage show with school choirs, dance groups, live bands and featured artists, plenty of food, an Israeli marketplace, a live auction and activities for children.

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Greater Toronto Area

AG consents to hate charges for anti-Semitic incidents

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Three teenagers charged in connection with a spate of anti-Semitic vandalism incidents in north Toronto earlier this year will face hate promotion charges in addition to charges of mischief.

Ontario Attorney General Michael Bryant said last week that he has "consented to the laying of wilful promotion of hatred charges against these individuals."

A hate crime "is one of the most serious crimes that we have in our criminal justice system," Bryant said.

The new charges carry a maximum sentence of two years in jail. The three young men, Steven Vandermay, 18, and two 15-year-olds who cannot be identified, also face charges of mischief causing damage in excess of $5,000 and mischief under $5,000. The first mischief charge carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison, the second, up to two years in jail.

Bryant noted that if the suspects are convicted on the mischief charges, the presiding judge could consider the hate motivation as an aggravating factor and increase the sentences.

The three were arrested on March 30 after a string of incidents that saw windows broken at the Pride of Israel synagogue, swastikas daubed on UJA street signs, damage at a Jewish school and 27 headstones toppled at the Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park Cemetery.

Earlier, several homes and cars in Vaughan, north of Toronto, were smeared with swastikas, while in subsequent incidents, cemeteries were vandalized in Brantford and Kitchener. No arrests have been made in the other cases.

At the time, political and religious leaders condemned the attacks and stood in solidarity with the Jewish community.

Canadian Jewish Congress welcomed the attorney-general's announcement.

"The bottom line is that while we were very gratified for the words of support from leaders at various rallies, this is putting words into action," said Len Rudner, director of community relations for Congress.

"These actions speak volumes to the seriousness that the government attaches to such hateful acts and the commitment of the government to ensure that Canada remains a place for all Canadians."

Concert honours disabled Israeli soldiers

By CARA EDELL
CJN Intern

For Israel's disabled veterans and victims of terror, the real battle begins after the war and never ends, said Shirley Solomon, MC of Beit Halochem Canada's recent *A Celebration of Life* concert.

The annual fundraising event, held June 3 at the Toronto Centre for the Arts, honoured these Israelis for paying a heavy price for their country's independence and survival.

It featured singer Michael Burgess, who entertained the audience of about 1,650 with songs from *Phantom of the Opera* and *Les Miserables*, as well as the Beit Halochem Wheelchair Dancers, the Zemmer Singers and stories of victims determined to return to "a normal way of life," said Toby Feldberg, president of Beit Halochem Canada.

"Our performance and soldiers exemplify a celebration of life," Feldberg said. "At tonight's concert, we will witness their triumph first hand."

The night was also an opportunity for Beit Halochem to thank volunteers and supporters for their contributions to a very worthy cause, she said.

"It is of utmost importance to remember that the need to raise funds is greater than ever. We must purchase necessary equipment in the Beit Halochem centres in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa and Nahariya. These centres provide the emotional and physical rehabilitation needed not only for the veterans, but also for their families," she said.

Therapy sessions, sport, cultural and art activities are some of the services the centres offer the more than 50,000 disabled Israeli war veterans, Feldberg said.

"Beit Halochem has dedicated itself to helping those who gave us the maximum they could give."

Beit Halochem Canada paid for 10 Israeli veterans to come share in the concert celebration. One of the veterans, Daniel Ben Shabat, thanked the organization and the volunteers who welcomed them into their houses for two weeks.

"The feeling of family does not end after the two weeks are up," he said. "We will always be willing to open our homes to you in Israel."

Some of the soldiers shared tales of rebuilding their lives after crippling injuries, saying the key has been finding joy through hardship.

"In spite of everything, life is still so very beautiful," said Maytal Wax, a young woman whose leg was shattered in a terror attack in Jerusalem.

Sheri Ben Aroya, a former intelligence soldier, was badly injured in the 2002 Passover terror attack on the Park Hotel in Netanya. She suffered major head injuries, lost sight in her right eye, developed chronic nasal problems and lost the use of her right arm and leg.

Two years later, having re-learned to speak and walk, she said, "Before my injuries, I would smile at 50 per cent. Now I smile at 100 per cent."

Shlomo Pinto, paralyzed from the waist down since the Yom Kippur War, was recognized for his motivation to live life to its fullest. Through vigorous training, Pinto became a sports hero in Israel and has won many gold medals in the Paralympic Games for swimming.

Andre Pak, a former sergeant who served in the Border Watch Unit, received a medal for his bravery. During a terror attack on an Israeli bus, Pak ran to rescue his commander, but was shot and injured. He is now paralyzed and confined to a wheelchair.

Beit Halochem's wheelchair dancers, known in Hebrew as Hora Galgalim, gave a number of upbeat performances. Paired with able-bodied partners, they showcased a unique style of folk-dancing to the music of Carmela Cabara and Osnat Zeno, the Zemmer Singers duo.

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Our sages would be proud

Though quite familiar with the constant rigours and hardships of "ordinary" daily life, our ancient sages nevertheless required a great deal of their people. First and foremost, always, was the obligation to be responsible one for the other, to pay heed to and be concerned for the condition of their neighbours.

They encouraged their co-religionists to be involved in the life of the community. In stronger terms, they enjoined the people never to separate themselves from trying to respond to the needs of the wider public. In effect, more than 2,000 years ago, our wise and compassionate sages established the formula for Jewish communal life wherever Jews would live throughout the ensuing ages.

That formula has been the operative instruction for Jewish communities around the world and their lay and professional leaders to this very day. In Canada, the most storied, most loyal practitioner of that formula has been the Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC). For 85 years, the CJC has had one single, recurring beat coursing strength and purpose through its heart: the wellbeing of fellow Jews. To be sure, over the years, as the community matured, so too did the CJC's mandate to include the wellbeing of Canadian society at large. But no organization historically has been more intertwined with the wellbeing of the Jews of Canada than the CJC.

Last week in Ottawa, the CJC convened for its 27th plenary assembly. Although unavoidably truncated due to the intervention of the federal election, the gathering still managed to focus a laser-sharp spotlight on two key issues: global anti-Semitism, and combating the threat of terrorism to collective and individual security.

But if we did not comment on the plenary's other key business, the official transition of the CJC leadership from Keith Landy to Ed Morgan, we would fail our sages by breaching another of their important operational instructions: always acknowledge the good that others do for you.

Both men are avatars of integrity and distinction, broad-shouldered bearers of the burdens of responsibility, keen students of our sages' teachings and worthy "inheritors" of past CJC presidents such as Sam Bronfman, Rabbi Gunther Plaut, Irving Abella and Irwin Cotler.

These past 3½ years have not been easy ones for the Jews of Canada, nor have they been for Jews around the world. In response to heightened anxieties – at home and abroad – Jewish advocacy in Canada has undergone deep organizational restructuring. The CJC is now part of the wider Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy (CIJA) umbrella. Landy was called upon to integrate CJC into CIJA. Now, with a refined mandate and anticipated new resources from CIJA, it falls to Morgan to build upon CJC's acknowledged strengths – its grassroots, national, representative, 85-year base of experience, goodwill and expertise – to burnish CJC's historic mission within the remodelled CIJA framework.

Our sages would be proud. And so should we.

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Anti-Liberal ad misleading

I would like to respond to the statements made in the advertisement in *The Canadian Jewish News*, June 10, signed by Robert Landau, which are disingenuous and misleading in their claims that Canada has provided no assistance to Israel and some $215 million in assistance to the Palestinians over the last 10 years.

First, Israel, as a developed country, is not eligible to receive foreign aid. However, annual trade between Canada and Israel under the Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement alone amounts to almost $800 million. This is in addition to the benefits Israel receives under the Canada-Israel Co-operation in Scientific, Academic and Cultural Matters Program and the Canada-Israel Legal Co-operation Program (all initiatives of the Liberal government).

Second, the humanitarian assistance provided by Canada to the Palestinians does not go through the Palestinian Authority, but through accredited international agencies such as the World Bank, and it is monitored accordingly. An accounting of the monies given is required so as to guard against misappropriation.

Israel also provides assistance to the Palestinians and has itself requested that Canada do so. Indeed, the Israeli government has characterized the relationship between itself and Canada as "excellent" and has described Canada as "one of Israel's best friends."

Furthermore, "respect for the security, well-being and legitimacy of the State of Israel" has been described as "a cornerstone of Canadian foreign policy," and Canada considers all acts of terror, from whatever source and for whatever purpose, as contrary to both Canadian and international law. Also, Canada has maintained Israel's right, like that of any other state, to self-defence against acts of terror.

It is highly inaccurate and irresponsible to suggest that the Liberal government is anything but a friend of the State of Israel.

Marc Leiter, Campaign Chair
Committee to Re-elect Irwin Cotler
Montreal

* * *

Important human rights issue

In 1999, the UN human rights committee found that Canada was violating the cornerstone human rights treaty that it had agreed (with the consent of all provinces) to uphold. Canada was in breach by fully funding the faith-based education of more than 600,000 Catholic children while providing nothing for the faith-based education of other religions. It is Canada, and not Ontario, that has the international obligation to remedy this discrimination.

The Liberal government, with Paul Martin as finance minister, flatly refused to take steps within its power, most notably implementing tax credits, to remedy this illegal discrimination in the face of Ontario's refusal at the time to address the issue.

Are there issues of greater importance to the Canadian Jewish community than remedying state-sponsored discrimination against Jews and other minorities and preserving Jewish continuity by ensuring affordable access to Jewish education?

Discrimination against religious minorities in open violation of international law is not just an issue of importance for the families affected, who bear a heavy and unnecessary burden of tuition. It is an affront to our entire community, and every Canadian who opposes discrimination.

Aaron Blumenfeld, Ira Walfish, Co-Presidents
Ontario Association of Jewish Day Schools

* * *

Criticizes Hazineh statement

While Sheldon Kirshner captured very well the ambience and the content of the positions articulated by Ami Ayalon and Sari Nusseibeh, co-founders of The People's Voice Initiative, in their recent presentation at Holy Blossom ("Peace is possible: former Shin Bet head," *CJN*, May 13), there was important information that was not reported.

During the opening portion of the evening, Joan Garson of ARZA, the Zionist arm of Reform Judaism, introduced the issues and spoke positively of the need for peace and the possibilities of a two-state solution for Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

Sadly, this was not reciprocated by Elias Hazineh, president of Palestine House and a co-sponsor of this event. Hazineh made it clear that while Palestine House was a co-sponsor, it did not accept Nusseibeh and Ayalon's position that if there were a two-state solution, displaced Palestinians could only return to a newly created Palestinian state. Indeed Hazineh stated that in his opinion, these Palestinians had an automatic "right of return" to the State of Israel.

Such a statement at an event that was trying to bridge the gap between Palestinians and Jews is counterproductive to peace. Those who espouse a so-called "right of return" for displaced Palestinians to the Jewish state in fact deny the possibility of a two-state solution. More to the point, they are telling our community that their ultimate aim is the dismemberment of the Jewish state. What this sadly demonstrates is that while moderate Palestinians like Nusseibeh look for options to peace, mainstream Canadian Palestinian organizations such as Palestine House reject such moderation and overtures. Hardly a way to construct a bridge of peace between our communities.

Bernie M. Farber, Executive Director
Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario Region
Toronto

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The Rebbe's legacy, 10 years on

By RABBI Z. AHRON GROSSBAUM

All of us go through life with the challenge of making every day count and each act meaningful. Regrettably, all too often, the days roll over one after the other with little distinction, and soon enough we find ourselves celebrating another birthday. Consequently, when the opportunity for introspection presents itself, we search for intermittent points of reference to help us create a mental diary – events of global proportion that stimulate every human fibre and remain etched in our mind forever.

The third day of Tammuz, ten years ago, was just such a day. Indeed, it fell on the very day when the sun's orbit was temporarily suspended so that Joshua could lead the Jews, in broad daylight, into the Promised Land. But this time, at this juncture in history, global Jewish life experienced a tremor. The heavens opened and welcomed the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Schneerson of blessed memory. Jews everywhere, while mourning the loss of the most outstanding leader of world Jewry, shared their pessimistic view as to the future of Chabad Chassidism. They questioned the staying power of thousands of individual followers and the continuity of the worldwide network of outreach branches he established.

Indeed, while acknowledging the Rebbe's brilliant mind, global vision, and immutable spirit, intellectuals, leaders and journalists painted a bleak picture. They could not fathom how such an enormous structure that extended its reach to the four corners of the world but was anchored by the charismatic leadership of one person – the Rebbe – could possibly continue. In fact, the only variable among the naysayers was the time remaining on the Rebbe's watch. They asked, "How could a system that reached out to Jews everywhere and bridged Jews of the West with those of the East, built Torah institutions where Sephardi and Ashkenazi students studied side by side, and established a presence against all odds in remote communities, continue unabated?" Indeed, from a sociological perspective, the odds were not favourable and without precedent.

Yes, as we commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Rebbe's passing, it's time for reflection. But first, let us consider the facts on the ground.

During the last decade, Chabad has opened numerous day schools, high schools and yeshivot around the world. Chabad Houses have sprung up at some 30 campuses across the country, and magnificent Chabad synagogue centres grace the landscape in cities that just a few years ago were bereft of any organized Jewish presence. These facilities are manned by literally hundreds of newlyweds who have graciously elected to serve as shluchim and bring the light and warmth of Yiddishkeit to fledgling Jewish communities, be they in Athens, Ga., Akron, Ohio, or Anchorage, Alaska. In fact, as time marches on, these young and brave assume remote postings that just a few years ago would have been considered beyond the pale, bringing new meaning to the Rebbe's call of "*Ufaratzta*" – "And you shall spread forth."

Rabbi Menachem Schneerson

> 'How could a system that reached out to Jews everywhere and bridged Jews of the West with those of the East, built Torah institutions where Sephardi and Ashkenazi students studied side by side, and established a presence against all odds in remote communities, continue unabated?'

Drawing on the Rebbe's teaching and inspiration, all forms of communication technology have been employed to enable hundreds of thousands to become knowledgeable about our rich heritage and to enhance their level of observance.

Yes, even today, individuals and families continue to study the scholarly works of the Rebbe, embrace the ideas and ideals that he expounded and consider themselves his Chassidim, notwithstanding the fact they never had an opportunity to interact in some tangible way with the Rebbe.

What is the secret formula that has proven so potent to not only retain the bond but to actually create and then nurture a genuine relationship between Rebbe and Chassid?

In the painful hours and days after the Rebbe's passing, each Chassid engaged in heart-wrenching introspection, examining the depth of his heart and soul. He soon came to the realization that his love for, and affinity with, the Rebbe was immutable. It reached beyond the joy of the Rebbe's brilliance, wholehearted concern and selfless devotion. The Rebbe's unconditional acceptance of every person penetrated the innermost recesses of the soul, forming a bond that transcended all physical limitations. In summation, each and every Chassid resolved to maintain this spiritual link with newfound resilience.

These sentiments mirror the philosophical teachings penned by Rabbi Schneer Zalman in a letter offering condolences to the disciples of Rabbi Menachem Mendle of Vitebsk. He writes that the lives of the truly righteous are not of a conventional nature, constrained and subjected to corporeal needs, but are dedicated exclusively to Divine service. The soul rules supreme and the body serves merely as a tool to fulfill the will of God. Throughout their lifetime, the righteous few are the embodiment of an all-embracing love for God, an absolute sense of awe, and they personify perfect faith. These lofty attributes, being exclusively of a spiritual nature, cannot be contained by the bodily "vessel," nor restricted by the limitations of time and space imposed on all physical matter. Thus they permeate the environment with an aura of holiness that continues to hover over their followers even after the tzaddik's passing. All that remains for one to do is link mind to mind, heart to heart, and soul to soul.

Indeed, like all chassidic thought, this too, finds its origin in Torah, Talmud and the philosophical treatises of medieval Jewish scholars. The common theme in all is that there is life that the eye cannot see but the heart feels, that there is communication between one soul and another. The challenge remains to always be cognizant of this fusion and make sure that it stays embedded in our psyche.

Today, 10 years after the Rebbe's passing, is an appropriate time to re-examine our status and stature. Whether one considers himself a disciple, supporter or friend, some soul-searching is warranted. Let us rededicate ourselves to the sacred mission set in motion over the course of five decades – the ideas and ideals of the Rebbe. Indeed, if we serve as the head, hands and feet of the Rebbe, we can rest assured that the Rebbe will serve as our soul. Together we can perfect the world and then, very soon, greet Mashiach.

Rabbi Grossbaum has been the Rebbe's shaliach to Toronto for the last 30 years. He heads the network of Chabad institutions throughout Southern Ontario.

Opinions

The new anti-Semitism

A particularly noxious letter to the editor was published in the *Hamilton Spectator* recently under the heading "Gaza ghetto: shame on Israel and on the world's bystanders." The letter writer focused principally on the wounding of a member of his extended family by stray bullets that were allegedly fired during the recent IDF operation in Rafah.

Lawrence Hart in Hamilton

However, without mentioning who was in fact responsible for causing injury to his "grandchildren's other grandma," he then frames his grievances within a scathing attack on Israel, referring to it as a "rogue state" that has created in Gaza "a prison patrolled on all sides by the occupying army of Israel, a largely Jewish state."

In his concluding paragraph, he chastises everyone for "allowing the continuing abuse and attempted genocide of the Palestinian people." And "shame," he says, "on Israel," for "inflicting the same crimes against humanity that the world so justly condemned when such actions were inflicted on European Jews."

If such invective was new or surprising, this letter might have seemed that much more appalling. Sadly, however, we are seeing an ever increasing, and mostly uncontested, outpouring of ugly revisionism that has now begun to permeate even relatively moderate political discourse.

When referring to some of the terminology that underpins this sort of dialect, Joel Fishman, an associate of the Jerusalem Institute for Public Affairs, has elegantly stated in a recent issue of *Jerusalem Viewpoints* that such language "generally contains accusations and embodies a propaganda technique known as the 'reversal of culpability,' which imposes a false historical analogy on the present. Thus, Goliath becomes David and David becomes Goliath. The most widespread use of this technique applies to the accusation of 'genocide,' which carries the fraudulent assertion that Israel is doing to the Palestinians what the Nazis did to the Jews."

Such "nazification" of Israel and the Jewish people is quintessential Holocaust inversion that, in the words of columnist Melanie Phillips in *The Spectator*, March 22, 2003, serves to systematically delegitimize and dehumanize Israel and Jews – as a necessary prelude to their destruction.

Phillips also refers to anti-Semitism's tendency to mutate. "Now," she says, "it has changed again, into a shape which requires a new way of thinking and a new vocabulary."

Given this dire reality, our community needs to use all of its available resources to bring the threat of this new thinking and this new vocabulary to wider public attention. Governments and media – particularly those on the left of the political spectrum – need to understand that failing to take prompt action against all manifestations of this new anti-Semitism might be just the catalyst for further assaults on Jews and Jewish interests, both in Israel and beyond its borders.

On the move, again

A few days ago, as I rode my bike to work, I ran into a lizard. Not literally, but almost. Although I was going at a fair speed, it fortunately managed to scurry off to the side just in time. This was not my first such encounter.

Robert Sarner in Jerusalem

Over the years, I have often spotted chameleons while travelling through Jerusalem on my bike. My route to work takes me along the city's lone bike path, which is also frequented by local lizards.

It's only since moving to Israel that I discovered real, live urban lizards. I don't remember ever seeing such reptiles in a city setting when I lived in Canada, France and Switzerland. In Israel, tradition has it that coming across a lizard brings good luck.

As a longtime resident of Jerusalem, I am no longer surprised by the sight of these wily creatures. But this time, my reaction was different. This time, I flashed on the realization that pretty soon I would no longer be running into lizards.

Such thoughts have been recurring with increasing frequency since my wife and I decided to leave Israel. Early this summer, with mixed feelings and a certain trepidation, we will be moving to Canada with our three children.

For me, taking leave of Israel is loaded with all kinds of thoughts and emotions. Most of them have nothing to do with lizards or other forms of wildlife. When you are as attached and devoted to Israel as I am, when Israel is so much a part of you, you don't leave it easily. Such a move is anything but casual.

Many factors, both personal and professional, entered into our decision – from a desire for change and new challenges, to providing a different horizon for our children free of the constant threat of terrorism, to wanting to recharge our professional batteries and reconnect with relatives, old friends and former colleagues, among other reasons. My wife and I feel it will all add up to a highly positive, constructive experience for us as a family and as individuals.

We are looking forward to an invigorating change. We are not looking forward to being away from Israel. We know we will miss it terribly. We know that ultimately we will be back.

A quarter-century after leaving Canada to live in France, 14 years after leaving Paris for Israel, I am again on the move. Next week, I will be trading Jerusalem for Toronto as part of a major new chapter in my life and the life of my family.

Next month, for the first time in 6½ years, I will not be writing my regular column for *The Canadian Jewish News*. For me, it's the end of an era in more ways than one. Every four weeks since late 1997, I have had a regular rendezvous on this page with *CJN* readers.

To write from Jerusalem is to have one of the most compelling datelines in modern journalism. To have a regular column in which you alone choose what you write about is to have a cherished position in any publication.

All told, it's been a wonderful journey. Through more than 80 columns and some 60,000 words, I've tried to explore aspects of Israel and to share slices of my life in Jerusalem with readers far removed, at least physically, from the Middle East.

I couldn't sign off this final column without paying tribute to the editorial staff of the CJN. Particularly to the copy editors whose attentive work enhanced my writing and made me look better on the page.

I owe a special thanks to Mordechai Ben-Dat, editor of *The CJN*. He contacted me in the fall of 1997 while visiting Israel to propose that I do a regular column from Jerusalem. I will be forever glad that he did, and thankful for his support through the years.

Lastly, I want to thank you, the readers of *The CJN*, many of whom have written to me over the years in response to something in my column. Whether critical or laudatory, I've appreciated hearing from all of you.

It has been a pleasure for me to be a columnist in *The CJN*. I look forward to the next time I will be reporting in these pages on the road ahead, with or without lizards. Until we meet again, in print or elsewhere.

Readers can contact Robert Sarner at rsarner@netvision.net.il.

Olympic truce? How about 16 hate-free days

In the glory days of Athens and Sparta, the period of the Olympic games was accompanied by a temporary halt in the various wars that were raging at the time throughout the Greek empire. According to historians, the pause in pan-Hellenic fighting lasted for 16 days while athletes and spectators were ensured a safe passage to the site of the events and back home again.

Gerald Steinberg in Jerusalem

Now, as the modern Olympics return to Athens, where they began in 1896, proposals have been floated to revive this concept, in the form of a worldwide truce. According to George Papandreou, the former Greek foreign minister who is vice-chairman of the International Olympic Truce Center, "If we can have peace for 16 days, then maybe, just maybe, we can have it forever".

But like so many other well-intentioned proposals, it is difficult to avoid seeing the Olympic truce effort as another hopeful, but entirely unrealistic, effort to avoid the bitter reality of the wars and violence, particularly in the Middle East. Surely Al Qaeda terrorists and other armed groups in Iraq, Afghanistan, Indonesia and elsewhere cannot be expected to take these idealistic (some would say naïve) ideas seriously. The universalist concepts of co-operation and friendly competition that are trumpeted in the Olympic Games have little resonance in a lexicon based on jihad and hatred.

For Israelis, while the concept of an Olympic truce might have been embraced with hope at one time, almost four years of Palestinian terror attacks have destroyed such optimism, at least for the short term. On many occasions, we listened to Palestinian rhetoric about a possible "ceasefire" (a surrealistic term in a war conducted by suicide bombers), and there were a number of rounds of negotiations and even some paper agreements with American officials, but Arafat's war continued without pause.

In their internal discussions, Palestinian factions spoke about a "hudna" – a temporary halt in the fighting until they could restock and rebuild for the next round. And in his speeches, Arafat, the president of the Palestinian Authority, recalled the Hudibiyya precedent, found in the Qur'an, in which Mohammed followed precisely this strategy while his forces were still relatively weak. Given this background, proposals for an Olympic truce – unsupervised and unenforced – are unlikely to be taken seriously in Israel, knowing that it will probably be used to prepare for the next and expanded round of violence and murder.

But instead of dismissing the idea, the idealism and hope that it reflects can be channelled into a more useful and realistic approach. The terrorist campaigns and ethno-national wars from the jungles of South America to Pakistan and North Korea are built on foundations of incitement and hatred. In the Palestinian context, as Itamar Marcus, director of Palestinian Media Watch, has documented, this venomous incitement includes sermons delivered in mosques, as well as television shows and music directed at children that glorify "martyrdom" and demonize Israelis and Jews. Such propaganda is also common in Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries, and includes productions of the notorious anti-Semitic forgery *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*.

In this context, an Olympic truce aimed at halting such poison and lethal propaganda for at least 16 days would be major accomplishment. Indeed, this is a goal that Papandreou – who made a tremendous contribution to historic reconciliation between Greece and Turkey – along with the other members of the Olympic truce movement, should embrace. If political officials, journalists and religious leaders can be persuaded to stop the rhetoric of hatred for this period, it would provide an important and optimistic path for the future. And, going further, this Olympic truce could include support for positive messages of acceptance and co-operation.

This proposal is, admittedly, wildly optimistic, but if we are already indulging ourselves in naïve ideas, this one is at least worth a try.

If Palestinian and Israeli children and their parents see images of mutual tolerance instead of the steady diet of demonization, even for 16 days, it might give some people pause before returning to the pro-jihad jingles and recruiting songs for child suicide bombers when the truce ends.

The Kirshner File

Gaza withdrawal plan has been launched

The recent decision by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's cabinet to sanction in theory a unilateral withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank – Israel's most important diplomatic initiative since Sharon won office in 2001 – could be a historic turning point.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

By agreeing in principle to evacuate Gaza, captured in the 1967 Six Day War, the government belatedly recognized that Israel's security interests are not necessarily synonymous with the retention of territories heavily populated by Palestinian Arabs. But the momentous decision, taken on the 22nd anniversary of Israel's ill-fated invasion of Lebanon, did not quite meet Sharon's expectations. He had hoped to make a clean, irrevocable break with Gaza, home to 1.3 million Palestinians and 7,500 Jewish settlers.

Sharon sought an unambiguous vote of confidence for his disengagement plan, which calls for the evacuation of all 21 settlements in Gaza and four in the northern West Bank. But he quickly learned he had underestimated his opponents yet again. What he got instead was a bland, noncommital undertaking to review the issue in about eight months. He should have known better. On May 2, the Likud party's central committee rejected his original proposal, thereby demonstrating its aversion to the idea of territorial compromise.

Undeterred by Likud's recalcitrance, Sharon pushed ahead, unveiling a scenario under which the settlements in Gaza and the West Bank would be removed in four distinct stages, subject to strict cabinet approval. First to go in Gaza would be Netzarim, Morag and Kfar Darom, followed by the West Bank outposts of Homesh, Ganim, Kadim and Sanur. During the third and fourth phases, the Gush Katif bloc and three settlements in the northern Gaza – Dugit, Alie Sinai and Nissanit – would be relinquished

Sharon's plan initially failed to impress four influential ministers: Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom, Education Minister Limor Livnat and Agriculture Minister Yisrael Katz. Being one vote short of a majority, Sharon had no alternative but to water down his plan and wait another week before taking it to the cabinet on June 6.

Even then, Sharon faced a major hurdle. Two far-right parties in his coalition government, the National Union and the National Religious Party, both of which virtually equate territorial concessions with treason, balked. Having threatened to fire unco-operative ministers, Sharon made good on his promise by firing Transportation Minister Avigdor Lieberman and Tourism Minister Benny Elon of the National Union, the most extreme party in the coalition.

These dismissals, though, had no discernible effect on ministers deadset against withdrawals. Like the settlers, they claimed that vacating Gaza would be tantamount to rewarding Palestinian terrorism. Their rationale was disingenuous, given their ideological desire to retain the territories at all costs. Cognizant of their unwavering views, and amenable to a compromise solution brokered by the minister-without-portfolio, Tzipi Livni, Sharon presented a diluted version of his plan that, essentially, postpones a final reckoning.

The pivotal principle of withdrawal has thus been enshrined, but the cabinet will not discuss an actual pullout again until next February. In the interval, Sharon can prepare the logistics of the mooted withdrawals and build domestic and international support for them. By opting for a compromise, he saved himself the trouble of cobbling together a new cabinet, dissolving the government or calling fresh elections.

Ariel Sharon

Rightly or wrongly, Sharon is confident his plan will eventually become official policy. "By the end of 2005, there will not be one Jew remaining in the Gaza Strip," he declared. Sharon's definitive remark led to the resignations of two hardline ministers, Effi Eitam and Yitzhak Levy, last week.

Sharon's determination to see his plan through – U.S. President George W. Bush has described it as "a courageous and historic step"– stems from a belief that, for political, military, economic and demographic reasons, Israel has no compelling reason to stay in Gaza any longer than is absolutely necessary.

His willingness to relinquish Gaza is directly related to his calculation that, in return, he can maintain a firm grip on settlement clusters in the West Bank. Two months ago, in a groundbreaking letter to Sharon, Bush conferred U.S. legitimacy on Sharon's long-term strategic objective. But Washington's support – which has been denounced by Palestinians and in the Arab world – hinges on a full Israeli pullout from Gaza, as Bush's national security advisor, Condoleeza Rice, said recently.

Although Eitam, the former housing minister, lambasted Sharon's proposed withdrawal as "one of the darkest and most terrible decisions" in Israel's history, six out of 10 Israelis appear to back the plan, and Eitam's sentiments are the preserve of a zealous minority basically out of touch with realities.

Sharon – the architect of the Gaza settlements and the man who once said that "every settlement is critical for our defence" – knows the country is behind him and is weary of the violence that has consumed Israel since the eruption of the intifadah nearly four years ago.

Israelis have shown resilience in the face of suicide bombings and roadside attacks. Yet the fighting, which has claimed the lives of nearly 1,000 Israelis and many more Palestinians, has battered the economy, blackened Israel's image abroad and elicited demands for fundamental change. Most Israelis perceive Gaza as a burden to be jettisoned and Sharon's plan as a pathway to a possible resumption of talks with the Palestinians.

Last month, 150,000 Israelis gathered in Tel Aviv's Rabin Square to support the concept of a withdrawal from Gaza. One can safely assume that some of the protesters prefer a negotiated withdrawal to a unilateral pullout as the smartest way of disengaging from the Palestinians in Gaza. Sharon prefers a unilateral approach because he does not regard Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat as a credible or reliable partner.

For Sharon, a withdrawal from Gaza is also crucial because, if the status quo prevails, Israel may be forced to cede far more territory in the West Bank should an international consensus on the issue materialize. And on a purely visceral level, Israelis want to get out of Gaza because it is like southern Lebanon prior to May 2000 – a deathtrap for Israeli troops. Last month, within the space of a few days, 13 soldiers were killed in three separate ambushes in Gaza. In the aftermath of the first incident, Palestinian gunmen ghoulishly displayed the body parts of some of the victims.

The jolting death toll, as well as the morbid exhibitionism of the Palestinians flaunting the remains, was eerily reminiscent of a seminal 1997 ambush in Lebanon in which 12 Israeli commandos were killed in a single ambush and their body parts gleefully brandished in front of reporters.

In response to its most recent casualties in Gaza, Israel launched Operation Rainbow. Lasting six days and touching off two smaller incursions, it was Israel's biggest armoured thrust into Gaza since the 1967 Six Day War. Apart from the obvious element of revenge, the broad purpose of Operation Rainbow was threefold: to uncover arms-smuggling tunnels, demolish buildings Palestinian guerrillas had used as cover when firing on Israeli soldiers and restore the deterrent power of the Israeli army.

More to the point, Israel unleashed Operation Rainbow after learning that a large delivery of Katyushas, anti-tank rockets, rocket-propelled grenades and perhaps even shoulder-launched anti-aircraft missiles – a strategic threat to Israeli commercial aircraft – were to be smuggled into Rafah from Egypt via tunnels. Since the start of the Palestinian uprising, Israel has found some 90 tunnels. The Palestinians began building them after discovering they could not smuggle weapons past the well-guarded security fence encircling Gaza.

In concrete terms, Israel's accomplishments in Operation Rainbow – which caused the deaths of more than 40 Palestinians and aroused widespread condemnation – were apparently quite modest. Israel destroyed only two tunnels, but left the telling impression that more punishing raids can be expected if Palestinian terrorism flares up after an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza.

To forestall that possibility, Israel intends to adopt a variety of measures – from widening the so-called Philadelphia road between Gaza and Egypt to maintaining control over border passages into Gaza.

At Israel's request, Egypt has all but agreed to train a Palestinian security force and deploy forces along its frontier with Gaza. More importantly, Egypt has reportedly promised to staunch the flow of weapons and munitions into Gaza.

Terrorists may indeed try to wreak havoc on Israel after its withdrawal from Gaza. But if that happens, Israel will occupy the high moral ground and will be at complete liberty to retaliate without worrying about the political fallout.

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Jewish Life

A guided tour of evolution

***Evolution* by Edward J. Larson, Random House, $29.95.**

In the 16th century, Copernicus and Galileo moved the Earth from the centre of the solar system. By so doing, they invoked the wrath of the Church, because they had removed man from the centre of the universe.

Darwinism, in the 19th century, seemed even worse. Evolution not only denied the literal interpretation of Genesis, it also questioned the uniqueness of man.

Darwin's 1859 *Origin of Species* remains the most controversial book in scientific history. Even if the Church would not burn him, it could not ignore him.

Books

Bernard Baskin

On reading the book, the wife of the Bishop of Worcester had appealed to heaven: "Let us hope it is not true, but if it is, let us pray that it does not become generally known!" The good lady's pious plea was not answered. The battles started within months of the book's publication.

The anti-evolutionists argued that man is too important to have been a chance descendant of a one-celled ancestor – he could only have been personally created by God. The objections to evolution were also predicated on the existence of an entity called the soul, which is presumed to be man's unique possession.

Despite challenges – and even differences among scientists about technical aspects of evolution – the theory is now one of the pillars of modern science.

However, half the population of the United States remains unconvinced of the validity of the theory of evolution.

Religious fundamentalists litigate for the right to teach "Creation Science" alongside evolution in U.S. public schools.

And recently, President George W. Bush stated his belief that the jury is still out on evolution.

Some religionists have found a way to reconcile their faith with evolution, by making God the initiator and guide of the entire process of evolution.

Recently, Carl Feit, an Orthodox rabbi and professor of health sciences at Yeshiva University, came to the conclusion that "after 100 years of the most intense analysis, debate and critical testing, the theory of evolution still stands as the central pillar of modern biology. It provides a way of explaining and predicting scientific results as any good theory should, with thousands of facts as its empirical base."

Feit believes that as Creator, God is acting more like a sculptor than a carpenter. Detail is drawn out of chaos in a continuous process of refinement, making finer and finer distinctions. "From this perspective, there is no longer any conflict between the biblical account of creation and the evolutionary theory."

An earlier thinker who accepted evolution was the British chief rabbi, Dr. J. H. Hertz (1872-1946). He argued that in the face of the great diversity of views among earlier Jewish teachers on how the creation narrative in Genesis is to be interpreted, there is inherently nothing un-Jewish in the evolutionary view of the origin and growth of forms of existence from the simple to the complex and from the lowest to the highest.

Jean Baptiste de Lamarck, a respected French scientist (1744-1829), believed, as did many, in the inheritance of acquired characteristics. Consider giraffes: De Lamarck would say that the evolution of the giraffe's long neck was due to the striving of each individual giraffe to reach the leaves on the trees. The efforts of a given giraffe led to a lengthening of its neck, and this acquired characteristic was passed on to its offspring.

Darwin's explanation is completely different. He held that in every generation of giraffes there were those that had longer necks than average because they were genetically favoured in this respect. Since they had a better chance to feed well on the trees, over the generations, the longer-necked giraffes survived better and passed on their favourable genes to the next generation.

In his lively work, *Evolution*, Edward J. Larson takes the reader on a guided tour of evolution, from its theoretical antecedents in the early 19th century to the brilliant breakthroughs of Darwin and Wallace, and from the stunning discovery of the DNA double helix to the rise of socio-biology today.

This is a rich, readable and compelling work.

An immigrant's diary

By VIVI GORDON

Guest Voice

I will never forget the day I came to Canada, arriving at the airport with two big suitcases and a fast-beating heart, looking forward to the beginning of a completely new life.

I got here with a heart full of expectations, illusions and goals. And, of course, fear, due to the uncertainty of the future.

I will never forget that day, March 17, 2004, when I became a landed immigrant, a day I had dreamed of for such a long time.

A million ideas crossed my mind while I pondered the direction I should follow. I had tasks to accomplish, including finding a place to live and getting a job, as well as making friends.

Right now, my main concern is obtaining a job. Whenever I look at my bank account and realize how fast it is getting closer to zero, I panic.

As soon as I arrived, I started looking for a job. I went to various agencies whose aim is to help new immigrants get settled and established in Canada.

I was given an enormous amount of information – the information available can become overwhelming – and I was given the opportunity to attend numerous workshops to learn how to write a resumé, how to handle job interviews and how to network.

One of the most frequent suggestions I was given was that I should volunteer. By volunteering, I would kill two birds with one stone: I would gain the much-needed "Canadian experience" and I would meet people related to my profession.

Some organizations offered me a two- or three-week-long job-hunting workshop. I was told that after finishing it they would place me in a full-time volunteer position in my field for three or four months so that I could obtain Canadian experience.

However, these organizations did not guarantee that a volunteer position would eventually lead to a paid job. Whenever I asked them how was I supposed to support myself in the meantime, I would receive a reply such as "I see your point..." and nothing more.

Nevertheless, I am now volunteering for an organization twice a week. I am very happy with this opportunity because I greatly enjoy my job, I am frequently learning new tasks and I meet interesting people.

People at the agencies helping me with job-hunting say that networking – trying to increase the circle of people you meet – improves your chances of finding a job. For that reason, I am working on expanding my contacts and getting to know as many people as possible.

I have volunteered at the Jewish Film Festival and I have made commitments to at least three other events, as volunteering is an excellent way to get involved in the community and meet people.

Even though volunteering and networking are the most valuable tools in obtaining a job, I am using other strategies, as well.

For example, I check Internet websites on which jobs are posted and I have distributed my resumé to shops and restaurants.

However, the question of how I am going to finance myself and pay my bills remains unanswered.

The process of getting established takes quite a long time and I am still coping with many aspects of it. I hope that my sharing this story gives you a glimpse of the difficulties immigrants face during their first months in Canada.

Canada is a labyrinth of possibilities for me. The opportunities exist; I know they do. However, reaching those opportunities seems to be as hard as finding the way out of the maze. I keep knocking on doors, but none has fully opened yet.

Nevertheless, I do not lose hope that one will open soon, very soon.

Vivi Gordon is a newly landed immigrant to Canada.

Jewish Life

Jewish Net rumours and hoaxes

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Did you just get an e-mail about that company that boycotts Israel? Or did someone message you about what that anti-Semitic actor said? Or did you hear about that politician who trivialized the Holocaust?

Actually, those events may never have happened. You may be on the receiving end of an Internet hoax.

I regularly get e-mails warning me not to patronize a certain multinational corporation because it has just adopted some odious policy toward Israel. After a bit of investigating, I usually find that the rumour is just that – a rumour. Aside from wasting someone's time to check out the e-mail, the sender is maligning an innocent organization or individual. Israel and world Jewry have enough real enemies without adding guiltless names to the list. So this week and next, I'll tell you where to look to check out whether an accusation really is true – or merely unsubstantiated lashon hara.

Of course Internet hoaxes are not solely a Jewish phenomenon. However, a disproportionate number of rumours making the circuit do seem to have Jewish or Israeli themes. For example, one repellent e-mail tells of an ad campaign for Nike shoes that shows an apparent suicide bombing in Israel. The text of the ad next to Nike's trademarked Swoosh reads, "You may not survive the blast. But your shoes will." The Anti-Defamation League has an entire section on its website geared to debunking rumours and calls the e-mail a forgery. Nike says it "was not authorized by Nike and has no affiliation with the company." **[www.adl.org/Internet_Rumors/]**

How can you spot a hoax in your e-mail inbox? Urban Legends at About.com says there's no foolproof way to tell, but it has a few tips:

- Look for the phrase, "Forward this to everyone you know!" The more urgent the plea, the more suspect the message.
- Look for statements like "This is NOT a hoax." They typically mean the opposite of what they say.
- Watch for overly emphatic language, as well as frequent use of UPPERCASE LETTERS and multiple exclamation points!!!!!!! **[http://urbanlegends.about.com/msubabt.htm]**

In addition to ADL and Urban Legends.about.com, here are some other debunking websites to visit. Search them for the words "Israel" or "Jewish" and you'll find the rumours they've investigated. TruthOrFiction debunks accusation that the Marriott hotel chain classifies portion of Jerusalem as "Occupied Palestinian Area." Marriott did send out letters with that phrase because of a mailing list it had received and has since corrected the error. **[www.truthorfiction.com]** The Snopes site tackles the infamous report that 4,000 Jews stayed home from work at the World Trade Center on 9/11. **[www.snopes.com]**

Hoaxbusters is particularly interesting because it is run by the U.S. government's Department of Energy. One piece of advice: if in doubt, do not forward that suspect e-mail to friends and colleagues. Most hoaxers want nothing more than to gum up the Internet with worthless messages and warnings. **[http://hoaxbusters.ciac.org/]** For more truth and rumours, take a look at BoycottWatch. **[www.boycottwatch.org]**

Of course, not all urban legends are pernicious. Here's one apocryphal story that actually predates the Internet but has been given new life by the Web. **[www.snopes.com/college/exam/trickanswer.asp]** The story goes that a wise but unworldly Harvard professor was known for asking the same question on every final exam: "Who, in chronological order, were the Kings of Israel?" Students counted on the question and were never disappointed. Except for the year the professor decided to change the question to: "Who were the Major Prophets and who were the Minor Prophets?" The baffled students handed in their papers without even attempting the question, except for one inspired student who wrote the following: "Far be it from me to distinguish between these revered gentlemen, but it occurred to me that you might like to have a chronological list of the Kings of Israel."

Fact or fiction? You decide.

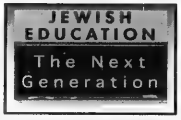
I am about to start preparing my semi-annual column about your favourite Jewish and Israeli websites. If you've created a site you're proud of or find yourself visiting one over and over again, tell me about it at the address below. I'll mention the best this summer.

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

The goal of education? Ask the kids

By ELLIOTT MALAMET

In a recent piece collected in *Visions of Jewish Education*, Moshe Greenberg, professor emeritus of Bible at Hebrew University, discusses what he sees as the core mandate of current Jewish pedagogy. Greenberg writes of "the learner as a creature impelled by curiosity concerning the world around him and his own inner life… When a particular culture is capable of providing its members with appropriate spiritual satisfaction, it will also persist over time."



Schools and their entourages – administrators, teachers, boards, parents, federations – wrestle endlessly with the magic formulae that will satisfy all constituents and provide the children with that most slippery of accomplishments – "a good Jewish education." Often the people who are least heeded, and yet the most worth listening to, are the students themselves. What will serve them? Will they turn out the way we would envision?

Greenberg alludes to the fact that in the discussion about what to teach and how to teach it, the principle component must always be the spiritual potential of each child. To those who argue that the goal of a Jewish school should be to empower children to master classical texts, or to make them conversant with the richness of Jewish history and culture, or to become fluent in the Hebrew language, or to become habituated to Jewish practices, I respectfully demur.

Ultimately, all of the above are surely important components of a well-rounded student, but the first goal of our contemporary efforts in any Jewish classroom must be inspiration on the existential level, and an anticipation of that most central of student questions: Why should I care? Or, put another way: What does Judaism mean to me? How can I make it my own? In what way does it speak to my situation, my aspirations, hopes, anxieties, desires, feelings, fears, frustrations?

The common wisdom is that such questions, in the post-enlightenment melée, belong to the province of the more secular student who needs to be prodded and cajoled as to the worth of Jewish values and traditions. A false assumption if there ever was one. The reality is that this quest for meaning and relevance is true of students of every denominational stripe and communal affiliation, from the tenacious atheist to the haredi learner. As a rule, questions not asked do not represent questions never contemplated. What this silence probably suggests is that the student has unerringly sniffed out an educational atmosphere where questions are not tolerated, and are even discouraged, out of ideology or ignorance. Such intolerance has no particular address – the dogma of those who see divine revelation at Sinai as the domain of unsophisticated fundamentalism is a mirror image of the, at times, unnecessary rigidity of the worldview it mocks.

Children are not geese. We cannot stuff them with Jewish facts and details as though all this will metamorphosize into a *paté de fois gras* of Jewish spirituality and menschlichkeit. At our peril do we delude ourselves that the desire to know why Judaism matters applies only to those without "sufficient background" or those who are not religiously observant. If you don't believe me, take the acid test – talk to the kids.

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Greater Toronto Area

Reform rabbis set to meet in Toronto

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

About 500 Reform rabbis from North America, Israel and Europe are expected in Toronto for the 115th annual convention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR), the Reform rabbinic umbrella.

The meeting, scheduled to take place at the Westin Harbour Castle from June 20 to 23, has a wide-ranging agenda, with topics ranging from terrorism to transgender issues and from physician-assisted suicide to the Zohar – the central text in Kabbalah.

A major evening session will be devoted to the Reform movement in Israel, and a subsequent session will focus on connection between American and Israeli Jews.

The final session features Lutheran theologian Martin Marty, who will discuss "The Religious Landscape in North America Today."

"From the areas we're covering, you can see that Reform Judaism very much responds to the needs of the modern Jew on every level, and that it strives to be inclusive and to bring people in and make them comfortable within our fold," said Rabbi Paul Menitoff, executive vice-president of the CCAR, from his New York office.

The organization, founded in 1889, counts 38 rabbis in Canada among its 1,800 members. There are 12 Reform congregations in Israel.

Among the most pressing issues facing Reform rabbis today, said Rabbi Menitoff, is "helping our people respond to the challenge of living with their feet in two different worlds – coping with the challenge of being serious Jews and serious citizens of the western world at the same time.

"That plays out on a lot of levels. There's certainly a clash of values… Religions are challenged – and certainly Judaism is challenged – to help people find meaning in their lives."

A related issue to be addressed at the convention is "New Thinking about Adolescent Programs in Congregations."

The adolescent years represent "one of the times when Judaism has an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of young people," said Rabbi Menitoff, "and if we interface in a significant way when they're going through adolescence, that will stay with them and increase the probability they'll continue to take their Judaism seriously, or will motivate them to take it seriously."

In the past three decades, the CCAR convention has been held in Canada at least three times – twice in Toronto and once in Montreal, he said.

BAT MITZVAH PROGRAM: Grade 6 girls at Netivot Hatorah recently celebrated the completion of their bat mitzvah program with a play for their mothers about the impact Jewish women have had in the world throughout history. [Rebecca Ansel photo]

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Pearl clan to break bread at family reunion

By CARA EDELL
CJN Intern

Making bread is a Pearl family tradition and this month they gather from far and wide to celebrate their heritage.

With 150 registered for the Toronto event, the reunion unites three generations of Jewish descendants, all linked to Lebish (Louis) Perel and his wife Malka (Molly) Grinblat.

"We felt it was time for our children and our children's children to get together and meet each other," said Sidney Chelsky, Lebish and Malka's grandson.

As one of six family members responsible for organizing the weekend-long affair that takes place from June 18 to 20, Chelsky said the reunion marks the first time since 1994 that the Pearls have formally united to recognize their ancestry.

Chelsky said the majority of his relatives are based in Toronto, but others will arrive from across Ontario, Montreal, Oregon, Ohio, California, Florida, Israel and China.

While distance may have separated the members of the Pearl family tree, its branches link back to south-central Poland and the small town of Lagov, where Lebish and Malka established themselves in 1895.

After years of prominence in Lagov, the couple and their children immigrated to Canada in the late 1920s. In Toronto, Lebish was translated to Louis, Perel to Pearl and baking to success, Chelsky said.

"Lebish and Malka had become bakers in Lagov and so became bakers in Canada. They were loved for their kindness, caring and generosity, not to mention their bread.

"When Lebish left Lagov, the town, Jews and Gentiles, petitioned him to return, but to no avail. His heart and family had become quickly attached to their new home in this new world."

Involved with a number of Toronto bakeries at different points in their careers, the Pearls have, at various times, set up shop on Kensington Ave., College St. and Augusta Ave.

Chelsky said he had an early start in the family business, working at the Augusta bakery counter when he was nine years old.

The Pearls have also been involved with Health Bread — now owned by Open Window Bakery — and Gryfe's Bagel Bakery, Chelsky said. Several of the young bakers that apprenticed at Pearl's Bakery went on to run bakeries of their own, including Harbord Bakery and Bregman's Bakery and Restaurant.

Aside from having an impact on Toronto's bread lovers, Chelsky said the Pearls have helped influence Canadian constitutional history.

"With a bit of pride, we can say that, going back to the 1930s and '40s, the early family bakeries attempted to be shomer Shabbat and ran afoul of the Sunday-closing laws," he said.

The Pearls' experience with the laws had an effect on the Ontario Court of Appeal decision that, in the '90s, struck them down as a denial of religious freedom, said Chelsky.

And aside from making history, the Pearls have generously supported charitable organizations here and in Israel, including Hadassah, the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, UJA Federation and Ben Gurion University. They have also helped Israeli soldiers with disabilities and and children with mental disabilities, Chelsky said.

Pearl Family at Pesach in 1925

"My mother taught us tzedakah at an early age. We would come home from school and she would be feeding poor people at our kitchen table," he said.

While bread is "the acknowledged family heart," Chelsky said the Pearls have gone into a variety of professional fields.

"We've got our lawyers and doctors, engineers and financial gurus, educators and techies, accountants, interior designers, would-be-politicians, philanthropists and a few who haven't been so lucky.

"Some of us own businesses like laundries, construction, flooring, office services, and yes, one even runs a bakery."

Chelsky said he is now a laundry consultant. His son, Brian, has taken over Chelsky's business, Careful Hand Laundry and Dry Cleaners, which has operated for 75 years.

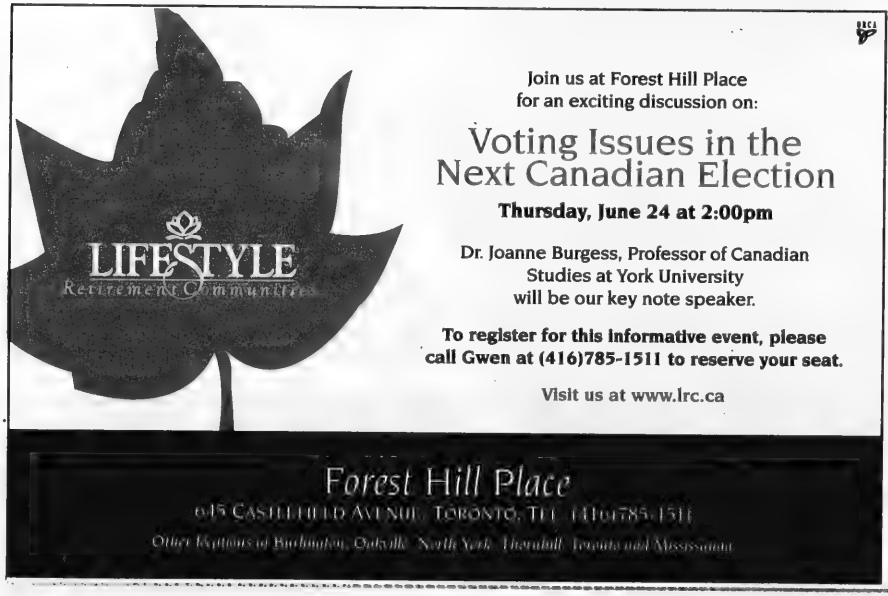
The opportunity to pass down family businesses has been easy for the Pearls. Lebish and Malka were blessed with 172 children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren, he said.

"You can do a lot in a hundred years!"

The oldest family member attending the reunion is Lillian Salsberg, 90, of Toronto. The youngest? "If you count what's in the oven," said Chelsky, laughing, adding that his grandson Benjamin Chelsky, 2, will be there.

The weekend includes family dinners on Friday and Saturday nights and a luncheon on Sunday at Baycrest Terrace. A slideshow of pictures dating back to the days in Poland will be shown on Sunday. As well, a book and CD-ROM-format of family recollections, produced by a Pearl family member, will be presented at the luncheon.

Because "Making Bread" is the reunion's theme, Chelsky said Open Window Bakery has donated shellacked loaves of bread to be used as table centrepieces and Robin Hood Flour has contributed bakers' caps.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March of the Living

Continued from page 3

In Toronto, meanwhile, Machlis' itinerary was packed with meetings with Canadian Christian leaders, including Rev. Malcolm Hedding, executive director of the International Christian Embassy in Jerusalem (ICEJ); Karen Hamilton, general secretary of the Canadian Council of Churches; Barbara McKercher, secretary of the Christian Jewish Dialogue of Toronto (CJDT); and Cynthia Scott, chair the CJDT, and Rev. Walter Kelly, Toronto representative of Bridges for Peace.

ICEJ spokesperson Donna Holbrook said the program outlined by Machlis is intriguing, but it is too early to say whether ICEJ will participate in it. ICEJ has requested more information and "we'll distribute the material to the [group's 75] branch directors in the world."

Participating in March of the Living might reduce the number of people who visit Israel for the Feast of Tabernacles, she said, noting that last fall ICEJ brought 4,000 people to Israel for the Christian festival and injected an estimated $10 million into the Jerusalem economy.

Holbrook said she was "keen" on the March of the Living proposal. "I would very seriously look at the whole package and present it to our members."

Machlis said groups will be expected to fund the trips themselves, but subsidies are available when needed. March of the Living receives a "substantial" contribution each year from the Claims Conference, but it will have to fundraise to reach its projected 2005 budget of around $28 million (US), he said.

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JAFI prepares for increase in aliyah from France

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA Federation

Two of Toronto's top Jewish lay-leaders recently returned from a special fact-finding mission to Paris where they met with Jewish officials and community members to learn more about escalating French antisemitsm as well as the growing interest in aliyah.

"I found the trip troubling," says UJA Federation chair Leslie Gales. "I'm sorry to say that the situation in France is not good. Without a doubt, the French community has been hit by a serious mood change over the past several years. Today, antisemitism prevails and there is no suggestion that this bias is about to change anytime soon."

The three-day trip highlighted the role of the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), which has expanded significantly lately.

"The Jewish Agency has reacted by supplementing their ordinary aliyah personnel with a crew of experienced representatives who come on a rotating basis for a couple of weeks and are stationed in the suburbs where interest in aliyah is the highest," said UIA Federations Canada president, Shoel Silver. "JAFI has also recruited French 'antennae' – people in smaller communities who become aware of individuals thinking about aliyah."

Jewish high school students from France enjoy a recent trip to Israel. The trip was a pilot project for potential new olim.

Based on a 2002 survey – just as the wave of antisemitic attacks on French Jews had begun – aliyah from France has doubled in the past 15 years. The survey revealed that six percent of French Jews would be making aliyah "very soon", double the percentage of the last survey in 1988. That number increased to 12 percent among families with school-aged children, and 28 percent among families with children attending Jewish schools.

"As a Canadian Jew I am proud that the Jewish Agency has kept aliyah as their main focus," says Gales. "More and more young Jewish families of France – with fear in their eyes and worry in their hearts – are ready and willing to change their lives because there is no Jewish future in France. "

"Clearly, aliyah, or at least departure from France, is an option being considered by more and more people," says Silver. "It also became apparent from several of our meetings that the organized community recognizes that aliyah is on the agenda, not as the solution for all, but an opportunity for those who wish to consider this option. This, in essence, captures the unique role of JAFI in supporting global Jewry."

The Toronto mission contingent – comprised of Leslie Gales and Shoel Silver – was invited to join JAFI board chair Carole Solomon, along with Josh Schwarcz, JAFI's secretary general, and Zeev Bielski, Mayor of Raanana.

(L to R): During a recent JAFI-sponsored visit to Paris, participants visited with France's Deputy Minister of Justice. Pictured (L-R) are: Zeev Bielski, Mayor of Raanana; Josh Schwarcz, Director General of the Jewish Agency for Israel; Nicole Guedj, French Deputy Minister of Justice; Leslie Gales, Chair, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto; Carole Solomon, Chair of the Executive, JAFI; Menachem Gounary, Head of JAFI Operations in France and Shoel Silver, presidents UIA Federations Canada.

Nurturing Jewish artists

The Toronto Jewish Arts Council of UJA Federation recently held the first in a series of panel discussions to help Jewish artists learn about available grants. Pictured (l-r) are: Colette Naubert, Andrew Gann, Sanjay Shahani, Beth Reynolds, Lisa Nabieszko and Cyrel Troster, Chair of the Cultural Services and Planning Committee. The audience consisted of 65 artists from every discipline. The discussion was organized by Cheryl Landy, UJA's cultural services coordinator.

Israeli performers transcend physical limitations

For the first time in its history, a very special troupe of entertainers will be performing outside of Israel this week:, as they take to the stage at Toronto's Bathurst Street Theatre.

The theatrical group, known as *Nalaga'at* (Do Touch) - comprised of 12 Israeli actors, most of whom are deaf and blind or partially so - will be in town on June 17, to perform their popular play, "Light Heard in Zig-Zag." Toronto is the first stop on their North American tour.

More than 1,000 deaf-blind people live in Israel today. Most of them suffer from Usher Syndrome, which begins with congenital deafness and tunnel vision that develops over the years, progressively restricting the visual field until total blindness.

Besides being powerful and entertaining, *Nalaga'at* is an example of how Israeli culture is increasingly considering the contribution of deaf-blind people to society.

A scene from the Israeli hit play, "Light is heard in Zig-Zag"

"Light is Heard in Zig Zag," which has won acclaim throughout Israel, is an inspiring pantomime performance that dramatizes the performers' dreams versus their reality.

"Before I got involved with *Nalaga'at*, I didn't know any deaf or blind people," says Adina Tal, director, writer, actress and artistic director of the organization. "I began to work with the group four years ago and I absolutely fell in love with all of them. They amaze me every day, it's like being on an unbelievable journey, like discovering a new world, and there are no limits to what people can do in that world. The play makes people laugh and cry, and soon you forget that the actors don't see or hear. "

Through their performances, *Nalaga'at*, a non-profit organization, hopes to establish a center that will provide early detection of Usher Syndrome and prepare sufferers for independent life as blind people.

One person who will be at the performance is Natalie Schonfeld, a Toronto photographer who came here from her native Venezuela 13 years ago. Schonfeld was recently awarded a $5,000 visual arts grant from UJA Federation's Toronto Jewish Arts council.

Schonfeld, who has been documenting through photography, the personal realities and perceptions of individuals who are deaf or blind across Canada for the past seven years, saw her work culminate with her first book, *Perceptions of Light – Canada*, published last summer. Schonfeld will be photographing *Nalaga'at* rehearsals and performances.

"My body of work shows the positive aspects of people's lives; it's about the human being and his environment, and the way they interact. For me, photography is a visual method of communication, and I've always been interested in non-verbal communication. I'm excited to photograph *Nalaga'at* to see how they've been able to get across their artistic expression despite their limited verbal and hearing skills."

JEWISH TORONTO IS PUBLISHED AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

Tomorrow Campaign a boost for the city, says David Miller

Toronto mayor addresses UJA annual meeting

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA Federation

According to Toronto Mayor David Miller, UJA Federation's Tomorrow Campaign will help to transform the entire city.

Miller described the Tomorrow Campaign as "hugely important" to the city of Toronto. "It is the single biggest community development project in Canada, and I feel privileged that Toronto is the beneficiary of this outstanding outpouring of generosity and community spirit."

Mayor Miller made his comments at UJA Federation's recent Annual General Meeting at the new Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, where he stayed to talk with participants long after the formal proceedings ended.

The $250 million Tomorrow Campaign, launched on May 7, is UJA Federation's most ambitious initiative ever. It is the largest, not-for-profit Jewish community infrastructure project in North American history, which will fund facilities, programs and services in three sections of the GTA – the Downtown District, Central Square in the Bathurst-Sheppard area, and City North, which will be built on a 50-acre tract of York Region land.

"This initiative is a tremendous boost for Toronto and the GTA," said Miller. "It is an important part of an even larger project, which is nothing less than the transformation of the entire city. Things are changing in Toronto, and they're changing in huge and marvelous ways."

Shem Tov Award winners: (l-r) Charles Novogrodsky, Rena Markus & Talia Samson accepting on behalf of their fater, Marshall Kesten; Susan Friedrich, Bernard Fishbein and Nathan Disenhouse.

"It was wonderful to hear Mayor Miller speak of UJA Federation's Tomorrow Campaign as a key element in the renaissance of Toronto and as model for city building," said UJA Federation president, Ted Sokolsky.

Donald Bennett (right) receives the Granovsky Award for Campaign Excellence from Shirley Granovsky and David Engel, vice chair, UJA Federation.

"This has been a landmark year for UJA Federation," said the organization's chair of the board, Leslie Gales. "It was one of our community's most momentous, ambitious, and historic ever. Campaign 2004 raised a resounding $58 million for both core community needs and extraordinary needs facing Israel and the Jewish world. Now we're about to embark on Campaign 2005, to build a secure Jewish future for our children. Our campaign will pay particular attention to four key areas – community protection, strengthening our Jewish voice, Israel's special needs and linking Jewish youth to Jewish life."

Mayor Miller also reiterated that hate crimes are not welcome in Toronto.

"A few months ago, when there was a series of hate-motivated crimes in Toronto, the people of our city rallied together with one voice. Torontonians of every religion, race and culture recognized that an attack against one group is an attack against all of us. It is important that we remain vigilant on a day-to-day basis. We must always be watchful, so that acts of hate do not creep back in to our communities."

Natan Aronshtam (l) and David Spiro (right) receive their Leadership Development Awards from David Engel.

Carole Solomon, Chair of the Board of Governors, Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), UJA Federation's overseas partner, warned about how vulnerable one of Israel's greatest assets has become.

"The Jewish Agency has given Israel its most important resource, it's people, an amazing amount of human capital," said Solomon referring to JAFI's role in helping Jews around the world make aliyah. "That capital is at risk today. New immigrants are the vulnerable of the vulnerable. Unemployment among new olim is more than double than that of the general population."

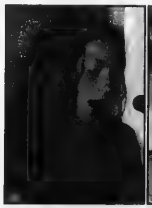
Leslie Gales, Chair, UJA Federation and Toronto mayor David Miller.

Ontario students ponder the power of one

For the first time in 10 years, a student from an Ontario Catholic high school captured first place in the annual arts/writing contest sponsored by UJA Federation's Holocaust Centre of Toronto.

The theme of this year's contest - made possible through the generosity and support of Brenda Fishauf – was making a positive impact on today's society.

More than 100 students from junior high schools and high schools across Ontario mailed in their artistic expressions on the Holocaust. Entries ranged from essays, stories and poems, to plays and artwork. Students were asked to relate the quote: "Can I make a difference? The Power of One" to both the Holocaust and contemporary society.



Laura Pellow

Prerna Kumar

Prerna Kumar, a grade 11 student at Ascension of our Lord Catholic School captured the senior honour while Laura Pellow, a grade 8 student from Richmond Hill's United Synagogue Day School campus, took first place in the junior division.

Prerna Kumar's winning entry.

"My piece of artwork was a collage of many squares, each of different shades of blue watercolours," says Pellow. "Each square represented a different person, and its height represented its status in society. I did not give a title to my piece of artwork, but if I would have, I would've named it "The Staircase to Freedom," because just as a staircase has many steps to get from one height to another, so does the process of influencing others and eventually taking action. There are many steps along the way to freedom, and I believe that it all starts with an idea."

For finishing first, Laura and Prerna won a trip to visit the US Holocaust Museum in Washington where they will be accompanied by Lorraine Sandler, Chair of the Holocaust Education Committee.

"I am very excited to go to Washington to the Holocaust Centre," says Pellow. "I have two grandparents who are Holocaust survivors, so it will truly be an extraordinary experience for me."

Community honours volunteers

UJA Federation recently honoured some of the community's most distinguished volunteers at its Annual General Meeting. Here is a summary of the award winners.

Shem Tov Award

The Shem Tov Awards are presented to leaders representing the highest levels of excellence in volunteer service in Toronto's Jewish community.

- **Alan Dessau**, Circle of Care
- **Nathan Disenhouse**, Toronto Jewish Free Loan Cassa
- **Bernard Fishbein**, Bathurst Jewish Community Centre
- **Susan Friedrich**, Kehilla Residential Programme
- **Marshall Kesten**, UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education
- **Charles Novogrodsky**, Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre

Leadership Development Awards

Leadership Development Awards, established to encourage young men and women to assume community leadership roles, are presented to individuals who demonstrate extraordinary commitment and service.

- **Natan Aronshtam:** Committed to improving life for newcomers to Toronto.
- **David Spiro:** A UJA Federation young leadership volunteer for several years.

Granovsky Award for Campaign Excellence:

Named after the late Jewish community leader Phil Granovsky, this award is a tribute to individuals who exemplify the best in UJA Federation campaigning.

This year's winner is **Donald Bennett**, who, for nearly 25 years, has been actively involved in Toronto's Jewish community, demonstrating outstanding leadership in a variety of roles.

Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto

Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) Award of Excellence:

This Award of Excellence recognizes professionals in the Jewish community whose outstanding long-term contributions benefit the Foundation, lawyers, accountants, estate planners, and charitable organizations.

Wolfe D. Goodman, Q.C. is the first recipient of the Professional Advisory Committee Award of Excellence.

He was instrumental in helping to create the infrastructure that enables the Foundation to offer services to so many individuals, families and professionals.

Any questions concerning information or photos that appear on these pages should be directed to jewishtorontonews@ujafed.org

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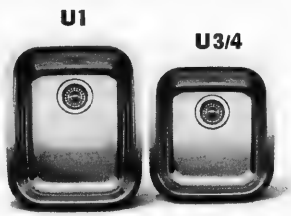

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Greater Toronto Area

Reena fundraiser to aid new elderhome

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

When David and Luba Smuschkowitz were asked to be the honorees at the Reena Foundation Gala, to be held June 24, they did something completely out of character – they accepted.

David and Luba Smuschkowitz will be honoured by Reena on June 24.

As committed philanthropists and volunteers in the Jewish community, they had in the past been asked by several organizations to be their honorees, but they always declined.

Smuschkowitz said that "this time, we agreed to accept, because it is an opportunity to help out the most [vulnerable] in our community."

Money raised at the gala will go toward building a second Reena elderhome. The Al and Faye Mintz Reena Elderhome, which opened in Thornhill in 2001 and is the first of its kind in Canada, can house up to 15 residents over age 55.

David Smuschkowitz, 80, the owner of Steele Valley Developments Limited, is a founder of the Holocaust Education and Memorial Centre of Toronto (UJA Federation), an officer of the Jewish War Veterans of Canada, and a longtime member of Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue, where he and Luba donated the library in memory of their parents.

David was also instrumental in the construction of the Jewish Chapel at Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre, and he is on the board of the Association of the Welfare for Widows and Orphans in Israel.

As well, he was one of the founders of the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem and a force behind the erection of the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial and the Holocaust Wall of Remembrance at Earl Bales Park.

In 1992, he co-wrote a book, *From Victims to Victors*, about his experiences in the Holocaust. Proceeds from book sales support the educational work of the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem.

In addition, through the David and Luba Smuschkowitz Family Charitable Foundation, the couple has donated to hospitals, schools and local charities here and in Israel.

Minnie Ross, Reena's communications manager, said there is a pressing need for seniors' housing for people with developmental disabilities. "Over 30 per cent of Reena clients are today over the age of 50, and they need age appropriate housing. By 2005, more than half will be seniors.

"People with developmental disabilities tend to age prematurely. In fact, the frailties and limitations that we might normally associate with a 65-year-old are the realities for a 50-year old with a developmental disability," Ross said.

Residents of the elderhome receive specialized care by professionals who are trained to deal with the dual challenge of a developmental disability and the physical and cognitive impairments associated with normal aging, she said.

"This home remains the standard for other agencies to achieve in addressing the needs of a like population."

David joked that he and Luba, the parents of four and grandparents of nine, also accepted the Reena honour because campaign chair Alex Eisen is a "real nudnick."

David said that as Holocaust survivors – he and his wife were both born in Jody, Poland – it's important to them to "give something back to a country that has been so good to us.

"My mother and three siblings survived the war because a Righteous Gentile helped us out. They risked their lives to help Jews, and I decided that when I could, I would help out as well.

"At the time, I did not know where I'd be, but I decided that I would never forget, and never forgive."

D-DAY REMEMBRANCE: Former World War II RCAF navigator Sid Gladstone placed a wreath on behalf of the Jewish Canadian Military Museum, a nascent organization that grew from the Canadian Jewish Military Archives, during D-Day remembrance ceremonies that took place at Queen's Park on June 6. Also in attendance were Ontario Lt.-Gov. James K. Bartleman, Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty, Toronto Mayor David Miller, and Gladstone's wife of 58 years, Shirley.

[Sandy Gladstone photo]

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Mazal Tov

It is with the greatest pleasure and pride that we congratulate our graduating class of 2004

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Mark Bernstein-Hendry	משה
Ilana Birnbaum	ישראלה גבריאלה
Rebecca Bychutsky	רבקה ציפורה
Arielle Cohen	אהרונה לאה
Anna Frankel	חנה רבקה
Shira Gelkopf	שירה
Z'ev Glick	זאב
Lauren Levy	ליאורה
Ariella Lightstone	אריאלה שירה
Tali Merkur	טלי
Elise Perlman	מרים
David Sabeti	דוד
Talya Samery	יהודית יצחקה
Dov Smiley	דב
Maddy Turkienicz	מיכל
Amanda Zalken	מתנה

The Graduation Ceremony will take place on Monday June 21, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue, 55 Yeomans Road, Toronto

Greater Toronto Area

Ratepayers' group stands against anti-Semitism

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

In the midst of a disturbing increase of attacks on Jews, one ratepayers' group has drawn a line in the sand and announced "Not in my backyard."

The Bridlebrook Park Homeowners' Association, which represents families in the Finch and Leslie area, last week distributed a letter to more than 300 homes deploring and condemning an anti-Semitic slur directed at a local family in an anonymous letter.

"We feel it is imperative to speak out against all instances of racist behaviour such as that exhibited in this letter," wrote Delia Perry, president of the homeowners' group, in a statement to the community.

"The Bridlebrook Park Homeowners' Association takes the strongest exception to this letter. The sentiments expressed are unacceptable to our community and must be met with the strongest censure and disapproval."

The incident that prompted the association's response occurred a few days before, when the Budlovsky family, immigrants from Czechoslovakia, received an unsigned letter addressed to "people of the house or grandparents," complaining about the crying of a young girl.

The three-year old child, their niece's daughter who was visiting from the Czech Republic, got a sliver while playing in the backyard one afternoon, and she cried while it was being removed.

"Is that screaming kid gone yet?" the letter asked. Saying her husband was trying to sleep on his day off, the letter writer complained that the "parents never had the decency to control the kid. SHUT UP… Typical Jews 'loud'. Everything for attention. No consideration for others."

Michael Budlovsky was outraged when he read the letter. Having experienced anti-Semitic prejudice growing up in the Bohemia region of Czechoslovakia, he said he was "not willing to put up with anti-Semitism here and not climb under a rock as some people would do. People have to stand up for their rights."

Budlovsky informed police about the letter, but was told the incident didn't fit the definition of a hate crime.

The ratepayers' group, however, shared his outrage. Perry and a neighbour drafted a letter to the community in which the group condemned the incident and "profoundly apologize[d] to the Budlovsky family for the behaviour and despicable sentiments expressed by the author of the letter."

Budlovsky, who has lived in the area for 20 years, said, "I was pleasantly surprised that the neighbours, the community and the friends in the community have taken it upon themselves to write this particular letter.

"It's wonderful to see people upset about issues of this nature."

Perry said she felt "disgust and sadness that this could happen in our neighbourhood."

With only one road in and out of the area, the neighbourhood is like a small town where everyone knows everyone else. "People who spoke to me were saddened to think this would happen in this tight-knit community," she said.

Gilda Berger, an area resident, said "many of us in the neighbourhood, particularly those of us who are Jewish, feel heartened by the community's swift response in expressing strong disapproval of the behaviour of the anonymous letter writer. The community has taken a stand.

"It is perhaps a small anti-Semitic incident, but it reflects an abhorrent sentiment that is currently quite rampant. I, as a Jew and a resident of this community, feel comforted and proud that this incident has commanded a big-hearted and large response."

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CANADIAN FRIENDS OF BOYS TOWN JERUSALEM
Notice of
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Please note that a meeting of "Members of Canadian Friends of Boys Town Jerusalem" will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 24, 2004 at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue, Brotherhood Hall, 470 Glencairn Ave., Toronto, Ontario

Earl Miller Chairman

Guest Speaker:
Consul General of Israel
Mr. Ya'acov Brosh

*All contributors to Canadian Friends of Boys Town Jerusalem are regarded as members.

For additional information, please call: 416-789-7241

Dessert reception following program

Associated ranks at the top in math contests

Associated Hebrew Schools was the only Jewish day school to place in the top 25 ranked schools in the recent Canadian National Mathematics League Contest.

Placing eighth overall in team scores in Ontario, Associated came 22nd out of 423 schools in the Grade 8 division and 15th out of 494 schools in the Grade 7 division.

Grade 7 student Adina Goldberg student tied for second place in Canada and second place in Ontario with a score of 39 out of 40.

It was Adina's second year competing in this math contest. "While math is not my favourite subject," she says, "I do enjoy the enriched math program and competing with students from all other provinces."

The Canadian National Mathematics League Contest, sponsored by the University of Windsor, is for students from Grade 6 through high school.

The Associated team included Ryan Fisch, Rachel Charney, Julie-Rae King, Josh Satok, Evan Reinblatt, Stuart Posluns, Gideon Berger, Jonathan Singer and Ari Cuperfain.

Adina also placed first in her school in the Canada-wide Gauss Math Contest, sponsored by the University of Waterloo, with a perfect score at the Grade 7 level.

Grade 7 students Ryan Fisch and Alec Levin tied for second place, while Josh Liptin took third place.

At the Grade 8 level, Gideon Berger placed first in Associated, followed by Mark Auspitz, who came in second, and Tamar Fleisher and Ari Cuperfain, who tied for third.

On Campus

York U professors launch web 'museum'

By JESSICA HELLEN
CJN Intern

The International Committee of Museums and the Canadian government define museums as buildings that house actual or real artifacts and objects.

When York University visual arts professors Shelley Hornstein, Reesa Greenberg and Carol Zemel decided to create Mosaica, their "museum" devoted to contemporary Jewish art and culture, they quickly realized it did not fit the standard definition.

That's because Mosaica, at www.mosaica.ca, doesn't have a physical location – it's the first web-only exhibition venue dedicated to Jewish culture.

"Rather than build a bricks-and-mortar museum that very few could visit on a regular basis, we thought, why not take advantage of the web to create a structure that would reach across the country and be accessible to all," said Hornstein.

Explores 'diasporic histories, experiences'

At Mosaica's June 8 launch at York, which provided start-up funding for the project, Greenberg thanked everyone for coming and joked, "It might be more in keeping with Mosaica if we were all online."

Three art pieces are currently being showcased on the site. They deal with what its founders call the "Digital Diaspora," and "evoke different diasporic histories and experiences."

One work, an eight-minute video by Louis Kaplan and Melissa Shiff titled "Looking for Ararat," explores "Maj. Mordecai Noah's attempt to transform Grand Island, New York, into a city of refuge for the Jews in the 1820s," the site says.

The film is about "imaginary Jewish homelands," Greenberg said, describing it as "an ironic and critical journey" that shows "being Jewish does not reside in any specific territory."

Greenberg and Hornstein said because the projects only exist on the web, a virtual community is created for artists and audiences everywhere.

"The web may be virtual, but it connects people wherever they live. We believe that embracing the web as a medium is a decisive step in connecting and creating Jewish cultures across space and time," Greenberg said.

To create Mosaica, Greenberg and Hornstein analyzed the esthetics and content of existing Jewish and Jewish museum websites.

"We found very few models for what Mosaica wanted to do," Greenberg said.

Greenberg and Hornstein said they found all the Jewish sites they examined used blue, either as the sole colour of the homepage, or as a colour accent.

"Blue is a symbolic way of making a visual connection to Jewishness," said Greenberg. "Mosaica wants to make a visual connection to Jewish culture, but we don't want it to be so formulaic or traditional."

The Mosaica site is a "vibrant contemporary green that is associated with new life," Hornstein said, while the pieces of the large circular mosaic logo "convey constant change and flux."

Greenberg and Hornstein said their goal is to add more artists' projects to the site. They are looking for pieces about "Jews and the Diaspora: Jewish Culture, Web Culture, New Culture." They encourage projects that represent all of the arts, including, visual art, music, theatre, photography, film and architecture.

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Family Moments

only from The Canadian Jewish news

Mazel Tov to...

Lynda & Jack Ellis, Ruth & Mark Sheinfeld announce the engagement of their children Megan & Michael. Grandparents, Elizabeth Pope, Fay Freedman, Sam Sheinfeld.

Happy first and third birthdays to Max and Ryan Feldman. Love Mommy & Daddy Shawna & Scott, and Bubbie & Zaidie Carol & Sam Bloom.

A sister for Heather, Maya Deborah. Thrilled parents Rachel & David Lane. Bubbies and Zaidies, Ruth & Mark Lane, Bina & Leo Blumenfeld.

Happy first birthday Sarah, daughter of Rachael & Jordan Sweigman. Proud grandparents, Abbe & Eddy Nelson, Lorene & Bill Sweigman, and great-bubbie Helen Nelson.

Mazel Tov to Rosana Schenkman and Isaac Salama on their engagement. Proud parents, Victoria Oprisan, Isac Schenkman, Sylvia & Solomon Abbou and Marc Salama. Ecstatic grandmother, Erna Oprisa.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!
Label the back of all photos and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Send all your photos to: The CJN, Family Moments, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, ON, M3B 3K4.

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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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What's New Deadlines: Monday, June 21, is the deadline for the June 30 issue and Monday, June 28, is the deadline for the July 8 issue. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Thursday, June 17

JUDGES & UNITED NATIONS

Beth Emeth Synagogue's series "The Book of Judges & the United Nations: The Judging of Israel" continues with **Dr. Rachael Turkienicz** and **Prof. Ed Morgan**. Tonight they discuss "The Degeneration of Justice: Samson – The General Assembly Debates on the Entebbe Raid." Thursday, June 24, the topic is "The Vision and System in Chaos: The Concubine in Gibeah – The UN Human Rights Commission and the 'right' to be a terrorist." 8 p.m. No charge. Call 416-633-3838.

Sunday, June 20

MOUNT SINAI FUNDRAISER

Mount Sinai Hospital's second annual 5-km run/walk and 10-km run takes place at Queen's Park. Proceeds benefit the hospital and the Marvelle Koffler Breast Centre. The day offers great fun for the whole family. To register, visit www.mtsinai.on.ca or call 416-586-8749.

JUDAISM AND ABORTION

Jewish Russian Community Centre's Institute of Torah Study presents "Judaism and Abortion" with **Rabbi Chaim Hildesheim**. 8 p.m. 18 Rockford Rd. Call 416-222-7105.

SEARCHING FOR MEANING

Beth Avraham Yosef of Toronto presents **Roy S. Neuberger** on "Searching For Meaning in Today's Troubled World." 8 p.m. For more information, call 905-886-3810.

Monday, June 21

NESHAMA CARLEBACH LIVE

Emunah Women of Hamilton presents "Soul Music," **Neshama Carlebach** in a concert for women, at Adas Israel Congregation, 125 Cline Ave. S., Hamilton. 7:30 p.m. $18. For tickets, call 905-528-0039.

UNDERSTANDING MEDIA

Adath Sholom Sisterhood invites the public to their closing and nominations meeting with guest speaker, **Cynthia Gasner**, of the Canadian Jewish News, who discusses "Media and How To Read It." 7:30 p.m. 864 Sheppard Ave. W. $3. 416-635-0131.

Tuesday, June 22

GALA CONCERT

Join Kehillat Shaarei Torah for their gala concert celebrating Jewish composers and entertainers. 7:30 p.m. 2640 Bayview Ave. Free. 416-229-2600.

BEREAVED FAMILIES

Bereaved Jewish Families of Ontario's drop-in support group continues to meet the fourth Tuesday of every month at National Council of Jewish Women, 4700 Bathurst St. 7- 9 p.m. All participants who have attended support groups for the loss of a child are welcome. Future meetings take place on July 27, August 24, September 28 and October 26. For information, call 416-638-7800 ext. 202.

Wednesday, June 23

COOK FOR THE CURE

KitchenAid Cook for the Cure presents "Pinknic," a pink-themed event to unveil the Tablecloth of Hope, which honours Canadians who have supported the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation, noon-1 p.m. rain or shine, Queen's Park North. For information, visit www.KitchenAid-cookforthecure.ca or call 1-800-618-CURE.

JEWISH JOKERS GROUP

The Jewish Jokers and Humour Group meets for their monthly meeting at 140 Antibes Community Centre. 7 p.m. For information, call Irv Helpert 416-661-2541.

Continued on page 25

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What's New

Continued from page 24

Thursday, June 24

***THE PASSION* RELOADED**

Explore the theological mysteries of **Mel Gibson**'s controversial film presented by **Rabbi Michael Skobac** at the Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst Street, room 420. 8 p.m. Free. For information, call Jews for Judaism, 905-761-0040.

Other news

ANTIGONE

Catch the last three performances of **Jean Anouilh**'s *Antigone*, performed by Pushover Productions at The Artword Theatre, 75 Portland St., one block east of Bathurst, south of King St. June 17 and 20 at 8 p.m. PWYC matinee Sunday, June 20 at 2 p.m. All tickets $12, available at the door or call TicketLine, 416-366-7723, ext. 290, or visit www.stlc.com/artword/artword.php.

PHAT PHRIDAYS SERVICE

Generation Hutzpa presents "Phat Phridays: Not Yer Average Kabbalat Shabbat," led by **Rabbi Aubrey Glazer**. Experience a blend of Jewish music from Israeli folk and devotional to Latin sounds with fusion musicians **Ernie Tollar**, **Aaron Lightston** and **Debashish Sinha**. Friday, June 25, 6 p.m. in the Beth Tzedec Youth Chapel. 416-781-3514, ext. 47.

GARDEN TOUR

Kehillat Shaarei Torah Sisterhood Garden Tour fundraising event tours six gardens in Thornhill and six in the Bayview-York Mills area Sunday, June 27, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. $18. Call **Rachel** at 416-229-2600 for tickets, brochure and map.

SUMMER ULPAN

Canadian Zionist Federation is offering a summer ulpan, an opportunity for intensive, interactive daily Hebrew study with **Chanah Sargon**. July 19-July 22 and July 26-July 29. Two hours of instruction each day. 4580 Dufferin Street, Suite 508. Call 416-633-3988 or e-mail, czf@bellnet.ca.

JEWS OF NORWAY

Beth Tzedec Museum is bringing the travelling exhibition "Jewish Life and Culture in Norway: Wergeland's Legacy," to Toronto in October. If you lived in Norway or know people who did, the museum staff would like to hear your story and see any objects, photographs and documents that you may have in your possession. Please contact **Dorion Liebgott** at 416-781-3514, ext. 32, or museum@beth-tzedec.org.

SENIORS PROJECT

Baycrest Centre is offering a computer demonstration project for a group of isolated seniors living in the community. The program, which runs for approximately one year, consists of a computer-based support group for six isolated seniors who live alone. Computers are available for this project. For information for yourself or someone you know, call **Renee Climans,** 416-785-2500, ext. 2989.

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

Buy 1 get 3 great High Holy Day services. Pray, reflect, connect with Kolel at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre. Order tickets before July 30 and receive 10% off the ticket price. Call High Holy Day Hotline at 416-485-7007, ext. 0.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service Information/registration, call 416-638-7800, ext. 215. Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St.

High Conflict Divorce, a one-session workshop for parents to learn how to lessen the impact of divorce on children. Workshop requires active participation and is not appropriate for people in abusive situations. Tuesday, June 22, 6:30-9 p.m.

Adolescents and Divorce: A Trying Time for Teens, a one-session workshop for parents to explore general characteristics of adolescence and how to help teens cope when their family changes. Wednesday, June 23, 7-9 p.m.

How To Talk With Your Ex, a 2-session workshop to help individuals learn effective communication and listening skills to deal better with their ex-spouses about issues involving the children. Tuesdays July 6 and 13, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

All sessions take place at Promenade Mall, Suite 313.

FOR SENIORS

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Sunday dance, June 20; Casino Niagara, Thursday, June 24; Cruise and Casino, Wednesday, July 7. 416-395-7881.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the boardroom at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Call 416-630-9444.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

Current Issues of the Day with **Doug Haddow**, Tuesday, June 22 and 29. 10-11:30 a.m. Members $1.50, non-members $3.

The Morris "Nafty" Naftolin Komedy Kabaret, an opportunity for amateur comedians to perform. Thursday, June 24, 2:30 p.m. Free. For information, call **Ruth Cohen**.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew-speaking seniors meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. June 15, sing-a-long with **Efi Zohar**; June 22, concert; June 29, picnic at Earl Bales Park. Call **Anna**, ext. 110.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or wwwmilesnadaljcc.ca

Summer Programs for Children:

Bell Raptor Ball, a youth league that provides children ages 5-14 year olds the opportunity to enjoy basketball. The experience creates an environment that is low in competitiveness and high in fun. Registration required. Begins Thursday, July 8.

Mini Me Half Day Camp for 3-5 year olds. Begins Monday, June 28.

Preschool programs: Tiny Tumblers, explore the world of gymnastics for 1-3 year olds, Mondays and Wednesdays, 9-11 a.m.; Start with Art, making art for 1-3 year olds, Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30-11 a.m.; Wild & Free, Running, climbing, jumping, games, arts and crafts for 3-4 year olds, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30-2 p.m.; Now You're Two, Fridays 9:30-11 a.m.; pre-nursery program for 2-3 year olds.

Call to register for all programs.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

The Koffler Gallery presents **Norman T. White**: Norm's Robots, through June 27.

Centre Camp, at the Bathurst JCC, is looking for junior and senior counsellors for the upcoming summer. Call the camp office at ext. 265.

Miles Nadal camp comes to Centre Camp. This summer, a bus stops at the Miles Nadal JCC and drops off at Centre Camp. To enroll your child, call ext. 378 or visit www.centre camp.ca.

The BJCC and Mount Sinai offer prenatal classes August 8 and 15 from 10-4 p.m. The cost is $136 per couple. To register, call ext. 390.

Painting Exhibit of 55 Plus Seniors Art Class, Monday June 21, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. BJCC lobby.

View the documentary *Relentless* and discuss the Middle East peace process with **Doris Epstein**. Thursday, June 24, 1 p.m.-3 p.m. Members $2, non-members $4.

The musical *Oklahoma* in Orillia. Two shows, Thursday, Aug. 12 and Wednesday, Aug. 18. Tickets can be purchased at the reception desk.

TREE OF HONOUR: Terry and Nadine Walman and their daughter Samara Rose, at Bialik Hebrew Day School's first Tree of Honour signing ceremony. Graduating and bar/bat mitzvah students showed their appreciation to Bialik, by signing their names and year of graduation on the tree. The tree was designed by artist Siggy Buhler.

BAR ILAN HONOUREES: Gabi Weisfeld, of Toronto, and Israel Minister of Defence Lt.-Gen. (ret.) Shaul Mofaz were recently awarded honorary doctorates by Bar-Ilan University. Weisfeld was recognized for her lifelong dedication to Jewish education and scholarship and to the State of Israel. Mofaz was recognized for his lifelong service to the security of the State of Israel and its citizens.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 32

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BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Mary Smith	Jun 2/04	65 Skymark Dr
Minnie Bagelman	Jun 1/04	96 Brighton Ave
Bea Goldberg	Jun 1/04	40 Chichester Place
Helen Rosenberg	Jun 2/04	80 Antibes Dr
Margaret Segal	Jun 4/04	3160 Steeles Ave E
Guta Boimal	Jun 4/04	6-A Casa Grande St
Sam Krem	Jun 4/04	36 Shallmar Blvd
Ketty Benlolo	Jun 6/04	30 Carscadden Dr

HEBREW BASIC

Mildred Hurwitz	Jun 2/04	5444 Yonge St
Gertrude Goldbach	Jun 4/04	131 Beecroft Rd
Irving Gordon	Jun 5/04	10 Senlac Rd

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Goldfarb, Harry	May 24, 2004	Private
Korkina, Anna	May 24, 2004	Private
Rakosi, Erno	May 24, 2004	120 Jameson Ave
Izsak, Kornelia	May 25, 2004	Private
Grunfeld, Helen	May 25, 2004	3560 Bathurst St
Brown Tobe, Merralin	May 25, 2004	54 The Boardwalk
Wasserman, Jack	May 26, 2004	77 Davisville Ave
Lampert, Hyman	May 27, 2004	21 Dempsey Cres
Kaplun, Boris	May 27, 2004	Private

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Erdman, Raia	May 29, 2004	131 Torresdale Ave
Kerbel, Anne	May 29, 2004	3560 Bathurst St
Benedict, Marian	May 30, 2004	Private
Ohayon, Ilona	May 30, 2004	7 Townsgate Dr
Proverman, Myer	May 30, 2004	Private
Balaban, Louis	May 31, 2004	429 Walmer Rd
Donkner, Maxine	June 1, 2004	4979 Bathurst St
Lukofsky, Louis	June 1, 2004	73 Wenderly Dr
Kedar, Eliezer	June 1, 2004	84 McLintock Cres
Adler, Benjamin	June 2, 2004	183 Pannahill Rd
Drewnowsky, Abram	June 2, 2004	2 Cedar Springs Gr
Shapiro, Bessie	June 2, 2004	Private
Kogan, Moissei	June 3, 2004	Private
Landsberg, Toby	June 3, 2004	Private
Mints, Lyubov	June 4, 2004	6250 Bathurst St
Solomon, Louis	June 6, 2004	2075 Bayview Ave
Mishiyev, Batushva	June 5, 2004	35 Larratt Lane
Schmidt, David	June 5, 2004	47 St. James St
Rosenstein, Max	June 5, 2004	355 St. Clair Ave W
Weinstock, William	June 5, 2004	1035 Eglinton Ave W
Ross, Mory	June 6, 2004	130 Neptune Dr
Brown, Jacob Isaac	June 7, 2004	32 Clarissa Dr
Feldman, Anne	June 8, 2004	3560 Bathurst St
Colimay, William	June 6, 2004	Private
Stern, Andre	June 8, 2004	5 Fisherville Rd
Grimson, Barbara	June 9, 2004	11 Townsgate Dr
Levy, Rachel	June 9, 2004	3874 Portage Rd
Sherman, Myne	June 10, 2004	21 Carey Crescent
Swartz, Murray	June 10, 2004	7300 Yonge St
Schwartz, Nicolas	June 10, 2004	1201 Steeles Ave W

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GENIA LUKSENBERG ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, June 27th, 2:30 p.m.

Dawes Road Cemetery
2 blocks east of Victoria Park
Radomer Section

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

Charles Mint ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, June 20th at 11:30 a.m.

Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Beth Habonim Section

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

Samuel H. Blank ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, June 27th at 11:00 a.m.

Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Beth Shalom Section

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Coast to Coast

Protest greets Mary Robinson at McGill U

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

Demonstrators outside the Roddick Gates held placards reading "No Degree for Durban," as McGill University awarded an honorary doctor of laws to Mary Robinson on the other side during the law school convocation.

The silent vigil on June 4, organized by B'nai Brith Canada, drew about 20 protesters who considered Robinson, the former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, unworthy of the honour. She presided over the UN World Conference Against Racism in September, 2001, in Durban, South Africa, "which gave voice to some of the worst demonstrations of anti-Semitism and attacks against Israel in more than 50 years," B'nai Brith executive vice-president Frank Dimant said in a statement distributed at the protest.

"She was the driving force behind that ironically named conference, overseeing what was little more than an intellectual pogrom against Jews and Israel. To date, Ms Robinson accepts no responsibility for the conference's racist stance against Israel and the Jewish people and, in fact, insists that much good came from it," the statement said.

The protesters' placards also quote her statement at the end of Durban, "We… succeeded," accompanied by a chart indicating that anti-Semitic incidents in Canada rose dramatically after September 2001.

"The conference did succeed, if she means greater anti-Zionism and more terrorism," said B'nai Brith Quebec director Bill Surkis.

Amos Sochaczevski, national chair of B'nai Brith's Institute for International Affairs, said Robinson, throughout her five years as High Commissioner, was "one-sided in defence of Palestinian terror by unjustifiably blaming it on Israeli 'occupation.'

"By granting this honorary doctorate, McGill has tarnished its reputation and is complicit in lending legitimacy to the Durban conference and tacitly giving its approval to Ms Robinson's positions. It sends the message that those who hate Israel are honoured at McGill."

Abe Gonshor, a B'nai Brith board member, said, "Why did McGill pick her when there are so many good people out there? It's mind-boggling."

The protest aroused little interest among passersby, except for a few curious questions. At least two people asked who "Durban" was. One man, who identified himself as the father of a graduate at the convocation, said the protest was "very necessary, very appropriate," but would not give his name.

There was no hint of controversy at the convocation, held on the campus lawn in a marquee. McGill chancellor Richard Pound praised Robinson as "a shining example, a model, of what can be accomplished by a rigourous lawyer at the service of the world community."

Dean of law Nicholas Kasirer called Robinson "a distinguished lawyer and public servant, known the world over for her commitment to social justice… ardent and courageous throughout her career."

In her address, Robinson made no allusion to Durban or the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The former Irish president focused on the need to find solutions to the conditions in underdeveloped countries and the growing gap between rich and poor.

"While one billion of the world's people hold 80 per cent of global wealth, another billion struggle to survive." She warned that those living in desparately poor nations have become "disillusioned with a world they see as unfair."

She also spoke of "the delicate balance" between protection of human rights and "the needs of the state in times of crisis." She feels human rights have been eroded in the war on terrorism and hopes the "shocking images" from the Abu Graib prison in Iraq will raise awareness about the need to respect human rights.

McGill history professor Gil Troy was the leading opponent of Robinson receiving an honorary degree. In the *Gazette* on May 2, he wrote that honouring her "sends a terrible message" at a time of "ever-coarsening anti-Semitism and despicable rationalizations for suicide bombings."

A series of letters pro and con followed in the newspaper for a couple of weeks.

Just when things appeared to be dying down, the *McGill Reporter*, the organ of the university's public relations department, published a stinging letter on May 27 by Slawomir Poplawski, a technician in the mining and metallurgical department, against "small and mean personalities," namely Troy, opposed to Robinson. It was the first mention of the issue in the *Reporter*.

"Deep down, it is not about the historian's [Troy's] attack on this honourable woman for her allegedly anti-Semitic views, but about politically correct rhetoric from opportunists putting down others for personal reasons… People like Mrs. Robinson are not liked by the forces of money and greed that dominate our world: she poses a danger to their single-minded cynicism." It ended, "Let's hope that the June 4 convocation will see some calm among the more destructive elements around us."

Poplawski published a longer version of the letter on his website.

The final salvo in the various exchanges came from Troy, who insisted the university disseminate his response to Poplawski's letter, which Troy called "an anti-Semitic screed, filled with code words."

After "intensive negotiations" over the weekend preceding convocation week, the university agreed to insert a page with Troy's letter in all 10,000 copies of the *Reporter* that were still on campus in time for the start of convocation week May 31. The original letter was also removed from the *Reporter*'s website.

Troy said he felt it was imperative to provide his rebuttal in the same issue because so many parents, and possibly grandparents who are Holocaust survivors as well as other visitors, would be on campus that week.

The insert includes an explanation from *Reporter* editor Maeve Haldane, who says that Troy's letter was being distributed in this way "in the pursuit of fairness and balance" and because the paper would not publish again until September. Letters to the editor, she adds, do not represent the views of the university.

Troy's brief response (he says his original version was edited down) is under the heading "For a reasoned and respectful debate."

"My arguments – with which reasonable people can disagree – were not 'speculative insinuations,' as Mr. Poplawski charges, but considered assessments, backed by eyewitness accounts from the Durban conference and its preliminaries. I raised legitimate issues questioning the decision to award Mary Robinson an honorary doctorate. My arguments have been distorted by this letter writer and others…

"I urge everyone to demonstrate to our students and parents that we can disagree intelligently, respectfully and substantively, focussing on the issues rather than casting aspersions and making wild, inaccurate and personal accusations, let alone using offensive, conspiratorial language more reminiscent of the failed conference at Durban than suited to McGill University's official news organ."

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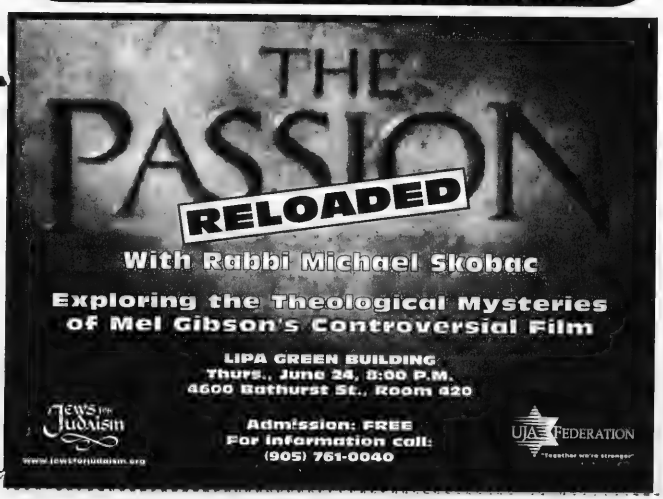

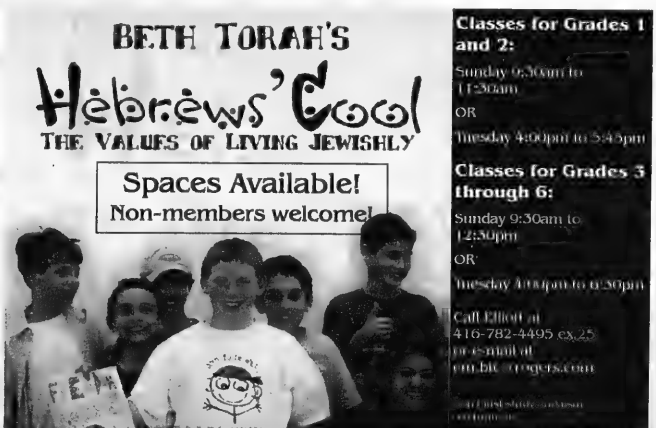

Coast to Coast

Neo-cons wrongly linked to a 'Jewish agenda'

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

Last week's column looked at the troubling new trend of how some in the media are blaming Israel for the United States' misfortunes in Iraq, including an analysis of Nicholas Kristof's *New York Times* column on the subject. At the same time, certain critics of the war in Iraq are reviving another enemy: the "neo-cons."

A recent proponent of the blame-the-neo-cons-theory is retired general Anthony Zinni, who was quoted approvingly – and at length – in Kristof's column. In a May 23 interview on CBS's *60 Minutes* with correspondent Steve Kroft, Zinni said, "I blame the civilian leadership of the Pentagon directly" for leading the United States into the war in Iraq.

Zinni remarked that "those who… foisted this strategy on us that is flawed… ought to be gone and replaced."

Kroft elaborates: "Zinni is talking about a group of policymakers within the administration known as the 'neo-conservatives' who saw the invasion of Iraq as a way to stabilize American interests in the region and strengthen the position of Israel. They include Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz; Undersecretary of Defense Douglas Feith; former Defense Policy Board member Richard Perle; National Security Council member Elia Abrams; and Vice-President Cheney's Chief of Staff, Lewis 'Scooter' Libby.

Paul Wolfowitz

"Zinni believes they are political ideologues who have 'hijacked American policy in Iraq.'"

That the neo-cons are also overwhelmingly Jewish is often a subtext of the criticism. Indeed, for some, neo-con is a code term for Jew (even though many of the leading adherents – such as Condoleezza Rice, a devout Southern Baptist – are decidedly not Jewish).

The highly respected Zinni has never given any indication that he harbours anti-Jewish feelings, and he is understandably indignant at the suggestion.

"[In] one article," he said, "because I mentioned the neo-conservatives who describe themselves as neo-conservatives, I was called anti-Semitic. I mean, you know, [it's] unbelievable that that's the kind of personal attacks that are run when you criticize a strategy and those who propose it. I certainly didn't criticize who they were. I certainly don't know what their ethnic religious backgrounds are."

Other commentators do make a direct connection between neo-conservatives and an alleged Jewish agenda.

In the March/April issue of *Adbusters*, a leftist Canadian magazine known for its cultural criticism, editor Kelle Lasn wrote a controversial article called "Why won't anyone say they are Jewish?" Alongside a list of people whom Lasn termed "the 50 most influential neocons in the U.S.," he wrote: "[T]he neocons seem to have a special affinity for Israel that influences their political thinking and consequently American foreign policy in the Middle East… Some shape policy from within the White House, while others are more peripheral, exacting influence indirectly as journalists, academics and think tank policy wonks. What they all share is the view that the U.S. is a benevolent hyper power that must protect itself by reshaping the rest of the world into its morally superior image. And half of them are Jewish."

Anthony Zinni

At least Lasn was criticized by a number of people in the Canadian media for his views.

More recently, the inveterate Israel-bashing British journalist David Hirst argued that the "neo-cons" manipulated Bush into supporting Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's "expansionist designs" ("Worst is yet to come as U.S. pays price of failure," *Guardian*, June 4).

Richard Perle

Compare the vilification of the neo-cons above to the responsible, sober analysis from The *Economist* in its May 29 "Special Report: America and the Middle East": "The neo-cons were concerned not to enforce Israeli hegemony, but rather to break the U.S. of its habit of supporting corrupt Arab dictatorships which had turned the so-called 'Arab system' into a factory for anti-American terrorism. In the long run, fighting terrorism would, therefore, require creating a democratic Arab world at peace with American values."

The *Economist*, which over the years has not been noted for taking a pro-Israeli stance, recognizes that rather than controlling Bush, the neo-cons proposed ideas that "chimed neatly" with the aims of the administration. In short, there was a meeting of minds – not a conspiracy – two entirely different views of the lead-up to the war in Iraq.

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

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Joshua Daniels	יהושע	Paula Libfeld	חיה	Matthew Sherman	גרשון
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Bryan Flatt	יצחק	Daniel Mager	דניאל	Benjamin Silverstein	אברם
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Talya Frankel	טליה	Rachel Max	שושנה	Shael Soberano	מרדכי
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Coast to Coast

'Reason for hope and optimism'

Continued from page 1

Anti-semitism, internationally and here in Canada, was a predominant theme of the program as speaker after speaker described its rise throughout the world. The general consensus was that, despite the incidents of vandalism and hate we have witnessed locally, Canada is still the best country in the world for Jews, after Israel.

"The Jews have to move from restitution to reconciliation," said Rabbi Israel Singer, chair of the governing board of the World Jewish Congress, in his keynote address. "They have to move from the era where they continuously think that the world is against them to the possibility that they have something to offer the world – hope and promise and a dream."

Israel Ambassador Haim Divon praised the CJC for its advocacy work, noting the respect members of the Canadian government have shown him, thanks to the efforts of CJC.

"There is still a battle to win, the battle for peace," he said. "We need to know that whatever we decide, we have a committed community behind us with a strong leadership."

In his final address as president of CJC, Keith Landy highlighted some of the accomplishments of the organization during his term and offered some "optimistic but sober lessons" to be learned: "Jews being under siege is an old story – we are a convenient scapegoat – but we have survived and we will survive… We must not only fight for our Jewish community, but we must fight to help others and to establish the universal values of goodness that will make for a better world… and we must preserve the memory of the past."

Landy offered words of encouragement. "Let us accentuate the positive, focus on the essence of who we are, what we do best and whom we represent as Canadian Jewish Congress. Let us continue our good work on behalf of our community, our country, our beloved State of Israel, and for justice and human rights for all humankind."

Incoming president Ed Morgan, is set to take on the task. "As great and tolerant as this society is, anti-Semitism is still alive here," he said. "We can win the battle. It is not futile… I firmly believe that Congress is up to the task and I look forward to working with them."

A panel discussion on "Terrorism: Combating the Threat to Collective and Individual Security" disclosed the most frightening reality about terrorism: that the terrorists are not just fighting against a particular policy, but against who we are.

"Their goal is that the entire world will be Islamic, under their control," said Yehudit Barsky, director of the American Jewish Committee's Division on Middle East and International Terrorism. "We need to be aware of the fact that terrorist organizations operate on an international level and we need to make the laws equal. We need parallel punishments for terrorists around the world."

National Post reporter Stewart Bell, who specializes in issues of national security, said "CJC is one of the few organizations in Canada that take a principled stand against terrorism."

We are "a nation in denial," Bell said, and our politicians must begin to take the terrorism threat seriously, not wait until it strikes us close to home. National security is not even being mentioned by any of the candidates for the upcoming election, he noted.

The Alan Rose Human Rights Award for International Human Dignity was presented to Irwin Cotler. Adam Atlas was the recipient of the Brian A. Finestone Memorial Award. The Monroe and Minnie Abbey Award for young leadership was presented to Hershel Sahian.

Rabbi Reuven P. Bulka and Dr. Victor Goldbloom were recipients of the Samuel Bronfman medals for distinguished service to the Jewish community. MP Richard Marceau, who introduced the bill that led to the establishment of Holocaust Memorial Day, received the Saul Hayes Human Rights Award.

NDPer apologizes for comments

By CARA EDELL
CJN Intern

Edmonton-Strathcona NDP candidate Malcolm Azania apologized last week for 10-year-old comments about Jews that party leader Jack Layton condemned as "completely and utterly unacceptable."

In an Internet newsgroup 10 years ago, Azania, now 34, wrote that "as a group, Jews are, of course, Whites, and overall, the aggregate of White actions and inactions is Whitesupremacist [sic]."

In an apology on his campaign website, Azania, who is black, said he wants to reconcile with his "Jewish and White brothers and sisters," adding that "in using the term [white] 'supremacy,' I was not talking about hate or violence, but privilege… in the same way I have used the term 'male supremacy' to describe male privilege."

After controversy erupted last week, Layton asked Azania to meet with the Jewish leadership in his community and embark on a "process of reconciliation," but said it's too late to remove Azania as a candidate.

Azania has sent a letter of apology to Canadian Jewish Congress and said he plans to meet with B'Nai Brith Canada.

He told *The CJN* he can understand why people would be appalled at his insensitivity when they read the statements out of context, but he insisted most people, including the Jews he associates with, know that he "would never call Jewish people Nazis."

Since posting the comments, titled "Jews: Enemies? Friends?" Azania said he has matured.

"It's not an excuse to say I was passing through a brief and stupid phase. But it does partly help to show where I was coming from," Azania said in his online apology.

He told *The CJN* he hopes those he hurt will realize he is "an anti-racist person."

Shoshana Szlachter, western regional director for B'Nai Brith Canada, told the *Edmonton Journal* that Azania's comments were "race battering and very anti-Semitic and basically outrageous," but Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) spokesperson Ron Singer said his organization is "willing to accept his apology" and "prepared to let it stand."

Had Azania's comments been written today, Singer said, "we would be calling for his removal" from the ballot, but because they are a decade old, Congress is more forgiving.

Singer said Azania's letter to Congress seems sincere and shows he understands his mistake.

NDP spokesperson Ian Capstick said Azania's views "have evolved" since 1994. He said Azania has been working with members of the Jewish community for years and has denounced bigotry.

Concern that Azania's comments will be a setback for the NDP is "not the issue at hand," Capstick said.

Federal Election '04

Largest Jewish riding could be a tight race

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

In Canada's most Jewish riding – where some 45 per cent of residents and both main parties' candidates are Jews – Israel is bound to come up as a flash-point in this election, as in the last.

Just before the 2000 vote, passions ran high over Canada's support for an Arab-sponsored United Nations resolution that condemned Israel for "excessive use of force" against Palestinians.

Suddenly, Israel was a political football.

Thornhill

Nevertheless, Elinor Caplan, the Liberal MP, went on to win Thornhill with nearly 65 per cent of the vote, trouncing her Alliance rival by 20,000 ballots.

But things are different this time, insists Josh Cooper, the Conservative hopeful in Thornhill. Cooper, who began stumping in the riding months before this election was called (initially as the Alliance candidate) and is enjoying high visibility, says the right in Canada has finally coalesced and is making strong headway in Thornhill.

"There was a divided opposition last time [between the Alliance and the Progressive Conservatives]," says Cooper, a 34-year-old father of two. "And this time, Israel is even more under attack than it was four years ago, and people are following [developments] much more closely."

Cooper says voters in the riding's Jewish neighbourhoods are "furious" about Canada's spotty voting record on Israel at the UN, as well as Ottawa's move to strip Canadian Magen David Adom of its charitable status (later resolved) and the Liberals' foot-dragging on banning Hezbollah and Hamas in Canada.

He says party leader Stephen Harper has made it clear that Israel has the right to defend itself and "has been very vocal on Israel. You're not going to find a greater defender of Israel or of democracy."

Cooper is founder, owner and operator of Par Golf Camps and, according to his website, has helped raise "tens of thousands of dollars" for many local charities, including UJA Federation, B'nai Brith, Reena Foundation, Friends of Simon Weisenthal Center and Honest Reporting Canada.

From left: Josh Cooper, Susan Kadis and Rick Morelli

He's also chaired the UJA Federation/United Talmud Torahs Library Fund, which has helped raise more than $75,000 to help rebuild the Montreal day school that was firebombed in April.

Overall, the "number one" reason for voter anger at the Liberals "is a lack of respect for taxpayer dollars," Cooper says. "The sponsorship scandal, the gun registry… there's a real problem with accountability. When he was finance minister, Paul Martin cut $25 billion from health care. Promising $9 billion now for health care isn't going to cut it."

He's running "not to take a cut in pay, but because I'm disgusted by what I see representing us in Ottawa."

No sooner was the election called than Cooper demanded that his main rival, Liberal Susan Kadis, resign as a Vaughan municipal councillor while she campaigns.

Kadis, who has represented Ward 5 on council since 1997 and is a former two-term York Region public school trustee, calls Cooper's demand "negative, unfounded [and meant to] deflect from the issues. I'm a very good multi-tasker. How about we talk about the issues instead?"

Those would include health care, home care, transit (she favours extending the Yonge Street subway to Langstaff Road "at least") and a range of issues "that can best be addressed at the federal level."

Kadis, 51 and a mother of five, was chosen as the Liberal candidate after Caplan announced in February that she would not seek re-election. Generally, opinion seems to have Kadis and Cooper running neck and neck.

Bounded roughly by Highway 400, Rutherford Road, Highway 7, Highway 404 and Steeles Avenue; Thornhill's population is 116,840, of which 54,000 are immigrants and 49,000 have a mother tongue other than English or French. In the last provincial election, the riding slipped from Tory hands to the Liberals.

Many issues for Kadis boil down to quality of life.

"This whole election is about what kind of Canada we want, and health care is a metaphor." Prime Minister Paul Martin, she notes, has pledged billions for sustainable health care, day care, municipal infrastructure, and what she calls the "social fabric. It's where you choose to put money that reflects what you're all about."

Kadis says she's well-known in Thornhill and has a track record of reliability. "People know they can count on me. I'm a fighter. I'm passionate."

That extends to Israel. Kadis concedes she hasn't "always been happy" with the Liberals' record on the file, but "I hope to make [it] more balanced." She says Israel considers Canada a good friend and points out that Israel is the sole country outside North America that Canada has a free trade agreement with.

"I wouldn't run if I thought things were perfect," she says.

Both Kadis and Cooper have welcomed their leaders to Thornhill.

The NDP standard bearer in Thornhill, Rick Morelli, is running "because I felt it was time for a change. People want change."

The NDP polled 3.9 percent of the vote in Thornhill in 2000.

A 38-year-old father of two who co-owns two pharmacies, he doesn't see much of a difference between the Liberals and Conservatives.

"The minute either one gets to power, the corporate agenda rises to the surface. Real change and new ideas are championed by the NDP."

Concerns in the riding revolve around education and health care, he says. "Both of those are provincial jurisdictions, but it's Ottawa that transfers the funds." A government led by NDP leader Jack Layton would boost those payments, he says, and would have deeper involvement in public transit.

Morelli has noted concerns over hate crimes (he said penalties need to be more severe) and Israel. While the NDP clearly supports the existence of Israel, the party is "anti-war. We don't support military actions, anywhere. Ultimately, what everyone wants is peace, and we want to get everyone back to the negotiating table."

Morelli concedes Jewish voters tend not to support his party but he hopes they will this time, as more and more electors are cynical about the two main choices.

Green Party candidate Bridget Haworth is also running in Thornhill.

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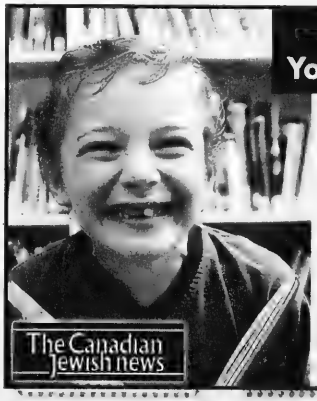

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Federal Election '04

Israel's security is non-negotiable: Harper

Continued from page 1

the survival of Israel, is non-negotiable, and we have been very critical of the government for what we see as their lax attitude towards international terrorism and the operation of terrorist organizations and their supporters in this country. I think we've been pretty consistent. And some of those things took a surprising amount of pressure to get the Liberals to change on.

CJN: *Would a Conservative government move Canada's embassy [from Tel Aviv] to Jerusalem?*

Harper: No, not unless we had an international resolution to that issue.

CJN: *Do you think it's time Canada abandon its traditional neutrality in the Middle East?*

Harper: Well, I don't see Canada as neutral. Maybe that's where the Liberals have gone, but my view is that Israel is part of the democratic family of nations, of which Canada is a member. And obviously, we want to seek a resolution to the Middle East conflict, but that can never be at the expense of the right of Israel to exist or the right of Israel to defend itself from attack.

CJN: *As you know, our community is the most targeted group when it comes to hate crimes (according to Statistics Canada). You have said you would change Canada's hate crimes laws. How would you change them and why?*

Harper: First of all, let's remember that I was the first politician in the country to call for [native leader] Mr. [David] Ahenakew to be investigated for violating the Criminal Code for his attacks on the Jewish people. So I think my support for this is clear. There was a bill passed in Parliament just before the House rose, which many in our party had opposed, on protecting gays and lesbians from hate crimes. I've said that I have no problem with the concept of that protection, but I want to make sure that protection doesn't jeopardize the expression of legitimate religious and other beliefs. I would just like to see some amendments to make sure we don't leave it too vague or don't attempt to criminalize what happens to be expression of opinion.

CJN: *One of your candidates has stated that your party has said very little and offered very little about multiculturalism. How do you respond?*

Harper: Our platform concentrates on the major changes we would make, the things we would actually change. This is a multi-ethnic society and individual liberty involves the preservation of cultural heritage. We have a department of multiculturalism and multicultural programs. I haven't proposed making changes to those. And we will always evaluate them to see if we're getting the best money for them. And I'm very proud of the fact that what I've done with this party is make sure that we have diverse representation in cultural communities, and that is reflected in our [candidates].

CJN: *Would you agree that traditionally, Canada's Jewish community has voted Liberal?*

Harper: Oh, I think that's true. That's obviously true. I think that it's kind of strange, then, to see what you would describe as the neutralist attitude of the Liberal government towards the Israeli situation. It's not our attitude, and I think that's why we're finding, increasingly, younger Jewish voters are voting pretty strongly for us, and I think that trend will continue.

CJN: *As you know, in 1999, Canada was rebuked by the United Nations with respect to Ontario's policy on funding religious-based schools [Catholic but not others]. How would your government rectify the imbalance in Ontario?*

Harper: Well, I'm not sure that we can. When I was with the National Citizens Coalition, I very strongly supported the [Equity in] Education Tax Credit that the previous [provincial] Conservative government had brought into Ontario. For various reasons, including dealing with the United Nations decision, I regret that the current Liberal government has reversed that. It does seem to me to be a matter that's within their jurisdiction, so I don't know what we can do about it. We do have policies such as our Registered Lifetime Savings Plan that we're proposing, that would allow people more flexibility in terms of purchasing things like education, but I'm not sure that would really rectify the situation. I think it's going to have to be rectified provincially.

CJN: *Your opponents have accused you of a hidden right-wing agenda. Tell us something that would allay the fears of voters who would take that as true?*

Harper: I think you have to look at the record of the Liberal party. They talk about hidden agendas. The only thing hidden here is our money. They said they would get to the bottom of the sponsorship scandal and they didn't. [In] the last election, they said they would shut down private health clinics. Those clinics were expanded. The prime minister uses them himself. [In] the election before that, they said they would bring forward a more open policy [on] Quebec nationalists and they brought in the Clarity Act. [In] the election before that, they ran on running high deficits [and] being against free trade and the GST, and they reversed themselves on all those.

My history is, I do what I say I will do. The history of the Liberal party and this Liberal government is that whatever they run on is, in fact, the opposite of what they will do. I think history will indicate the only people with hidden agendas are Liberals.

CJN: *What about the other spectre that has been raised – that a minority Harper government would be forced to work with the Bloc Québécois? Can you envision working with the BQ?*

Harper: No. I've said repeatedly that I can see no possibility of a coalition or alliance with the Bloc. Mr. Martin has [former Quebec premier] Lucien Bouchard's lieutenant in Quebec as his chief lieutenant. That's the deal he's done with a wing of the Bloc. [NDP leader Jack] Layton says he would recognize a unilateral declaration of independence in Quebec. I would do no such thing. I'm the only leader not playing footsie with the separatists in this campaign.

CJN: *Your advertisement in our paper is headlined, "You're paying too much tax." Where would a Harper government begin? Give us a sense of its first 50 days in power on the tax issue.*

Harper: [Laughs]. Well, I'll just tell you very quickly what the major tax reductions we propose are: We propose raising all tax brackets gradually and eliminating the lower-middle bracket. In other words, a significant tax cut for people earning in the $35,000-$70,000 range. We propose a tax credit for any family that has children, regardless of how those children are being raised. We're going to cut some of the gasoline taxes and give people more flexibility on retirement savings, in terms of tax treatment of those savings. Those would be the major things.

CJN: *If you had a parting message to the Jewish community, what would it be?*

Harper: I think the message would be: Look carefully at the record, look at all of our policies. I know voters are interested in all policies. I know Jewish voters are interested in all our various economic, social, democratic and foreign policies. But for those who care particularly about matters in relation to the State of Israel, there is simply no comparison between the other parties and ourself. We are the only party to have consistently stuck up for Israel's right to exist, its right to defend itself and for the special relationship Canada has with Israel. And that record is crystal clear.

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Federal Election '04

Liberals fight to keep campaign on federal record

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

Jim Peterson, the Liberal candidate in Willowdale, is confident that voters won't confuse the provincial and federal parties come election day.

Willowdale

With recent polls showing the Liberals and Conservatives running neck-and-neck, Peterson believes voters won't blame Prime Minister Paul Martin for the current unpopularity of Premier Dalton McGuinty's Ontario Liberals. The issue is a concern for many federal hopefuls from Ontario, especially since some pundits are suggesting that the province's ridings will be pivotal in the June 28 federal vote.

Alluding to the recent provincial budget that broke several campaign promises, including that taxes would not be raised, Peterson said, "Canadians will look at the prime minister's record and determine that Paul Martin has a history of fiscal responsibility.

"Martin is the only leader at the G-8 summit of major industrialized countries who is running a balanced budget," said Peterson, 63, who has represented Willowdale since 1980, with a hiatus from 1984 to 1988, when the riding was swept by Brian Mulroney's Conservatives.

The incumbent is a lawyer who taught at the University of Toronto law school, chaired the standing committee on finance from 1993 to 1997 and served as secretary of state for international financial institutions from 1997 to early 2002.

In the 2000 federal election, Peterson won the riding with 61 per cent of the vote, trouncing his nearest rival by nearly 20,000 votes.

The riding runs roughly between Steeles Avenue and Highway 401, Victoria Park Avenue and Bathurst Street and has a population of 108,454. Willowdale has been redrawn since the last election so that an area northeast of Bathurst Street and Finch Avenue is now in York Centre. The candidates estimate that between five and 10 per cent of Willowdale is Jewish.

From left: Yvonne Bobb, Jovan Boseovski and Jim Peterson

Peterson feels voters appreciate Martin's integrity.

When the government was accused of awarding $250 million in questionable federal sponsorship contracts to Liberal-friendly advertising firms in Quebec, "Martin acted decisively by calling in the RCMP, appointing a special prosecutor to track down the funds and launching a judicial inquiry," Peterson said.

Peterson is a member of the Liberal Parliamentarians for Israel, an official caucus committee that has presented a number of position papers to Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham, including an analysis of this government's voting record at the United Nations.

On the issue of same-sex marriage, Peterson said he would not support the use of the notwithstanding clause to deny rights provided in the Charter of Rights.

"If we deny rights for one minority, who will be next?"

In light of the recent increase in anti-Semitic attacks, Peterson suggests there may be a role for the federal government to play in funding anti-racism education. And while he has supported funding for Jewish schools, he doesn't think the federal government can intervene in provincial matters.

Jovan Boseovski, the Conservative hopeful in Willowdale, said the most pressing issue facing the government today has "got to be accountability.

"There has to be some accountability for the inappropriate spending habits of the current government," Boseovski said, referring to the sponsorship scandal and the billions of dollars spent on the gun registry.

Boseovski, who describes himself as a moderate Conservative – someone from the Progressive Conservative side of the recent merger with the Alliance party – is reluctant to disclose his age (he's under 30), noting that "[Quebec Premier] Jean Charest was already a [federal cabinet] minister at 28.

"Environmental policies need to be a major federal concern," said Boseovski, who is the economic development officer for the Regional Municipality of Durham.

"I would like to see a push towards more environmentally friendly automobiles and policies that stimulate that," said the candidate, who has an MA in economic development from the University of Waterloo and a BA in urban planning from Ryerson University.

The Greater Toronto Area isn't getting its fair share of money from the federal government, Boseovski said.

"I would press for more funds for public transit infrastructure, traffic issues and environmental matters."

Regarding the 1999 United Nations decision that found Ontario's school funding practices discriminatory and in violation of UN covenants, Boseovski said if there is going to be funding for Catholic schools, there should be resources for everyone.

"When the province isn't dealing with things appropriately and puts Canada on a blacklist in the United Nations we [the federal government] need to put our influence into the provincial sphere."

He said Canada needs to support democracies such as Israel around the world, and negotiate with leaders who support peace.

"It's fairly clear that [Palestinian Authority President] Yasser Arafat has only one intention, and that intention isn't peace."

As for same sex marriage, "the economic rights of gays must be protected, and the way to do that is to support a civil union approach to gay marriage, which would also protect the traditional definition of marriage."

Boseovski said it's incumbent on Ottawa to get to the root of the increase in anti-Semitism that has affected Toronto and Montreal.

He would allocate more money for investigations into anti-Semitic groups and would toughen the laws that deal with those crimes.

Yvonne Bobb, again the NDP candidate (she ran in 2000, polling 2,400 votes, or 5.4 per cent of the total) stressed that poverty, homelessness and heath care must be the key issues for the federal government.

She would support increased funding for policing in those cases where racism is on the rise.

"I would make it an offence to exercise any kind of racism against any ethnic or religious community."

On the Middle East, Bobb suggests that "both side should cease the bombing" and that Canada has a role to play in that conflict because it is a country perceived to be pro-peace.

She also believes that it is incumbent on the government to "keep our people safe by preventing the smuggling of arms across borders." The NDP candidate is a program assistant at Ontario's Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, president of her local union (Ontario Public Service Employees), co-chair of the ministry's employee relations committee and a human rights adviser. Bobb currently has no position on the UN decision on Ontario's school funding policy.

Bobb said she supports same-sex marriage but feels "each religious group should determine what they want."

The Green party candidate in Willowdale is Sharolyn Vettese.

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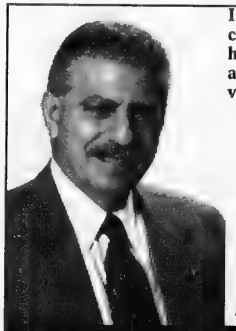

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Mazon gala draws over 600

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Mazon Canada's sixth annual Kosher Gourmet Gala held during the winter at Roy Thomson Hall, attracted more than 600 guests who sampled food and wine served by about 30 caterers, restaurants and wine distributors.

Jacqueline Kott-Wolle, executive director of Mazon Canada, says the gala raised more than $95,000, the proceeds of which will benefit the organization's work of allocating funds to more than 150 hunger-relief agencies across Canada.

Since 1986 when Mazon Canada was founded as a means by which the Jewish community could respond to the problem of hunger, Kott-Wolle said, the organization has contributed more than $4 million – in its fall allocations it granted $259,995 – to food banks, community kitchens, Out of the Cold shelters and children's breakfast clubs in almost every province across Canada.

Mazon Canada also raises awareness about the nature and severity of hunger and the ways by which members of the Jewish community can share their good fortune with those who do not have enough, she said.

"[We] encourage [people] to contribute a portion of their food expenditures when celebrating special occasions such as weddings and bar or bat mitzvahs. This way they can connect their celebration with the needs of those who are less fortunate."

The true success of the Kosher Gourmet Gala, she said, is "in the teamwork of our amazing committee of volunteers.

"Each and every one of them is to be commended for enlisting our volunteer caterers, musicians and decorator, not to mention collecting donations of raffle prizes. This is volunteerism at its best," said Kott-Wolle.

She offers some recipes contributed by gala participants.

More than $95,000 raised

WOOLEY'S LANE ZUCCHINI

From *Renee Simmons*
gala committee volunteer

4 zucchini, washed and ends trimmed off
1 onion, chopped
1 clove garlic, minced
2 tbsp. butter
1 tbsp. olive oil
salt
fresh ground pepper

Grate the zucchini into a colander. Add salt and allow to drain for about half an hour. In a heavy skillet, heat butter and oil over medium heat. Add onion and garlic and sauté until softened. Add zucchini and stir fry quickly for about 2 minutes. Season to taste with freshly ground pepper. Serve immediately.

ORZO SALAD

From *Linda Pack*
gala committee volunteer

1½ cup orzo (rice shaped pasta)
⅓ cup oil packed sundried tomatoes, chopped and drained
3 tbsp. extra virgin olive oil
¼ cup balsamic vinegar
¼ cup black kalamata olives, chopped
1 cup ricchio, chopped
½ cup pine nuts, toasted
½ cup fresh basil chopped
½ cup parmesan cheese, freshly grated

Cook orzo in boiling water until just tender (approx. 15 to 20 minutes). Drain well. Transfer to a large bowl. Add sundried tomatoes, oil, vinegar and olives. Toss to blend. Let stand until cool. Mix in the rest of the ingredients. Season to taste with salt and pepper and serve. Recipe can be prepared up to step one six hours ahead. If refrigerating let the salad come to room temperature before continuing with step 2. Yield: 8-10 servings.

ORANGE HONEY CHICKEN

From *Lyndy Goldlust*
gala committee volunteer

½ cup honey
½ cup orange juice
1 cup ketchup
1 tbsp. soya sauce
4 cloves crushed garlic.
2 chickens

Preheat oven to 400. Mix all ingredients together. Pour over chicken. Bake uncovered for one hour. Yield: 8-10 servings.

RABBI YOSSI'S ULTRA LOW FAT CRISPY SCHNITZEL

From *Rabbi Yossi Saperman*
Mazon board member

This recipe can be used for Passover by substituting matzah meal for the bread crumbs.

4 boneless skinless tenderized chicken breasts
1½ cup seasoned bread crumbs
1 beaten egg
Variations: Combine the above ingredients with ½ cup grated Gruyere cheese. Place in a baking dish. Top with grated parmesan cheese.

Combine the above ingredients with 1 cup cooked rice and ½ cup grated gruyere cheese. Place in a baking dish. Top with grated parmesan cheese.

Bake at 350 for 20 minutes. Yield: 4 servings.

oil cooking spray

Dip chicken breast in egg, coat fully. Bread on both sides. Repeat the above. Spray a non-stick frying pan with cooking spray and heat. Quickly brown the chicken on both sides. Turn frequently until crisp. *Do not leave or it will burn.* When crisp on both sides, set aside on paper towel. When all portions are fried, place in a microwave-safe dish, covered with plastic wrap. Leave a one-inch slit in plastic wrap to allow steam to escape. Microwave on medium-high for a minimum of 3.5 minutes per piece (add 30 seconds per additional portion). Cooking time may vary depending on the microwave. Spray and reheat frying pan. Place the chicken in the pan and turn frequently until the outer coat is crisp again. Serve immediately. Yield: 4 servings.

BRAZILIAN FEIJAO AND RICE

From *Jacqueline Kott-Wolle*
Mazon executive director

In addition to being a devoted mother and loving *safta*, my mother-in-law Rivka Wolle is a wonderful cook. Before coming to Canada, Rivka lived in many countries and learned to make this hearty bean dish in Brazil. Try it! You'll see why I married her son.

Bean dish
3 cups black beans
1 large onion, chopped
2 tbsp. olive oil
1 strip of flanken (optional)
6 cloves of garlic, mashed
6 cups water
1 bay leaf
salt to taste

Pre-soak beans overnight (or for a few hours) to reduce cooking, time. In a large pot, boil water. Add beans and flanken (if using). Cover and simmer 1½ hours until beans are soft. In a separate pan over medium heat, sauté onion and garlic in olive oil until golden. Stir into bean stew, add bay leaf and continue to cook covered for ½ hour. Add salt to taste. Add more water if stew becomes thick.

Rice dish
1 cup parboiled rice
2 cups water
1 medium onion, chopped
4 cloves garlic, mashed
2 tbsp. olive oil
1 tsp. salt

In a saucepan over medium heat sauté onions and garlic in olive oil until golden. Add dry rice and mix well. Add water and salt. Bring to a boil, turn down heat, cover and simmer for 20 minutes.

Serve feijao over rice and enjoy! This dish freezes well. Yield: 6 servings.

שישאר ג'ינג'ו

גידי קורן וחברים

מה יהיה

עד שיצאו הדברים הבאים לאור-הם עלולים להיות מיושנים, ולמרות קצב הדברים הרצחני אי אפשר שלא להתפעל מעמידתו האיתנה של שרון נגד הסחטנות של הימין הקיצוני, של חברי מפלגתו ושאר חרחרנים. אפשר להגיד על שרון הרבה דברים, אך את הנחישות והיכולת לתמרן ולהגיע למטרה אי אפשר לקחת ממנו. העובדה שהוא מוכן לפרק את מפלגתו ולצרף את מפלגת העבודה כדי ליצור גוש שוז קדימה לעבר פיתוי עזה ולעבר השלום-היא מעודדת מאין כמוה. היכולת שלו להבין את מה שהרוב המוחלט של ישראלים רוצים, ולהפריד אותו ממה שרוצה הימין של מפלגתו-ראויים לכל שבח. זוהי ממלכתיות בשעתה הגדולה. ואני בהחלט לא מתומכיו המסורתיים של שרון. רק שישאר בריא ושכוחות הבטחון ישמרו עליו מפני יגאל עמיר הבא. אבל שישאר ביניו.

אביב, קיץ, סתיו,חורף,אביב

אחת לכמה שנים יוצא לאקרנים סרט שקובע את הנורמה המוחלטת של אמנות המסך. כמו "פליני רומא", "רשומון" היפאני, או "פרסונה" של ברגמן. נדמה לי שזה קרה החודש עם יציאתו למסך של סרט דרום קוריאני מדהים גם ביופיו וגם בעלילה שלו. מספיק רק להגיד שיש מעט מאוד מלים מדוברות בסרט הזה, אך אפילו לא שניה אחת משעממת. והכל מתקיים בפינת נוף מדהימה בקוריאה. יותר לא אגלה לכם, שמא אהרוס לכם את העלילה. עשר בסולם קורן.

תקליט לדרך

לקראת עונת נסיעות הקיץ, שבה יבלו זמן רב בדרכים, אביא מפעם לפעם המלצות לתקליטים ישראלים שיעשו לכם את הדרך כיפית.

נלי עשרי יצאה בתקליט חדש שמראה בפעם המי יודע שיש לה כושר נדיר לבחור שירים יפים שמתאימים לקול היפה שלה, עם מלים חכמות ועיבודים מצויינים של משה לוי. אחרי שתשמעו את התקליט הזה תרצו לחפש את התקליטים הקודמים שלה שהחמצתם.

דניאל ברוזה חוזיא בשנה האחרונה את "זה הכל או כלום", עם שירים יפים מאוד והפקה מושלמת. והכי חשוב-איך שהוא מגן ניטרה: בלי הגזמה, ממש בשורה הראשונה בעולם.

אי אפשר בלי ***שלמה ארצי***, שנבחר לאחרונה למקום ראשון ברשימה של מה שהכי מייצג את ישראל. תקליט האוסף הלא כל כך חדש "אהבתיהם" מכיל ביצועים חדשים וקצבים לשירים ישנים שלו. גם מי שלא מת על שלמה ארצי- יימס מהתקליט הזה. שיחזיה בכיף ותסעו לאט. כמו ששרה גלי עטרי:"אם תמהר לא תגיע, לא תגיע אם תמהר".

דברים בפי אומרם-אפרים קישון

כבר המון שנים לא קראתי דבר חדש משל אפרים קישון. לכן כל כך שמחתי למקרא השורות הבאות לכבוד יום העצמאות: ישראל זוהי

המדינה היחידה בעולם שבה בני 60 עדיין שונאים את המ"כ מהטירונות.

המדינה היחידה שהעלתה לחלל לווין תקשורת, אבל אף אחד לא נתן לגמור משפט"

המדינה היחידה שבה התפוצצו כבר טילים מעירק, קטיושות מלבנון,מתאבדים מעזה ועדיין דירת שלושה חדרים עולה יותר מאשר בפאריז.

המדינה היחידה שבה אפשר לדעת מה חמצב הבטחוני לפי השירים ברדיו.

המדינה היחידה שבה שואלים כוכבניות פורנו " מה אומרת אמא שלך", וביום ששי כשחולכים לחורים, כל אחד יושב בדיוק באותו כיסא שבו ישב בגיל חמש....

אנחנו ממבה

איש הקולנוע הישראלי אבי לב יצר סרט מדהים על אוהבי הסמבה הברזילאית בטורונטו. אם לא יצא לכם לראותו-רוצו, רוצו,רוצו. גם סרט, גם להקת סמבה מטריפת חושים. ב-24 ביוני ב-Bloor Cinema ב-7 בערב. $10. אם תגידו שגידי שלח אתכם תשלמו $20, אז יותר טוב שלא תגידו כלום.

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Sharon prepares for Gaza pullout

By DAN BARON
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told government colleagues Sunday to limit their vacation time abroad this summer to ensure a full and supportive turnout for any discussions on withdrawing troops and settlers from the Gaza Strip by the end of 2005.

"I instructed those heading the committees to begin work immediately and without delay, in order to keep to the timetable set by the plan," Sharon said at the weekly cabinet meeting. "I will not accept a situation whereby members of government abstain from votes, or this or that deputy minister speaks out against the resolution."

After receiving hard-won government approval for his Gaza plan, Sharon means business.

He is not alone. Dozens of settlers from Gaza and four West Bank communities slated for removal have already contacted the Prime Minister's Office in the hope of taking advantage of a relocation package of $300,000 for each family, according media reports.

Compensation can be claimed as early as this August, officials said, and settlers who do not voluntarily move to Israel proper within 13 months will be evacuated forcibly from their homes. With the settlers council for Yesha (Judea, Samaria and Gaza) claiming that most settlers slated for evacuation have signed a declaration saying they will stay put no matter what, the spectre of violent confrontations looms large for Sharon.

But the prime minister has been bolstered by the international community.

Last Friday, Sharon took a call from UN Secretary General Kofi Annan congratulating him on his efforts to disengage Israel from the Palestinians after 3½ years of dead-end conflict. Annan offered any assistance necessary in implementing the Gaza plan and, according to Jerusalem sources, Sharon has not ruled out a UN peacekeeping role in Gaza.

Meanwhile, Hamas has vowed to continue terrorizing Israelis regardless of the disengagement plan.

"We will continue the struggle against Israel even after it pulls back," Mahmoud Al-Zahar, acting head of the Islamist group, said at a conference of Palestinian factions in Gaza City on Saturday.

But aides to Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Ahmed Qurei, who attended the meeting, were more upbeat, saying politics could sidetrack Hamas from its jihad.

"Dr. Zahar said his organization will take part in elections after the withdrawal and will be willing to take part in the leadership that arises in Gaza," one Palestinian official told Israel's daily *Yediot Achronot*.

Egypt, too, may serve as a mediating force during a withdrawal. It has offered to send security advisers to Gaza to bolster Palestinian security forces to the point where they could take on Hamas after an Israeli pullback.

Many Palestinians view stability as the key to attracting foreign donations to rehabilitate Gaza's Palestinians.

Hamas leader says attacks against Israel to continue

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

GAZA CITY — The Islamic militant group Hamas will continue attacks against Israelis despite plans to withdraw settlements and military bases from the Gaza Strip, a top Hamas leader in Gaza said Saturday.

"We do not trust the Israelis and we do not trust that the Israelis are going to withdraw from Gaza while they are speaking of controlling the sea and the air. Until the occupation completely ends, our resistance will continue," Mahmoud Al-Zahar said.

"Evacuating the Gaza Strip does not mean the end of the Israeli occupation, therefore we need answers regarding the issue of prisoners, borders, water resources, airspace and economic trade as soon as possible," he said.

"The only guarantee we can give so far is the continuation of the resistance."

Al-Zahar's comments came as Egyptian officials worked on an agreement for maintaining security in Gaza, Hamas' stronghold, in the wake of the planned pullback.

Egypt has offered to send security advisers to Gaza to help train and equip Palestinian forces, but Al-Zahar said he rejected the proffered assistance.

"We are against any sort of commitment to any security steps on any side," Al-Zahar told reporters in Gaza City. "We are still in the resistance... to free our land from the occupation."

However, he later said Hamas leaders abroad were expected to begin talks with Egyptian officials within a few days.

Al-Zahar spoke before meeting with Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia, who made a rare trip to Gaza for talks with the heads of the various Palestinian security branches and members of Palestinian political and militant groups.

It was Al-Zahar's first public appearance since the funeral of Hamas' Gaza leader Abdel Aziz Rantisi, who was killed by Israel in April. Many Hamas leaders have gone into hiding since then, though it is considered unlikely Israel would target Hamas leaders during a meeting with Qureia.

Al-Zahar said continued Israeli presence is unacceptable.

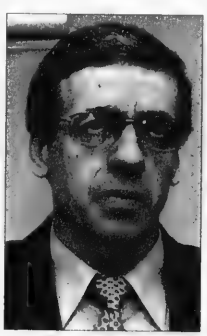
He did leave open the possibility that Hamas, which rejects the existence of Israel and hopes to replace it with an Islamic state, could change its position.

"When we hear something concrete, about full sovereignty, we will think about what is proposed to us," he said. "At this moment, our position stands firm. Our endeavour is a liberation endeavour, and if this liberation is not a full and comprehensive one, our endeavour will continue."

Mazuz likely to close Greek island case

By YUVAL YOAZ
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Attorney General Menachem Mazuz has apparently decided not to go ahead with an indictment against Sharon – either for bribe-taking or for fraud and breach of trust arising from the so-called Greek island affair.



Menachem Mazuz

The reason for the decision in each of the counts is lack of sufficient evidence, especially evidence of criminal intention, that is, the possibility of having to prove the extent to which Sharon was aware of the connection between the favours he allegedly received from businessman David Appel and the assistance he allegedly granted to pressure the Greek government into giving its permission to establish a resort and casino on the island of Patroklos.

Mazuz had reached his decision on the indictment before Sunday's meeting with his legal team, but the meeting served to tie up the remaining loose ends. Afterward, the attorney general began drafting the reasons for the decision, to be published this week.

Along with the decision on Sharon, the attorney general will also announce his decision on whether to bring Sharon's son, Gilad, to trial. The two decisions are inextricably related. If Mazuz closes the case of Sharon Sr., he will be obliged to close the case of Sharon Jr., too, to avoid the contradiction of a bribery-mediation charge without charging anyone with receiving the bribe.

If the two are not indicted, Appel will also demand that the charges brought against him for bribing Sharon be stricken.

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Will continue to be home to Jews: French PM

By DANIEL BEN SIMON
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

PARIS — French Prime Minister Jean Pierre Raffarin was seated at the hospital bedside of Yisrael Yifrah two days after Yifrah was stabbed in his north Paris neighbourhood last week by a Muslim man who punctuated the act with the cry "Allahu Akhbar."

Yifrah was badly wounded, and France bent over backward to express its disgust at the attempted murder. Raffarin, accompanied by a large retinue of aides and journalists, spoke to Yifrah's parents as though he were a member of the family. He condemned the attack, apologized for France, and inquired after the family, urging them to turn to him if they needed help.

In his grief, the father suddenly turned to Raffarin and said: "I regret emigrating to France. When we left Morocco I never imagined that one of my children would be lying in the hospital because of a Muslim who sought to kill a Jew."

The father continued to unburden himself, and Raffarin listened patiently. "Had I known, I would have emigrated to the United States, because only there can we feel safe."

Raffarin placed his hand on the father's shoulder and promised France would continue to be home to Jews, and their natural place.

Jonathan Arfi, chairman of the French Jewish Student Association and an eyewitness to the scene, said that Raffarin was visibly moved by the father's speech, "because it was genuine, and because it stemmed from pain."

Arfi does not feel the same way about the Jewish Agency's calls for French Jews to immigrate to Israel. He was astonished to hear it is planning to bring tens of thousands of Jews to Israel to supposedly save them from the terrors of anti-Semitism.

"That's hardly serious," he said in a mocking tone. "I really don't see French Jewry leaving the country overnight. In the past three years, only 2,000 to 3,000 Jews moved to Israel each year, out of the 600,000 living in France, and I see no reason why that number should rise."

Arfi, like many in French Jews, admits that tensions have increased in the past year, and the sense of insecurity has grown. "But from that to a mass exodus of Jews to Israel, the distance is enormous," he said.

Arfi finds the hurtful tone of calls to French Jews to flee to be troubling.

"The French don't like the way Israel treats the country's Jews, as though they were reserve soldiers or a stockpile of people for times of crisis," he said. "That is not a political message the French like, and it is certainly not a political message the Jews like. It doesn't help us, and I would even say that it hurts us."

The Jewish community was astounded by reports the Jewish Agency is planning to bring Jews from the streets of Paris to Israel. Community leaders were scheduled to meet this week with President Jacques Chirac to discuss the stabbing of the Jewish yeshiva student.

One expressed concern the meeting's agenda might change.

"Instead of Chirac expressing sorrow for the incident, he will likely attack Israel for its declarations about removing Jews from France," he said.

The Jewish Agency's declaration received little mention in French media, with most news devoted to European parliamentary elections and the France-England Euro 2004 soccer match.

Jewish leaders quietly protested to the Jewish Agency and wondered why they hadn't been consulted.

Roger Cukierman, chairman of the Council of French Jewish Institutions, the umbrella body representing France's Jewish groups, said Israel sideswiped him and skipped over the Jewish leadership. "We intend to protest," Cukierman said in a press release.

Haim Musicant, executive director of the CRIF umbrella organization, said that Israel is wrongly impugning France.

"France is not anti-Semitic, and President Chirac is not anti-Semitic," Musicant said. "Furthermore, the French government is doing everything to fight anti-Semitic phenomena. Israel could have kept us posted and co-ordinated with us before taking action regarding French Jews. To my chagrin, that did not happen."

Two unidentified members of the Jewish community walk near some graves desecrated by vandals, at the Jewish cemetery of Herrlisheim, close to the French border with Germany, May 2, 2004. [Reuters/RNS photo]

Paris, Jerusalem to sign $200m weapons deal

By AMNON BARZILAI
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

PARIS — France and Israel are expected to announce the signing of the biggest weapons deal between the two countries since the French embargo on weapons sales to Israel prior to the Six Day War.

The $150-million to $200-million (US) deal, to be signed during the Eurosatory 2004 international exhibition for land and land-air defence that opened earlier this week in Villepinte, north of Paris, will formally commission Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI) to sell its expertise in the manufacture of drones for France's major defence industries, to combat aircraft manufacturer Dassault Aviation and the European Aeronautic Defense and Space Company (EADS).

Defence ministry director-general Amos Yaron will participate in the ceremony marking the opening of the exhibition's Israeli pavilion, along with the Israeli ambassador to France, Nissim Zvilli. French Defence Minister Michele Alliot-Marie is due to visit the Israeli pavilion.

According to the contract, IAI will supply the expertise to manufacture the Eagle 1 drone, whose development is based on the strategic drone now in the service of the Israel Defence Forces. Three years ago, IAI sold this type of drone to the French army as part of co-operation with EADS. Now, with the encouragement of the French defence ministry, a consortium of French industries will be established to manufacture drones in France for, among other purposes, export to other countries.

Israeli security sources emphasize that in contrast to relations with the French foreign ministry, relations between the two countries' defence establishments have been on the upswing since the mid-1990s.

A delegation of the IDF's technology and logistics wing, headed by Brig.-Gen. Yaakov Nakash, visited France this month to meet with senior officers in the technology and logistics wing of the French army to discuss options for various co-operative ventures.

Anti-Semitic attacks rise in France

By PHILIP CARMEL
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

PARIS — Some Jewish officials are worried anti-Semites are escalating violence against Jews in France and that French courts are tacitly letting the attackers off by giving light sentences.

In the latest significant attack, community officials said an assailant tried to murder a yeshiva student, who was stabbed last week as he prepared for Shabbat at one of Europe's top talmudic academies.

Yisrael Yifrah, 17, was heading toward a local grocery store across from the Mekor Yisrael Yeshiva in Epinay-sur-Seine, a suburb north of Paris, last Friday when a large man, reported to be of North African origin, sprang upon him with a knife.

The man screamed, "God is great" in Arabic and plunged the knife into Yiftah's chest.

Police believe the same man carried out additional knife attacks that night against non-Jewish targets, but Jewish groups are in no doubt as to the anti-Semitic nature of the initial incident.

"The yeshiva's in a closed alleyway," said Sammy Ghozlan, president of the National Bureau for Vigilance against Anti-Semitism. "If you enter there with a knife in a bag, you're only going there for one purpose."

The attack represented a new level of anti-Semitic assault, the first with a deadly weapon, community leaders say. It comes amid an alarming increase in the intensity of anti-Jewish attacks in recent weeks.

In the past month, rabbis in Marseille and in the Parisian suburb of Creteil were attacked, and a rabbi's son was severely beaten near his home in Paris over Shavuot.

Government statistics show a steep rise in anti-Semitic incidents since the beginning of 2004. The 67 incidents reported for the first quarter of the year contrast sharply with the 34 incidents for the last quarter of 2003.

The figures also show that attacks against Jews make up the vast majority of racist crime, despite the fact that the Jewish community is one of France's smallest minority groups.

Paradoxically, the sharp rise in attacks has come at a time when Jewish groups acknowledge that the government has shown real willingness to tackle the problem of anti-Semitism.

The attacks have left Jewish community members wringing their hands. "The government has taken all sorts of measures to deal with this, and our synagogues are like fortresses," Ghozlan said. "They've even put on extra buses from railway stations so people don't walk around at night. What more can we do?"

Ghozlan has sharp words for the courts, which, he says, haven't been tough enough with offenders.

"People have been arrested, but it's not going to do any good if sentencing is not exemplary," he said.

Similar views are being expressed in France's large Jewish communal organizations.

In a forceful statement following last week's knife attack, the Conseil Représentatif des institutions juives de France, the umbrella organization of French Jews, said that "a new level had been breached" in anti-Semitic attacks in France, aided "by recent court decisions that give the feeling that one can attack Jews with total impunity."

Interior Minister Dominique de Villepin seemed to agree, telling French radio that the legislation was in place, "but it needs to be applied."

Events last week seemed to bear him out: When a group of youths pleaded guilty this week to the Shavuot attack on the rabbi's son, it became clear that one member had been involved in another attack on a Jewish youth earlier this year.

His penalty? The court instructed the youth to write a project on anti-Semitism.

Bones not those of Arad

Two human bone fragments transferred to Israel recently by Hezbollah are not from missing Air Force navigator Ron Arad, it was revealed last week. This is the second time in the past six months that Hezbollah has sent a human bone to Israel claiming it belongs to Arad, apparently in an attempt to implement the second phase of a prisoner swap initiated in January. In return for information about Arad, Israel has promised to free a large number of prisoners in its jails.

Anti-Palestinian violence up

The number of attacks against Palestinians by Jewish settlers is up, according to police. In a report issued last week, police noted increased violence against Palestinians, particularly in the northern West Bank and Hebron areas. They pointed to a 15 per cent increase in the number of police files opened against settlers for attacks on Palestinians, mostly in cases involving theft of equipment, destruction of property or physical attacks.

Robot used in spinal surgery

An Israeli professor's mini-robot for spinal surgery has received approval for use in the United States. SpineAssist, created by Moshe Shoham at Haifa's Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, is expected to be in use worldwide by the end of 2004. According to Shoham, SpineAssist minimizes the risk of working free-hand in sensitive regions of the spine. It also reduces surgery time, expedites recovery and minimizes associated risks of traditional spinal surgery.

Jerusalem reservoir found

A 2,000-year-old water reservoir was discovered in Jerusalem. The Pool of Siloam was uncovered in the neighbourhood of Silwan during infrastructure work for a new sewage pipe, the Israel Antiquities Authority announced last week. Archeologists say Jerusalem residents used the pool in ancient times to gather water for their homes, and possibly as a mikvah. Archeologists continue to excavate the area.

Israeli coalition talks seen

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is expected to hold coalition talks with the Labor party in coming weeks. The Sharon government is under pressure after the National Religious Party said it could quit in three months to protest the planned Gaza withdrawal.

Amman U in Israel?

Representatives of Jordan's Al-Ahliyya Amman University met with Education Minister Limor Livnat recently for talks on opening an extension of the school in Israel. The university's director and owner, Maher Hurani, told Livnat he was determined to establish ties with Israel despite threats and opposition voiced against the move in the Arab world and Jordan.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

Sharon faces tough political challenges on Gaza

By LESLIE SUSSER
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

It has been watered down to placate senior cabinet ministers and keep the National Religious Party in the governing coalition.

But Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to disengage from the Palestinians, even in the form that passed in cabinet last week, is potentially of historic significance.

There's no escaping the fact that a right-wing, Likud-led government voted to launch a process that will see Israeli troops and civilians leave the Gaza Strip by the end of 2005 and will draw new lines in the West Bank, creating promising conditions for the vision of two states for two peoples.

Analysis

Moreover, the chances for implementation seem good: the United States and the other members of the diplomatic "Quartet" working for Middle East peace back the withdrawal plan.

More importantly, Egypt, the Arab country with most leverage on the Palestinians, has thrown its weight behind it and is ready to take practical steps to help.

But there's a major snag: Despite his impressive victory in cabinet, it's not yet clear whether Sharon has the political clout to see the plan through. He fired two dissenting ministers from the National Union party, Avigdor Lieberman and Benny Elon, to ensure a majority in cabinet, but that only exacerbated strong far-right ferment against the plan.

Two of the six legislators from the hawkish NRP quit his coalition last week, and at least 12 of the Likud party's 40 Knesset members are threatening to vote against the government on key issues.

Indeed, because of the internal opposition within his own Likud Party, Sharon may not be able to muster a Knesset majority for an alternative coalition with the Labor Party. That could trigger elections and a new political landscape in Israel.

Sharon may have most of the international community behind him. But watering down the plan – as he was forced to do after Likud members rejected it in a party referendum last month – has only postponed a major political showdown in Israel, and it's not clear for how long.

The revised disengagement plan approved by cabinet differs from Sharon's original program in that the settlements are to be evacuated in stages, with a cabinet vote before each stage.

The text explicitly states that the cabinet decision does not sanction the evacuation of a single settlement, but it does divide the settlements earmarked for evacuation into four groups, while establishing committees to plan relocation and compensation for evacuated settlers and setting a March 1 deadline for a vote on evacuating the first group.

That was enough for the Quartet to welcome the revised plan, and for the United States to describe it as "historic" and "courageous."

But the key outside player, it seems, will be Egypt. The Egyptians fear that if Israel withdraws unilaterally from Gaza without an orderly transfer of power, the strip could become a hotbed of Islamic fundamentalism, with dangerous consequences for Egypt as well as for Israel.

Effi Eitam and Yitzhak Levy [RNS photo]

Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood, dedicated to the overthrow of the Egyptian regime, assassinated one of the country's last three presidents – Anwar Sadat – and tried to kill the other two, Gamel Abdel Nasser and Hosni Mubarak.

The last thing Mubarak wants is for Gaza to become a base for political subversion against Egypt. The Egyptians therefore are doing all they can to broker a smooth handover of power to the Palestinian Authority and to give it the tools to keep Hamas and Islamic Jihad at bay.

The Egyptians are proposing a number of far-reaching security and political moves that could give Sharon's plan the impetus it needs to succeed.

In the security sphere, they are ready to train PA forces in day-to-day police work and in fighting terrorism and ready to oversee the restructuring of the PA armed forces into three services under a unified command.

In return, Israel would stop targeted killings and other counterterrorist actions as part of a new ceasefire. In addition, the Egyptians would send more forces to the border to prevent arms smuggling into Gaza.

On the political level, the Egyptians are pressing PA President Yasser Arafat on the assumption that if he relinquishes power, peace talks with Israel can resume.

Therefore, Egypt insists that the commander of the unified Palestinian force be someone other than Arafat, that Arafat hand over most of his authority to PA Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia and that a strongman they feel they can work with, perhaps former security chief Mohamed Dahlan, take responsibility for Gaza security.

The Egyptians have given Arafat a June 15 deadline to agree to their terms, and Egyptian officials told Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom during his visit to Cairo last week that they would not tolerate Arafat "playing games" any longer.

But the potential for progress could be undermined by Sharon's domestic difficulties. A looming split in the NRP – party leaders Effi Eitam and Yitzhak Levy resigned from the government last week – coupled with Knesset opposition from the 12 rebel Likud legislators leaves Sharon without a reliable parliamentary majority.

His obvious recourse is to bring Labor's 21 legislators into the coalition, but that's easier said than done. Six Labor legislators are against joining Sharon's government. Their supporters say Sharon has a solid majority of 66 legislators in the 120-member Knesset who don't want Labor to join.

For the time being, Sharon can rely on Labor's promised parliamentary "safety net" – its pledge not to bring him down as long as disengagement goes forward.

But that might not be enough when the vote on evacuating the first group of settlements comes along, and right-wing pressures inside the cabinet resurface. To push the vote through then, Sharon will want Labor in cabinet.

In the weeks and months ahead, Sharon and his old friend, Labor leader Shimon Peres, will use all their political skills to outmanoeuvre the many opponents of a unity government. The future of the disengagement plan could depend on their success.

Leslie Susser is diplomatic correspondent for the Jerusalem Report.

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Healthy eating means knowing what to avoid

Many of my clients work very hard to achieve a sense of health and well-being. But sometimes they make the mistake of focusing only on one particular area, with the result that they ignore the more critical component(s) of what may be ailing them. I tend to coach my clients using a holistic approach towards health.

If, for example, a client who is feeling sluggish and lacking energy begins to practise yoga, she would be making an important head start. However, she would make far more headway if she also evaluates her eating habits and takes on some regular aerobic exercise.

Although I am not a dietitian, in my work as a fitness coach, I have learned about nutrition. In addition to teaching yoga and fitness strategies, I feel compelled to encourage my clients to also consider their eating patterns, because numerous studies have shown that what we eat has a direct impact on how we feel. Ignoring this important aspect might restrict the level of success in achieving our health goals.

In my previous article, I referred to the fact that there are numerous toxins in our environment that impact our sense of well-being, and that "overload" our system's incredible ability to detoxify naturally.

Unfortunately, in our fast-paced North American society, we rely on and consume many ready-made "convenience foods" that often contain empty calories. This is confirmed by taking note of the variety of such foods offered on the grocery shelves of our favourite supermarkets. A vicious circle begins when we introduce these "toxic" foods into our diets (i.e. nutrient-stripped, unhealthful foods that literally have a toxic effect on our bodies when we ingest them). The more we consume these foods, the more we crave them.

It is important to eat "supportive nutrition" – simple, pure foods that are similar to those eaten by our ancestors. Our main focus should be on eating whole foods, that is, foods that have not been processed or that have only been minimally processed. Examples of such foods are organic fruits and vegetables, and whole grain breads, crackers and cereals (where the flour has not been bleached or stripped of fibre).

When we consume mostly whole foods, our cells will detoxify naturally and efficiently, leaving us with a greater sense of energy and vitality. When our body is balanced and healthy as a result of proper eating habits, we are far less inclined to crave unhealthful foods.

There are two categories of foods to keep in mind when choosing an eating plan – those we need to eliminate from our diet, and those that should be added. Over time, the second list will become our main focus.

Here are suggestions of things to eliminate:
- hydrogenated fats (such as most margarines, and as found in most packaged foods);
- deep fried and barbecued foods;
- refined salt;
- soda pop (made with sugar or artificial sweeteners);
- table sugar, white bread, luncheon meats, TV dinners (all of these foods are highly processed);
- food additives such as MSG, artificial sweeteners, chemical preservatives, flavourings and food dyes;
- caffeinated drinks;
- fruits and vegetables that have been sprayed, waxed or dyed;
- empty calorie, non-nutritious foods.

Foods to include are:
- fresh, organic produce;
- herbal teas;
- whole grains;
- natural sea salt;
- unrefined oils, such as flax or olive oil;
- pure, clean water;
- organic herbs and spices;
- other healthy condiments to enhance flavours such as fresh salsas, garlic, lemon, raw apple cider vinegar;
- unprocessed foods in their natural state.

Research has shown that our susceptibility to disease is directly related to our ability to detoxify. When our body is overloaded with toxins, our immune system is challenged, thereby resulting in more frequent colds, allergic reactions, other short-term problems, and long-term disease.

To the best of our ability, we must be proactive rather than merely reactive when it comes to maintaining our health. By being more aware of the prevalence of toxins, and even if we only take gradual steps to change our food choices, we will notice positive effects on how we feel. As we progress further with eliminating our exposure to toxins, the drain on our body's resources will be reduced, and we will experience greater energy, a brighter outlook and a higher quality of living!

Shelley Millman Herman is a yoga instructor and motivational fitness coach for women and girls. She can be reached at shelley.millman@sympatico.ca.

STUDENTS REMEMBER CHILD VICTIMS OF HOLOCAUST: Grade 6 students from Ventura Park Public School in Thornhill came to Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care June 8 to launch a multi-media package they created to remember child victims of the Holocaust. "Every Life Remembered" includes an original song by the students, stories, art, drama and a documentary video. The students chose the symbol of a child's shoe to represent their journey of discovery and their wish that such a massive atrocity against humanity will never be repeated. Child Holocaust survivors worked with the children on the project, sharing stories about their personal experiences. For many students, this living history was their first exposure to the Holocaust. The multi-media package will be sent to schools, libraries and homes. It is available from Ventura Park, 905-707-6488. In the photo, from left, are child survivor Joe Gottdenker, Ventura Park students Alexa and Josh holding tiny shoes to represent the memory of children who perished, and social worker Paula David, Baycrest's Holocaust resource project co-ordinator.

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Arts & Travel

Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

NATIONAL GALLERY DRAWS BRONFMAN DONATION

Marjorie Bronfman has donated $350,000 to the National Gallery to establish the Marjorie and Gerald Bronfman Drawing Acquisition Endowment Fund.

The Gallery has already begun using the fund to expand its treasured collection of drawings by European old masters. It recently acquired two major drawings by **Giovanni Paolo Panini** and **Gottfried Bernhard Goz**.

"It is the simplicity of the artist's first creative efforts that I find so interesting," said Bronfman, a longtime admirer of drawings. "Drawings reflect the very first inspiration."

The Montreal philanthropist also recently donated two magnificent drawings by **Giovanni Domenico Tiepolo** from her own collection. The pair are part of an exhibition on Italian Neoclassical drawings on view at the National Gallery until Aug. 22.

"I believe that the Gallery shares my love and fascination for the relatively little-known art form that is drawing," she said.

* * *

Names in the News: Violinist extraordinaire **Nikolaj Znaider** made his debut with the **Toronto Symphony Orchestra** by performing three concerts earlier this month. Born in Denmark in 1975 to Polish-Israeli parents, the acclaimed fiddler performed the *Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto* and works by **Glinka** and **Vaughan Williams**. The concerts were recorded by CBC Radio 2 for future broadcast… Toronto native **Russell Bennett**, now a Vancouverite, produced and directed a documentary about Canada's cannibis laws that appeared on CBC Newsworld in 1998, and the topic is evidently still in his bloodstream. The non-practising lawyer has co-written a new comedy, *The Reefer Man*, which "came out of my desire to create an intelligent comedy with a pro-marijuana theme." He performs it at the Fringe Festival in Toronto in early July. Warning: latecomers "will be rolled and smoked" (www.fringetoronto. com)… Jerusalem-born dancer **Avinoam Silverman** has been promoted from corps de ballet to second soloist in the **National Ballet of Canada**… Toronto stage hypnotist **The Incredible Boris** is taping a TV show for the Fox network this month in Las Vegas. While in the world's high-watt capital, the real-life **Boris Cherniak** has been using his powers of suggestion at several venues to see if they'd let him stage his own live show… While we're on the subject, mentalist **Haim Goldenberg** performs his "funny, unusual, extraordinary, breathtaking, high-energetic, sophisticated, exciting and unforgettable" show, "Voyage to Your Mind," at the Laugh Resort, Holiday Inn Hotel, 370 King St. W. on Sunday, June 20, 7:30 p.m. (416-446-1250, www.HaimG. com)

* * *

Explosive Documentary: Toronto filmmaker **Simcha Jacobovici** and others in association with the CBC have produced *Impact of Terror*, a powerful documentary about a horrific terrorist incident that occurred in Israel in August 2001.

Walking into a busy Jerusalem pizzeria with a guitar packed with explosives, a young man blew himself up, killing 15 people and injuring more than 100. The victims were Jews and Arabs, young and old. Through personal stories from survivors and families of the dead, the documentary presents the lasting and profound impact of this horrifying event.

On *CBC Witness*, Wednesday, June 16, 8 p.m. On *CBC Newsworld*, June 19, 7 and 11 p.m.

Nikolaj Znaider

* * *

Fringe Drama: *Swimming Lessons With Paisley Kite* is a multi-disciplinary one-woman show that follows wanna-be punk rocker **Nina Finkleman** as she escapes from a free trip to Israel to learn about science and religion on her own. She's a "16-year-old protagonist with a chip on her shoulder the size of the Wailing Wall."

Written and performed by **Emily Pearlman**, this Fringe Festival offering is on stage this week in Ottawa and from June 30 to July 6 in Toronto. www.crosscountrytrampoline.ca/.

* * *

Arts in Brief

• Noted photographer **Al Gilbert** gives a free Meet the Pro digital photography seminar at Ryerson University, Room 204 Rogers Communication Centre, 80 Gould St. June 16, 6 to 10 p.m. RSVP, www.henrys.com/meetthepro.

• South Africa's award-winning **Polokwane Choral Society**, which sang last week in Toronto, is on a 24-day concert tour of eastern Canada facilitated by the Friends of South African Performing Arts, whose founding chair is **Richard Stern**, a South African Jew now of Ottawa. The Choir sings in Ottawa on June 17. Tour details at www.fosapa.ca

* * *

At the Galleries

• **The Willowdale Group of Artists** displays 70 sensational new paintings in a variety of mediums at The Link Art Gallery, Toronto Botanical Garden (formerly the Civic Garden Centre), 777 Lawrence Ave. W. Free admission. June 15 to 27.

• The Art Gallery of Ontario hosts the first solo museum exhibition of Israeli artist **Eddo Stern** as part of its "Present Tense" series. This provocative contemporary show includes three video works and three multi-media sculptures that provide a deconstruction of violence, culture and war in the digital age. June 16 to Aug. 22.

• "Soft Wind Through the Paper," an exhibition of drawings, prints and handmade books, by **Rochelle Rubinstein** and **Susan Wosik**, is on view at the Japanese Paper Place Warehouse, 77 Brock St. Until June 24. 416-538-9669.

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Arts & Travel

TRAVEL TALK

By BILL GLADSTONE

STEP LIVELY AT A DANCE FESTIVAL IN THE GALIL AND A JAZZ FESTIVAL IN EILAT

Herewith, news of two major international arts festivals in Israel, the first focusing on dance and the second on jazz, but both guaranteed to offer some memorable syncopated moments.

The 17th annual Karmiel Dance Festival offers three days of music and dance in Karmiel, a town known as the Gateway to the Galilee. More than 250,000 people are expected to attend the festival, which runs July 13 to 15.

Israeli folk dancing is the festival's trademark, but all types of dance may be found on its stages, including modern ballet, ballroom and folklore dancing from around the world. During the festival, Karmiel, with its cool mountain air and breathtaking landscape, is transformed from a quiet city into an international dance theater.

The festival showcases dozens of performances and events. Highlights include three central performances in a large amphitheater and public dances at night, during which the choreographers and dancers interact with the audience. For details, visit the website www.dancefest.karmiel.israel.net/about fest.html.

If you're still in the mood for lively and exotic syncopation, head for the 17th annual Red Sea Jazz Festival in Eilat, August 25 to 28. The event features more than 30 major acts and is expected to attract more than 70,000 international visitors.

As if its sunny beaches, sparkling blue waters and exotic night life weren't enough, Eilat has the added attraction of hosting this major jazz event each year. This summer's roster includes internationally acclaimed jazz bands and artists such as the Charles Lloyd Quartet, The Bad Plus and Russell Gunn Ethnomusicology from the United States. Details at www.ejn.it/promo/redsea.htm.

* * *

Jewish History in Saint John, N.B.: The Saint John Jewish Historical Museum recently opened for its 19th summer season with several new exhibits. "Creating a Community: Jewish Immigration to Saint John, 1858-1930" includes photographs of immigrants and the artifacts they brought, while "The Davis-Rozovsky Family" includes many family photographs. The work of some local high-school students on the Holocaust is also displayed. Until October 29. E-mail sjjhm@nbnet.nb.ca.

* * *

Picasso Curtain at National Gallery: "The Great Parade: Portrait of the Artist as Clown," an exhibition that opens at Ottawa's National Gallery on June 25, looks at the circus through the eyes of artists such as Degas, Toulouse-Lautrec, Rouault, Chagall and Leger. More than 175 paintings, sculptures, photographs and videos reveal the reality and even the tragedy behind circus performers' comic faces and dazzling costumes.

A highlight of the exhibition is an immense stage curtain painted by Pablo Picasso as a backdrop for the modernist ballet *Parade* in 1917. The spectacular curtain is too large to be hung in most museums and has never been shown before in Canada. The exhibition continues until Sept. 19.

* * *

Toronto Tourism Packages: Two new packages offer Toronto residents and visitors a special package deal for a combination theatre-restaurant experience with or without an overnight hotel stay. Priced at $149, the first package includes a theatre ticket to *The Producers*, *Mamma Mia!* or *Hairspray*, an overnight stay at one of 15 hotels, a three-course meal at one of 44 downtown restaurants and a Roots shopping certificate for $20. The second package offers everything except the hotel stay for $94. The packages are valid until July 4.

* * *

Israel Travel Briefs •Jerusalem's famed Shrine of the Book Museum, home of the Dead Sea Scrolls, reopens this month after being closed for renovations for more than a year. www.imj.org.il/eng/shrine/

• The Scots Hotel is a new 69-room hotel in Tiberias that sits on nearly three acres along the shore of the Sea of Galilee. Owned and operated by the Church of Scotland, the Scots offers a luxurious atmosphere and a private beach. E-mail inquiries to scottie@netvision.net.il.

•To celebrate its new nonstop service from New York's JFK Airport to Tel Aviv, Israir – "Israel's other airline" – is offering free flights to fathers on Father's Day, June 20. To qualify, fathers must travel with three family members purchasing tickets, and must pay the airport and departure taxes. www.israirairlines.com

* * *

Canada & International

• New Wave Travel offers an unforgettable tour of "China Through Jewish Eyes." The adventure begins in Shanghai, cruises down the Yangtze to the magnificent Three Gorges and also takes in Xian, Kaifeng, Harbin and Beijeng. Oct. 14 to 31. Harriet, 416-960-5549.

• Two related exhibits – Petra, Lost City of Stone and The Bedouin of Petra – are on view at the American Museum of Natural History until July 6. Central Park West at 79th St., Manhattan. www.amnh.org

• Just for Laughs, the world's biggest humour and comedy festival, offers more than 2,000 performances, including 1,300 free shows in Montreal's Latin Quarter. July 15 to 25. www.hahaha.com And Montreal's International Jazz Festival offers 350 free concerts on 10 outdoor stages, June 30 to July 11. www.montrealjazzfest.com

• Dublin Tourism has launched the Dublin Pass, a passport to more than 30 popular attractions at significantly reduced rates. The credit-card-sized pass features a "smart" chip that eliminates the need for cash transactions at attraction admission points. www.dublinpass.com

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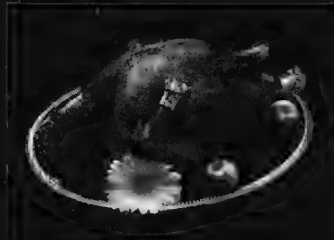

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Artists demonstrate the value of recycling trash

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

Alina Lloyd used a discarded office door as a canvas on which she painted a striking image of red and orange swirls.

Elizabeth Greisman created a landscape on a piece of Plexiglas taken out of the garbage.

While these Jewish women may sound like starving artists who can't afford "real" art materials, there is a method to their "fitter" madness. By turning trash into vibrant works of art, they're trying to illustrate that waste is valuable.

The works were created for the RecycleArt Project, which was conceived by Lloyd and sponsored by Public Works and Government Services Canada.

Along with providing environmental education, the project aims to divert government office waste and in the process, produce radiant paintings.

Nearly 40 RecycleArt Project works were showcased recently in the lobby of the Joseph Sheppard Building at Yonge Street and Sheppard Avenue in Toronto, as part of National Environment Week.

"The biggest impact this project is meant to produce is the change in people's thinking," says Lloyd, 40, a Toronto painter and portfolio manager with Brookfield LePage Johnson Controls, which manages Public Works properties.

"It's the paradigm shift that this is not just a pile of rubble; there is some value in it."

While many Canadians eagerly recycle, Lloyd's contentention that waste has a stigma of uselessness still has merit.

Close to 90 per cent of the items we toss in the garbage could be recycled, reused or composted. More than half the waste we produce in our homes piles up in landfill sites.

That was the picture Lloyd painted for Public Works when she proposed the project.

Public Works provided Lloyd with a vacant office in the Sheppard building to use as a studio. The department also supplied a treasure-trove of junk from government facilities that would otherwise have been hauled off to landfill sites.

The studio, on the top floor of the building, has become an oasis for government employees seeking refuge from computers and cubicles.

One of almost 40 works of "recycled" artwork showcased recently.

Public Works architect Elisabeth Ohi says she "wanted to jump in and make some [art]" after she toured the studio.

"I think the RecycleArt project can turn people's minds around and make them realize that waste… is a resource."

That may sound idealistic, but Lloyd says the spin-offs are already being realized.

"There is awareness and education coming out of this," she says, noting everyone from construction project managers to bureaucrats has marvelled at the finished works and shown a new appreciation for waste.

To augment her works, Lloyd put out a call for artists, and Toronto visual artist/art teacher Elizabeth Greisman was selected.

"What was new to me on this project was the Plexiglas," says Greisman.

"I was looking for two-dimensional surfaces that could be painted over and Plexiglas has the added trait of being transparent."

Greisman's folksy paintings all have environment-related themes.

Her nature piece illustrates a skyscape, using colourful strokes of blue and green, tinged with white and fading purple.

For her "O'Canada Series," Greisman adorned discarded office chairs and garbage cans with pink flowers and the names of Canadian provinces and domestic trees.

"The images I create help us appreciate the environment," she says.

"I want the public to not only see this as a picture of flowers and that it is made out of something discarded, but I want to make them think and consider other options [for waste]."

Lloyd's ethereal paintings are based on the four-elements theme of water, fire, earth and air.

Along with paint, she used gravel, lead and plaster of paris to add a diversity of textures.

"What we were trying to accomplish was that people don't look at it and say, 'Ick, this feels like garbage,'" Lloyd says. "It has to make you want to touch it."

While some of the materials didn't always co-operate with acrylic paints, Lloyd says she would take recycled materials over standard art canvasses any day. "I find blank canvasses and expensive pieces of paper to be very stifling.

"When you paint on something that has history… it becomes a medium for telling the story."

Lloyd hopes this is only the beginning of the RecycleArt story "This is just a pilot project. If it can work here, it can work anywhere," she says.

"Every building with vacant space in Toronto should do this."

Lloyd is eyeing a revitalized Toronto waterfront as a possible display location for more recycled art.

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'Soap opera' based on A.B. Yehoshua novel

By LARRY ANKLEWICZ
Special to the CJN

Israeli films are always difficult to find in local video stores. Even places that specialize in foreign films carry very few Israeli films.

But two Israeli films were recently released on video and DVD and are available at some stores or by telephone or on the Internet.

Return From India is a relatively recent film – it was produced in 2002 – directed by Menachem Golan. It is a soap opera featuring Aki Avni, one of Israel's hottest film stars, who some readers will remember from the popular film *Time of Favor.*

In *Return From India*, an Israeli young woman has fallen ill in India. Fearing for her well-being, the girl's parents organize a rescue mission. They hire a young Israeli doctor and make their way to an isolated Indian town where they find the girl, diagnose her condition and bring her home to Israel. for more advanced treatment. In the meantime, the young doctor enters into a steamy affair with the girl's mother.

The results threaten everyone involved, but especially the doctor's career.

The film is based on a best-selling novel by A.B. Yehoshua and was filmed in both English and Hebrew. As a result, viewers have a choice of which version they wish to see, as well as being able to watch it in Hebrew with optional English subtitles.

This film can be obtained through Video Service Corporation at 416-597-8325 or 1-877-341-7577 or by e-mailing the company at vidserv@globalserve.net.

The second new release is *Kedma*, which was directed by Amos Gitai. This film was an official selection at the 2002 Cannes Film Festival and looks at a group of Jewish refugees who arrive in Palestine in 1948 aboard a freighter called The Kedma. Upon landing, the refugees are captured in a British army ambush, but escape and are later recruited to defend their new homeland.

Gitai's point of view may not be one we all agree with, but he does provide a thought-provoking film of a period of Israeli history that does not receive much attention these days.

Kedma is distributed by Kino on Video and if not available at local video stores, may be ordered online through www.amazon.ca.

Arts & Travel
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Arab world incubator of anti-Semitism, author says

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

"Hitlerism is alive and well in the Arab world," according to American journalist and author Ron Rosenbaum, the editor of a newly published book of essays about contemporary anti-Semitism.

Arab hatred for Israel and Jews, in certain crucial ways, is far worse than than the age-old venom that preceded and facilitated the Holocaust, he claims.

In Toronto to promote *Those Who Forget: The Question of Anti-Semitism* (Random House Canada), Rosenbaum said that while the Nazis persecuted and exterminated Jews, they took special care to try to conceal their unprecedented crimes against humanity.

Hitler did not advertise or boast about the Holocaust. And thus, in a perverse sense, he was the first Holocaust denier, observed Rosenbaum, whose previous work was *Explaining Hitler*.

By contrast, some Arab clerics, writers and intellectuals publicly celebrate the Nazi genocide, while others openly call for the mass murder of Jews, he noted in an interview.

"Today in the Middle East, the murder of Jews by a suicide bomber is marked by parties for the families who receive blood-money bonuses for their child's hideous act," he writes in *Those Who Forget*. "It is not just an individual act of fanaticism spurred on by the false promise of paradise, it is a practice backed by an entire culture."

Rosenbaum argues that the beheading of American newspaper correspondent Daniel Pearl in Pakistan– to whom he dedicates his book and with whom he completely identifies as a journalist and a Jew – was symptomatic of the deep-seated animosity toward Jews in the Muslim world.

"Look at the shameless videotape of his murder, in which he was forced to say his father was Jewish. It was something different, a step beyond even Hitler's hatred. Pearl's death told us we're dealing with people who are proud of advertising the murder of Jews."

Arab anti-Semitism is aggravated both by Western anti-Jewish myths and European fascist beliefs, Rosenbaum said.

But he has reached no definitive conclusions about the role of Islamic theology in fostering anti-Semitism.

"There is a disagreement among Qur'anic scholars as to how hostile the Qur'an is to Jews. One can disagree whether the Qur'an is intrinsically anti-Semitic."

He has no doubts, however, that hate-filled portrayals of Israel in the Arab media inflame anti-Semitism throughout the Arab world.

The malicious rumour that the destruction of the World Trade Center in on Sept. 11, 2001 was planned and executed by Israel's Mossad intelligence agency is an example of the anti-Semitic paranoia that pervades the minds of Arabs in particular and Muslims in general, Rosenbaum said.

"Tens of millions of people in the Middle East, and in Pakistan, believe this totally false and ridiculous rumour. There is a willingness to blame Jews for any tragedy."

The continuing Arab-Israeli dispute is a factor in the spread of anti-Semitism. "If it magically went away, certainly things would be better," he said.

But radical Islam, which rejects the very idea of a Jewish state, would still be a problem for Israel even if peace were to prevail, Rosenbaum added.

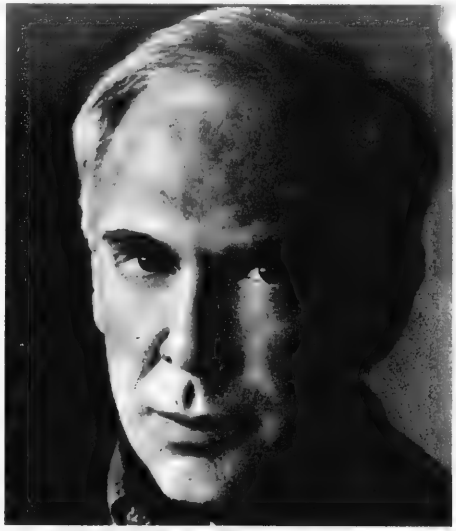
In line with this argument, he said that Muslims potentially threaten Israel's very existence.

The threat, in part, is posed by Muslim nations that have either acquired an atomic capability (Pakistan) or are trying to build a nuclear arsenal (Iran).

Rosenbaum said incendiary comments by Iran's former president, Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, are indicative of the state of Muslim public opinion. In remarks on Teheran Radio, he declared, "One atomic bomb would wipe out Israel without trace, while the Islamic world would only be damaged rather than destroyed by Israeli nuclear retaliation."

Appalled by Rafsanjani's statement, Rosenbaum said, "He said that with a kind of frightening complacency."

In his view, Israel is also threatened by fanatical Muslims. As he put it, "A terrorist can bring a nuclear device to Israel and set it off."



Ron Rosenbaum

Although Rosenbaum thinks that Israel's conflict with the Palestinians should be resolved by political means, he is no longer certain that the current Palestinian leadership genuinely accepts the presence of a Jewish state.

"I want to believe in the possibility of a two-state solution, but the events of the past few years don't give me hope it will end the problem or the peril," said Rosenbaum, who sounds like a disillusioned liberal.

"I was hopeful when [former Israeli prime minister Ehud] Barak offered 95 per cent of the West Bank to the Palestinians. But they walked away without a counter-offer, and the second intifadah, with its suicide bombers, began. I don't have any confidence that the Palestinian Authority has accepted the right of Israel to exist."

Rosenbaum believes the PA's support of a two-state solution masks a desire to destroy Israel through stealth.

"I don't see that concessions by Israel have worked. Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon may have triggered the intifadah. The lesson of Lebanon is clear: killing Jews works."

Criticism of Israeli policies is perfectly legitimate, he said, "but to criticize the right of Israel to exist or to defend itself is sophistry that ends up as anti-Semitism."

Quoting Lawrence Summers, the president of Harvard University, Rosenbaum said that anti-Zionist sentiments, slogans and marches are anti-Semitic in their effect if not in their intent.

"The anti-Semitism in which Israel's destruction is the issue is the new anti-Semitism."

The Internet is the latest frontier of anti-Semitism, the longest hatred. "It's out there and will be out there forever."

Anti-Semitic sites on the Web are disturbing, but Rosenbaum, a civil libertarian, stops short of calling for their suppression.

"I'm not so sure a legal approach would be effective. One would hope that people will recognize the hatred and stupidity of these sites. But there will always be people who won't."

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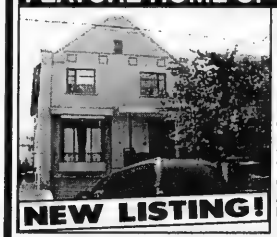

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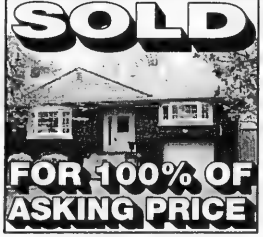

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BATHURST/LAWRENCE *AMAZING OPPORTUNITY!!*
$735,900! Fab reno'd 4 bdrm, family home $$ finishes. Gleaming hrdwd floors. Fin bsmnt. Quick closing. L. Cooper* 416-488-2875

ARMOUR HEIGHT TOTAL RENO+ADDITION
3 bedroom, 4 bath. Great family room. Finished basement. 2 car garage. Magnificent 40x130' lot. Patti Pollock* 416-226-1987

FABULOUS ALLENBY 3+1 BEDROOM!
Eat-in kitchen. Renovated bath. Hardwood floors. Outstanding lower level. Private drive. Lynne Elkind* 416-488-2875

BATHURST WILSON - 4 BDRM ADDITION $639,000
Fab main floor family room/breakfast room. Master ensuite. Beautiful 50x140' lot and pool. Patti Pollock*/Gary Pollock* 416-226-1987

WONDERFUL FAMILY HOME - BATHURST/YORK DOWNS
3+1 bdrm sidesplit. Mn flr den, w/o to deck & backyard. Sep ent to bsmnt. Well maintained. Great lot. $489K. I. Weisz* 416-488-2875

11 KAINONA AVE! NEW 3+2 BDRM, 2 BATH
$459,000. Bathurst/York Downs. Immaculate! 54 x 150 ft. lot. Close to parks, schools. B. Westbrook* 416-226-1987

12 LISTER DRIVE! 3+1 BEDROOM, 2 BATH BUNGALOW!
$399K! Yonge N/Finch! Spacious+updated! Nanny ste! Spectacular 67x113'! Move in! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

CENTRAL PROPERTIES CONT'D.

BATHURST/WILSON LARGE BUNGALOW
With addition 3 + 1 bedrooms. Finished basement. Minutes to TTC and subway. S. Wagman* 416-785-1500

BATHURST/SHEPPARD AREA
Neat, clean 3 bedroom with renovated bathroom. Perfect for young family. $1,500/month. Ray Sutton* 416-226-1987

BAYVIEW PROPERTIES

2 LAREDO COURT! NOW $859,000!
Bayview N/Finch! Unbelievable! 5+1 bdrm, 7 bath! Mn fam+lib+lau+ 2pce! 3 car garage! 10+! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

BEAUTIFULLY RENOVATED 4 BEDROOM/5 BATH
Perfect layout. Fabulous main floor den+family room. Professionally landscaped south lot. Patti Pollock*/Gary Pollock* 416-226-1987

CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

GORGEOUS PENTHOUSE FABULOUS VIEWS
Forest Hill total reno 2003. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Parking, pool, concierge. Near village. $749,000. Marilyn Merrick* 416-488-2875

LUXURY FOREST HILL CONDO
Lower Village Gate. Rarely available. 1 bdrm+den. Eat-in kitchen, 2 baths, balcony, outdoor pool. Near shops, subway. $398,000. S. Merrick* 416-488-2875

JUST LISTED! FOREST HILL CONDO
Beautiful 2 bedroom, 2 bath, east exposure. Hardwood floors throughout. Call Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

1 GLEN PARK AVE-NEW! REGISTERED! $292,000-$1,200,000
Prime locale -- 2 & 3 bedroom suites + penthouses w/terraces. 910'-2,730' upgraded. 9' ceilings, hardwood, granite, parking & locker. Just move in! C. Feldman** 416-488-2875

1ST AD! YONGE/DAVISVILLE CONDO LOFT
$289,000. 1 bdrm + den. Open liv/din, kit. South view, balcony. 2 baths, hardwood flr. Prkng & locker. Marilyn Merrick* 416-488-2875

$264,900 YONGE/SHEPPARD TOWNHOUSE
2 bedroom, 2 bath, 990 sq. ft.+roof top patio. Underground parking, locker, 6 appliances. Kathy Alpert* 416-226-1987

5055 HEATHERLEIGH AVE $255,000
3 bedroom, 2 bath condo-townhome. Walkout basement. Great location. Lilia Butko* 416-785-1500

FOREST HILL BEST VALUE $249,000
Delightful bright apartment corner 2 bdrm, 2 baths. Large living, separate dining. Parking. Near Village. M. Merrick* 416-488-2875

1201 STEELES AVE W. $219,900 - 5* LUXURY
1 bdrm + 2 bath. Must see. Approx. 1,300 sq. ft. Gate security. Tennis & swimming pool +++. View. Lilia Butko* 416-785-1500

**Associate Broker * Sales Representative

There will be no issue of the Canadian Jewish News the week of July 22, 2004.

ALAN NEWTON

REAL ESTATE LTD. REALTOR

ON THORNRIDGE AVENUE - BEST DEAL IN THE AREA!
Stunning custom built home, top quality materials & workmanship, 9 ft. ceilings on each floor, stone elevation. Granite slabs, 5+2 bedrooms, professionally finished walk-up basement. For appointment call *Cila Fleischmann 905-764-7200

• • •

BAYVIEW-GREEN LANE $589,900
Beautiful detached 5 bdrm home backing onto park! Over 3,000 sq. ft. plus finished basement. Must be seen! *Larry Wronzberg

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YONGE & JOHN - MUST SEE!
Large 3 bedroom townhome, finished basement, 2nd floor laundry, skylight, modern kitchen with walk-out to garden, fabulous room sizes, extras galore! *Ted Waxman

• • •

BATHURST-CLARK - 1ST AD! $399,000
Fabulous 3 bedroom home with finished basement, double garage, appliances, air, vac & alarm. Close to all amenities. Walk to The Promenade! Shows well! **Mark Waxman

• • •

ATKINSON-CENTRE - CHOICE OF 2
Both just reduced to sell! 3 or 4 bedrooms, finished basements, steps to excellent schools. *Larry Wronzberg

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"WESTMOUNT" - REDUCED!
Detached 4 bedroom on pie-shaped lot, finished lower level. Shows like a model home! *Larry Wronzberg

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"ROSEDALE NORTH" $359,900
Location, location, location! Det 4 bdrm, mn flr fam rm w/fireplace, mostly new windows, steps to Promenade Mall. *Helen Gould

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JOHN & BAYVIEW - BAYVIEW FAIRWAYS
Fabulous 3 bedroom home, double garage, 55x175 ft. lot on dead end street! Appliances, hardwood, close to schools, shops & transit. $395K. *Ted Waxman

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BATHURST-CENTRE $294,900
SOLD
Fully renovated 3 bedroom home, finished basement, appliances, hardwood, new broadloom, shows great! **Mark Waxman

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CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

"TOWNSGATE" BATHURST-STEELES
Sunfilled, luxury 2 bdrm condo w/family rm/solarium combo. 2 parking spaces, locker, immediate poss. Priced to sell! *Helen Gould

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BATHURST-STEELES "PRIMROSE"
Exquisite mn flr condo, totally reno throughout! New appl's, 2 car prkg spaces. Just move your furniture in & enjoy! *Ted Waxman

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BATHURST-STEELES $232,900
Fab 2 bdrm penthouse w/eat-in kit, 2 w/outs to balc, south exposure. Hrwd flrs throughout! 2 car prkg. Great value *Ted Waxman

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BATHURST-CENTRE $184,900
Large 1 bedroom condo, 2 car parking, mirrored wall, west exposure, ensuite laundry. Shows well! **Mark Waxman

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* Sales Representative **Associate Broker

905-764-7200

JUST LISTED HOT! HOT! HOT!
BATHURST ST/CLARK AVE - STEPS TO B.A.Y.T.
Spacious 4 bedrooms, 4 baths, main floor family room with fireplace, french doors, dark stain wood floors throughout 1st and 2nd floors, skylight, 2 kitchens, 2 walk-outs, main floor laundry room and entrance to garage. Magnificent finished basement w/t recreation room, bedroom, bathroom & Passover kitchen. Detached. **ONLY $439,900.**

BATHURST/CLARK "PROMENADE"
Large 2 bdrms, condo, 2 baths, balcony, eat-in kitchen, 5 appliances, 2 parking spaces, locker, very bright & spacious. 24 hr. security, swimming pool, gym plus much more. **$239,900.**

FABULOUS INVESTMENT PROPERTY
"RETIREMENT HOME BY THE LAKE"
62 rooms, solid brick 3 storey construction, newly renovated rms (80%). Elevator, gazebo, 2 din rms, spacious lounge & rec-reation area, steps from Lake Ontario on a magnificent 1.72 acres of land. **Asking Price $2,250,000 - offers welcome.**

NAT STARK, Sales Representative
Re/Max Realtron Realty Inc.
905-764-6000 www.natstark.com

Paul Slavens
REAL ESTATE INC. REALTOR®

RESULTS RESULTS RESULTS
483-4337

FINE PROPERTIES

PRESTIGIOUS LOWER VILLAGE - $2,675,000.
Grand centre hall, 7 bdrm. residence overlooks parkette. Main fl. library. Private 2nd. fl. terrace for entertaining. Multi fireplaces. Finished lower level. 3 car garage. Truly one of a kind. ***Edie Winberg**

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STRATHEARN / SPADINA - $1,199,000.
Spectacular 5 bdrm. on approx. 1/3 acre overlooks beautiful park. Main fl. family rm. + library + den. "Muskoka" in the heart of the city. Beautiful views. Architecturally reno'd. ***Edith Weiss**

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LOWER VILLAGE - $979,000.
Exceptional income property at Spadina/Heath. 5 legal units. Property in great condition. Ample parking. Excellent income. ****Don Wagman**

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AVENUE RD. / ST. CLAIR - $959,000.
Traditional 2.5 sty. centre hall residence. 5 bdrms., 4 baths. Central air. Finished lower level. Double garage. ****Gloria Paisley / *Edie Winberg**

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RUSSELL HILL / COTTINGHAM - $799,000.
Newly renovated, detached brick with 3 self-contained units in prime Casa Loma locale; Parking too! ****Richard Sherman**

• • •

FAIRLAWN / AVENUE RD. - $569,000.
Charming centre hall. Main fl. kitchen & breakfast rm. 4 bdrms. Central air. Private drive. Enclosed deck & garden. ***Edith Weiss**

SOLD

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BAYVIEW / EGLINTON PENTHOUSE - $549,000.
New, Luxurious 2 bdrm., 3 bath loft-style condo. Superb finishes. Family rm. Den. Balcony. Locker. Parking. Steps to TTC, DVP, trendy shops & restaurants. ***Kathie Wood**

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YONGE / YORK MILLS - $479,000.
Beautifully upgraded 1,460 sq. ft. corner suite. 2 bdrms. + den. Granite counters. Marble ensuite. Balcony. Locker. Parking. ****Gloria Paisley**

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FINCH / WILMINGTON - $409,900.
Renovated, raised bungalow on 50' x 145' lot. 3+ bdrms. Spacious principal rms. Stunning kitchen. Finished lower level. Garage. ***Ron Chichora**

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WALMER RD. CONDO - $399,900.
Forest Hill. Corner suite in luxury building. 2 bdrms. 2 baths. Ensuite laundry. Central air. Parking. Walk to Village shops. ***Ron Chichora**

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ST. CLAIR / ALCINA - $389,000.
Contemporary townhome with 3 bdrms. & 2 baths. A hidden gem in unique midtown complex. CAC. Private patio. Parking. ****Don Wagman**

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BLOOR / MT. PLEASANT - $375,000.
Spacious 2 bdrm., 2 bath. Suite in luxurious "Bellaggio". Overlooks Rosedale ravine. Balcony. Locker. Parking. Steps to shops, restaurants and TTC. ***Donna Taylor**

• • •

HEATH ST. W. - $335,000.
Lovely 2 bdrm., 2 bath condo suite in the heart of Forest Hill. Open balcony offers unobstructed view. Ensuite laundry. Locker. Parking. Walk to Village. ***Elaine Pike**

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LOWER VILLAGE GATE - $376,900.
Lovely condo suite with den. Ensuite laundry. Open balcony. Locker. 2 Parking spots. Stroll to Village, shops & subway. ***Susan Copeland**

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YONGE / EGLINTON - $283,900.
This spacious 2 bdrm. condo offers both comfort & affordability. Ensuite laundry. Locker. Balc. Parking. Steps to TTC & shops. ***Malcolm Neely**

• • •

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* Sales Representative **Associate Broker
Virtual tour our properties:www.paulslavens.com

BATHURST/ELGIN MILLS
"Walk to Future Synagogue"
Magnificent Home, over $100K spent in upgrades. Prime lot, 61x123 ft. detached. 4 + 3 bdrms. Master ensuite, double car garage w/5 parking., wrap-around interlocking, prof. fin. "in-law" bsmt. apt., large solarium breakfast kit., w/o to interlocking patio, "One of a kind" décor – gleaming wide birch hardwood floor, centre hall staircase, double stained glass french doors, cornice moulding. Cul de sac. $618,000.

JENNIFER COMSA
Re/max West Realty Inc.
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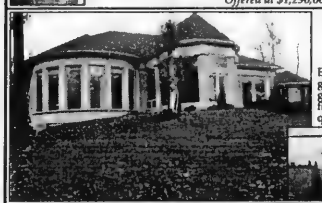
BERNICE WHELAN REALTY INC.
I Cover the WATERFRONT (705) 739-8000 *#1 WATERFRONT Specialist*

Incredible Beachfront Estate
Lake Simcoe • Secluded on 3.05 Acres
45 minutes to Toronto • South of Barrie
Privileged!! Known as "the most private & intriguing Estate", is now being offered for sale. Rare stone retreat with seaside like beach. Picture a south of France retreat, then this is it – custom Tuscany stone wine cellar (entertain up to 20). Meticulously maintained & upgraded, glass, French doors, custom oak floors, windows & kitchen. Stone fireplace, screened Florida room, boat house, self contained guest quarters, double garage, total seclusion.
For more info, visit www.berniceWhelan.com
Offered at $2,200,000

Lake Simcoe (Turn Key Estate) Private Enclave
Enjoy leisure/active lifestyle 45 minutes to Toronto. Minutes to fine restaurants, skiing, golf and resort City of Barrie. Magnificently renovated in 2000 specifically for waterfront enjoyment. Open plan, glass, hardwood, 2 fireplaces, sunroom. Big docks, boat lift. Includes full contents, beautiful designer furniture. Beautiful waterfront for boating and swimming.
Offered at $1,290,000

Lake Couchiching Estate
Everything! Impeccable large gated estate in area of large estates – space for pool and tennis court, gorgeous kitchen with breakfast area circled in glass, open concept – glass walkout to big tiered maintenance free perm. deck, has master/luxurious bath, 5 bedrooms, 4 baths, wetslip boathouse, beach and beautiful sunsets!
Offered at $939,000



Lake Simcoe Private Estate
A major 2 year old contemporary masterpiece • 50 mins. to Toronto
Entertainer's dream! Enter by gated long winding drive to gorgeous, spacious 8,000' – towering ceilings, windows and glass, hardwood floors, gorgeous kitchen and baths, 3 fireplaces, large luxurious master with spa like ensuite. Nanny quarters, circled-in glass Florida room. Grand flowing stairs lead to perfectly planned entertainment level with 2 bars, pool room, family room, fireplace, theatre, 2 wine cellars. Three car garage, close to skiing and professional golf courses, space for tennis court and pool!
Offered at $2,100,000

Lake Simcoe (Prestigious Strathallan Woods)
A gem!! Approx. 2,000' cottage on private 145' x 305' treed lot with great boating facilities. The 4 season cottage consists of 5 bedrooms, 2 baths, stone fireplace, wood floors, vaulted ceilings, modern kitchen with like new appliances. Large screened sun room. Asking $899,000. (Immediate possession) 45 minutes to Toronto.

Big Bay Point - Cottage for rent. Excellent condition, 3 bedrooms. Shows beautifully. Nice furnishings. By month or for season.

ALL THE ABOVE COTTAGES & CASTLES ARE APPROX. 80 MINS. FROM TORONTO. LAKE SIMCOE/KAWARTHA LAKES BAY ARE AMAZING BEAUTIFUL BODIES OF WATER AND RIGHT AT TORONTO'S DOOR STEP!

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

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CLARK/ATKINSON
Custom built 4 bdrm, 5 baths, living & dining room combined, large kitchen with walkout, family room + den, 2 fireplaces, finished lower level, inground pool, 2 car garage, many extras, A-1 location.

BAYVIEW/GREENLANE
Landmark: 2 bdrm condo, living & dining combined, 5 appliances, locker, parking, Don't Miss.

SOLD

PRIMROSE CONDO
Bathurst/Steeles, corner unit, 2 bdrm, 2 baths, huge living & dining, kitchen with window, balcony, locker, parking, steps to all.

WILMINGTON/OVERBROOK
Triplex, 2-3 bdrm +1-2 bdrm, bath ensuites, balconies, garage + parking, great location.

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BATHURST & SHEPPARD
Renovated 3 bdrm corner unit. Balcony, parking & storage locker. $265,000.

BATHURST & CLARK
Large 1 bdrm w/den and balcony, parking & locker. Immaculate south view. $209,000.

Call **GABBY GOLDRING,**
Sales Rep., **416-229-4454**
Royal LePage Partners

BATHURST/STEELES
3+1 sidesplit, 2 car garage, fin. bsmnt. with bar & walkout, private yard, updated windows, 5 appls. **$439K.**
Century 21-New Concept Ltd.
Priscilla, 416-230-3388

WORTH & ROCKWOOD
Elegant 3,200 sq. ft. home, 4 bedrooms, open staircase to fin. basement. Shows like a dream.
SALLY ROSEN
Century 21 Heritage Group
905-764-7111

HK
HARVEY KALLES
REAL ESTATE LIMITED

WALK TO EVERYTHING...
From this sought-after location. Perfect custom built 4 bedroom family home... great for entertaining!! All the bells and whistles!!! Magnificent finishings throughout. Close to Avenue Rd. Won't last! $1,250,000. Corinne Kalles* ext. 555

AVENUE RD / LAWRENCE NEW LISTING!
Fab 3,200 sq. ft. + walkout lower level. 8½ years new! Grand foyer & superb spacious design. 40 x 134. Many thousands spent on landscaping. $979,000. Michelle Rosen* ext. 294

CEDARVALE'S BEST BUY! $949,900
Excellent location! Large 4 bedroom family home w/enormous family room & master suite. Stunning garden. 3 baths on 2nd floor. Outstanding value in area. Arlette Carmona* ext. 277

SPACIOUS FAMILY HOME
Fab 4 bdrm executive home w/fam rm & libray on the mn flr. Located on a child safe cres, close to TTC, shopping & great schools. Spacious principal rms make this a great home for entertaining. $879,000. Don't miss! Corinne Kalles* ext. 555

THORNHILL WOODS 5 BEDROOMS
2,750 sq. ft., dark hrdwd, Calif. shutters, maple kitchen, pot lights, large foyer, wrought iron pickets, French terrace doors, nanny's rm, immaculate condition! Leslie Richman* ext. 241

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New Listing!
101 Viewmount Ave.
A magnificent residence in a prestigious area! 3 storey home contains 7 bedrooms & 7 bathrooms. There is approximately 5,500 sq. ft. of luxury plus a fully finished basement. Master bedroom complete with balcony, en-suite bathroom with sauna, & fireplace. The rear yard is private and includes an in-ground pool, waterfall, cabana & deck. An amazing family home and great for entertaining! Asking $1,360,000. Call **Michael Harari, at 416-630-0111 Re/Max Realtron Rlty Inc.**

See the virtual tour at www.virtualproperties.ca/g2606/

Visit the Open House on June 20th from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Watch for the CJN Kids Page!

The first issue of every month!

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The Canadian Jewish news

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

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THORNHILL
137 Esther Cres.
4 bd., sep. entr. to bsmt. apt. $399,000.
HEDVA BEN-DAVID, 905-764-7111

10 PRIVATE HOUSES FOR SALE

THORNHILL- Close to Shul, spacious 4+2 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. Beautiful house! On Felicia Court. Fabulous corner lot. Fully loaded with upgrades! We're selling privately but buyer's agents protected. Priced to sell at $507,500. Call 416-857-3892.

30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

Sheppard W. Subway, 2 bdrm, 2 baths, $20,000 upgrade, $278,900. Call 416-803-7056 or www.rpt.ca/sheppardsub

BATHURST-STEELES
Spacious 2 bedroom + solarium, open concept liv rm/den, eat-in kit, 2 baths, $215,000.
ELLIE GARBE 905-764-7111
Century 21 Heritage Group

10 PRIVATE HOUSES FOR SALE

115 WINDING LANE (Yonge/Clark)
House for Sale by Owner
$357,900
Absolute Gem 10+++!!! – Immaculate Condition

- Detached, 2-storey house with 3+1 bedrooms and 4 bathrooms
- Open concept family room – a rare feature for Concord Model
- Newly paved double driveway
- New walkway and stairs
- Finished basement with 3 pc. Washroom

OPEN HOUSES: Sat/Sun June 19 & 20 - 12:00 p.m. –5:00 p.m.
Or call **416-543-2223** for Appointment
NO AGENTS PLEASE

Bathurst/Clark, Glenbury Dr., across from Promenade Mall on quiet street. 3 bed., 2.5 bath, fin. bsmnt., immaculate cond. $394,900. Call Wayne Levy, 905-761-5241.

15 HOUSES FOR RENT

Bath./Lawr. area, long trm, 4 bdrm, lrge., opt furnish'd home.416-635-8323, ext. 307 torontorental@sympatico.ca

30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

BATHURST/FINCH "SAVOY"
Rarely available! Bright, upgraded corner 2 bedroom, 2 bath + den, 2 walkout balc. Approx. 1,400 sq. ft. S/E view.
PAULINE GOLD
905-764-7111
Century 21 Heritage Group Ltd.

7601 Bathurst St. & Centre, 2 bdrm. condo. 1250 s.f. for sale. 905-709-4017 / 416-219-4182.

1 bdrm. co-op $89,000. Central - close to shuls and Yorkdale Mall. To arrange viewing call 416-782-1606.

30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

Lux condo at The Primrose, 1600 sq ft corner unit with 2 bdrm eat-in kitchen, solarium, spacious din & liv rm & master en suite. Includes 2 prk spots & storage area. 905-886-7742.

35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

81 Townsgate, 2 bdrm., 2 baths, immed. $1400/mo. all incl. prkg. Erika 416-566-3705.

60 SHARED ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

Bathurst/Lawrence, 2 bed. condo., utils., laund. incl. Prkng. avail. Female. Kosher. CAC @ 416-787-2928.

Bathurst/Steeles, beautiful condo. Priv. bedroom & bath. Shared kitch. Laund., locker & prkg. Call 647-294-9314.

30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

SANTEE REALTY INC. 416-441-2003
SKYMARK
DON MILLS & FINCH - 2 RENO APTS.
Skymark Zenith: Penthouse. Unique 2 bedroom + family + solarium, skylights, fireplace, sauna, 2 parking + locker. Unobstructed panoramic view.
55 Skymark Zenith: Well appointed & reno., 3 bedroom+ solarium, 2 baths. For my updated inventory, colour brochures & 360° virtual tour, call:
SANTEE LEUNG, B.B.L., SKYMARK SPECIALIST

60 SHARED ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

Roommate needed, Kosher. Furn. apt. Bathurst/Lawrence, avail. July or Aug. Min. to TTC/shul, $460 + util. Call Avi Noam, 416-789-2724.

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Briar Hill/Bathurst, huge, lux. 1, 2 & 3 bdrms. from $1075, renov'd., a/c. Bonus: June FREE. James 416-769-6779.

Ask about our 100% Satisfaction Guarantee!

Consider
The Gates of Bayview
Rental Community
4001, 4003 and 4005 Bayview Ave.
Bayview/Steeles

Offering beautifully appointed
1, 2, 3 and 3+ den suites in a 20 acre private setting complete with gatehouse and extensive services and amenities.

"One of the reasons I chose to live at the Gates of Bayview is because of the spacious rooms. I could take my house size furniture." *Bill S.*

Sterling Karamar property management
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ELEGANT TWIN BLDS.
Very lrg. 1, 2, 3 Bedrooms, 2 & 3 Bdrms. w/2 balconies and 2 baths.
Ample closets plus cedar, Roof laundry, ravine setting, pool, pkg. incl.
6 Apts. per flr.
416-960-3238 - Bus.
416-631-9377 / 416-631-0388 - Bldg.

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Suites available immediately.
Walk to synagogues & shopping. Sabbath Elevator. TTC at your door.
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Mon.-Thurs. 12 noon-8pm
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ELDORADO
2500 Bathurst St., luxury apartments, 2 & 3 bedrooms + den, central air, newly renovated. Over 2,000 sq. ft. Immediate.
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416-878-4441

BATHURST BRIAR HILL
Bachelor, 1, 2 & 3 bedroom, oversized, sunfilled suites in well-maintained building! Up to 1800 sq. ft., newly painted, 2 bathrooms, dishwasher. Close to all amenities.
ASK ABOUT OUR MOVING COST REBATE!
416-787-5317

Allen/Lawrence, 3 bdrms. in 7-plex, 2 baths, pkg., backyard, $1100. Call 905-886-5515, 416-783-0179.

Bathurst/Steeles, Townsgate, 1550 sq. ft. 2 bed., 2 bath, 2 prkng., all amens. $2100/mo. 647-299-0371 / 416-224-2837.

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Bathurst/Sheppard, lux., spacious, bright apts. in quiet ravine setting off main streets, newly reno, walk to TTC, utilities incl. 1 bdrm. avail. immed./July/Aug. 416-398-0566 / 905-474-3600.

Bathurst/Glencairn, lrg. bright new reno'd, 1 bed. lower level. $795/mo. all incl. 416-518-5620.

2 rm. bsmt. apt., sep. entr. Close to transport. Bathurst-Wilson. No smoking/pets. $650/mo. 416-631-9409.

82 ROOM AVAILABLE FOR RENT

Room in the basement for rent, all furniture & appliances, close to University. 416-509-1333.

105 COTTAGE FOR SALE

Take the Bridge to "Acton Island" Silver Rocks Estates, Lake Muskoka. Over 100 acres/2000+ ft. of shoreline, sunny southern exposure, sandy beach, tennis/basketball court, rec. centre, boat docks. 4 bdrm., 1000 sq. ft. cottage, bright contemp. design, stone fplc., wraparound decks, att'd. gar. *Share expenses & amens., making Muskoka memories affordable!* Annual fee $3000 incl. taxes & grounds upkeep. $499,000.
Brian & Wendy Cook, the "Cottage Hunters" Royal Le Page, Lakes of Muskoka, *Brokers*
705-644-7292 or 1-800-763-3398 ext. 63

Belle Ewart, waterfront cottage, close to Shul, 3 bdrm, boat, $649,000. 905-886-4692.

110 COTTAGE FOR RENT

3 bdrm. waterfront cottage for rent on Sparrow Lake. $2100/week. 416-917-6987.

Belle Ewart/Lake Simcoe, lakefront, 3 bdrms. July-Aug. near shul. 416-494-2369.

Exec. lkfrnt. 4 bed., Beaverton, priv. bch., tennis, +, June, July. 416-226-0009, 416-749-6600.

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Arts & Travel

The existentialist jazz player

By DAVID SILVERBERG
Special to The CJN

When a jazz pianist cites Jean-Paul Sartre, you listen. It isn't every day you hear jazz musicianship compared to French existentialism.

"Sartre's autobiography was split into two sections, 'Reading' and 'Writing,'" says Ron Davis. "I'm at the 'Writing' stage now. I feel the need to produce."

Ron Davis, right, with the Ron Davis Trio.

Davis, 47, speaks through his ivory-tickling fingers, but listening to him explain his musical motives is like sitting in on a lecture full of life-affirming messages.

In an interview at Toronto's Free Times Café, I'm not surprised to learn Davis has gone the lecture route many times in the past, wearing several hats: he practised law for two years, was a French professor at the University of Toronto and recently spoke at Meiji University in Tokyo on "Multiculturalism and the Golden Age of Jazz in Toronto."

But most of his writing passion has focused on jazz, and if the latest release is any indication, his songs turn a black-and-white tradition into a colourful mosaic.

Mungle Music is the third CD from the Toronto pianist, and Davis says this time the tunes are more exploratory, while still keeping the integrity of his old-school style.

"My first album, *soloduotrio*, was an all-you-can-eat buffet of styles," he says, "but in *Mungle Music*, my trio brings depth and energy, while I bring my Oscar Peterson-wannabe melodic-based style."

Peterson is just one of those who have influenced Davis. Art Tatum is another, which fits with Davis's dedication to swing, a 1930s-era style characterized by accenting the third and fourth beats. To the casual listener, *Mungle Music*'s swinging moments entertain with that toe-tapping rhythm jazz fans have come to love.

The fans are not the only ones having fun. "Every time I go to work I go to play," says Davis, smiling widely and sipping espresso.

Davis throws himself into his compositions, eschewing pop-song blandness. "I believe in every note I play," he says, adding that a performance makes him a "live wire, really getting into the music."

So involved is Davis that he cried when he first heard his own tender solo on *Down By*.

"Maybe I was channelling my zaidie's sad energy with that solo, because it was filled with so much pathos," he says.

That kind of emotional sacrifice is necessary, he believes, because after you record a song, "there should be blood on the floor. Part of you is in that creation of music."

His devotion has paid off. Besides performing regularly at jazz clubs, corporate events and simchahs, Davis will hit the stage at the Toronto Downtown Jazz Festival from June 26 to 29. One of the gigs is a session at Nathan Phillips Square – the free event features the Ron Davis Downtown Swingsters, acknowledging the origins of jazz.

"I'm a minority, because the prevailing jazz soundscape is rooted from Miles Davis's *Kind of Blue* up to Dave Brubeck," Davis says. "My soundscape is different – late '30s to late '50s."

Has his Jewish heritage influenced his swinging tunes?

He veers off-track, describing his upbringing – "I had an Orthodox father, payes, tzitzis and all" – and private schooling at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto. He then returns to the question. "Oh yeah, my music is informed by all outside factors, including Judaism. It may not be overt, but I've done klezmer and felt very comfortable there."

Davis has also felt at home playing at bar mitzvahs and weddings. For a full-time musician, the private gigs help put the challah on the table.

"I'm always available for any simchah," he says.

Ron Davis performs free at the Toronto Downtown Jazz Festival on June 26 at Nathan Phillips Square; on June 28 at Trader's Bar and Grill, 123 Queen St. W.; on June 29, at the Rex Jazz and Blues Bar, 194 Queen St. W.

He will play an Adath Israel singles swing dance Aug. 29.

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Gymnast has high hopes to make Athens Olympics

By ELI SHUPAK
Special to The CJN

With a lack of depth in Canadian artistic gymnastics, it shouldn't come as a major shock if Unionville's 16-year-old Marci Bernholtz qualifies for this summer's Olympic Games in Athens.

Having just become age-eligible, the reigning Elite Ontario provincial champion is determined to make the most of a unique opportunity.

Following the recently concluded National Championships at the Hershey Centre in Mississauga, Bernholtz is only one step away from a trip to Greece.

She finished ninth overall among 26 competitors and was one of 10 athletes to advance to the second set of trials for the Canadian team, which will be held from July 12 to July 19 at Seneca College in Toronto. Six athletes and two alternates will be selected for the team following that event.

Bernholtz's best performance at the Nationals was in the floor exercises, where she won a bronze medal.

Speaking prior to the Nationals, her longtime coach Paul Johnson said, "We're not expecting her to be right up there on the team. We're also not expecting her not to squeak in either.

"She's on the rise. Her performance up to now shows she's one of the best in Canada. I think the main focus we want is for her to be invited to the second trials, and that will be an incredible learning experience."

Bernholtz, a Grade 10 student at Thornhill Secondary School, recently returned from Luxembourg where she competed in the FL Gym Open, her first major overseas international meet. She finished fourth overall going up against America's best as well as a number of top Europeans.

Bernholtz made all four event finals, winning gold on the balance beam, silver for her floor exercise routine, with fourth place finishes on bars and the vault. Her 9.313 score on beam put her ahead of U.S. Olympic team contenders Marcia Newby and Liz Tricase, who scored 9.138 and 9.063, respectively. Bernholtz also won a silver for her floor exercise routine, scoring a 9.250 to finish behind Newby, who earned 9.625 for the gold.

A three-year member of the national team, Bernholtz also represented Canada in a dual competition with Japan at the Jurassic Classic in Calgary in March. She took home silver in the all around, making three event finals.

Bernholtz says having a pretty good meet in Calgary was a big confidence booster in getting ready for Luxembourg and what awaits in the coming weeks.

"I'm very excited about the Olympic trials," she says. "I think just going through trials like that will be something in itself."

Bernholtz describes herself as a powerful rather than a graceful and flexible gymnast. At 5-1 and 105 pounds, her favourite event, floor, has always been a little bit easier on her.

A three-time recipient of the Town of Richmond Hill award,

Marci Bernholtz

Bernholtz was honoured this year with the Kate Richardson Pursuit of Excellence Award for her hard work and dedication to the sport.

She trains at Richmond Hill's Academy of Sport and Fitness six days a week for five to six hours at a time. Her regimen includes physical maintenance therapy in the gym, dance and fitness training, plus work on the four events.

Johnson, who owns the academy, has high hopes for Bernholtz, who he has coached since she was six and has gotten very close to over the years.

"She's very focused and dedicated, almost too hard on herself, if anything," said Johnson. "She's a very, very intense young lady. She has goals and she goes after them."

Bernholtz hopes to compete in next year's world championships, as well as the Maccabiah Games in Israel. Looking ahead to 2006, Bernholtz has her sights on the Pan Am and Commonwealth Games.

Don't be surprised to see her there.

Bronze is beautiful for Israeli sailors

By RAMI HIPSH
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

TEL AVIV — Israeli sailors Vered Buskila and Nika Kornitzky last week won a bronze medal at the 470 Class European Sailing Championship.

Buskila and Kornitzky began the final day's three races in third place. They finished fifth in the first race and then a disappointing 20th in the second, with the battle to hold on to third overall being waged against a duo from France. The Israelis finished sixth in the last race of the day and held on to claim the bronze.

The European Championship medal comes less than a month after the two finished third at the World Championship in Croatia and shows the duo has returned to the top level of competitive sailing. They won a bronze medal at the European Championship in 2001 and then put in average performances in 2003.

Buskila and Kornitzky will compete for Israel at the Olympic Games later this summer.

Maccabi fastpitch tryouts announced

Regional tryouts for the Maccabi fastpitch softball team will be held in coming weeks, with a national tryout scheduled for the Canada Day long weekend.

Successful ballplayers will represent Maccabi Canada at the 17th Maccabiah Games in Israel, which will run from July 11 to July 21, 2005.

Quebec regional tryouts will be held the weekend of June 19 at Centennial Park in Cote-St.-Luc.

Ontario regional tryouts are scheduled for the weekend of June 26 at Clanton Park in Toronto.

National tryouts will be held from July 1 to July 4 at Clanton Park in Toronto.

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The New York party season

The time for writing resumés, going to job interviews and hunting for apartments has arrived for me and for my fellow AVODAHniks in the Jewish Service Corps program.

There are a few fun things to help distract us from this stressful transitional time, with the events held during New York City's party and benefit season at the top of the list.

By ELISHEVA GOULD

Last week, I attended three benefit dinners in a row. Each reflected the scope and philosophy of the organizations they were supporting.

The first dinner was for Sanctuary for Families (SOF), which provides legal and other aid to victims of domestic violence, including the most vulnerable in that group, undocumented immigrants.

SOF's annual "Zero Tolerance" event was held at a large banquet hall. It included live musical performances by well-known musicians and DJs, fancy and expensive food, an auction of luxurious items, door prizes and a high-powered guest list. We attended this glamorous event because we had done volunteer work. It was exciting to see who turned out to support our workplaces.

Holy Apostles, the church at which my weekly outreach legal clinic is held, was the site of another function. The intimate and modest reception at the church was held in honour of its dedicated counselling staff, who help some of the poorest people struggling to get by on the city's streets and in the shelter system. Located in Manhattan's Chelsea neighbourhood, Holy Apostles feeds more than 1,000 homeless people each week.

AVODAH's first fundraising dinner was to honour two rabbis – Michael Strassfeld and Joy Levitt, who both do a great deal of tikkun olam work.

At the dinner, this year's AVODAH members hobnobbed with the program's growing alumni community. Soon we will be graduates of Year 6. We schmoozed with members of the New York Jewish community and spoke to those who support AVODAH. Glowing introductions, moving speeches, live jazz and delicious kosher food were the event's other highlights.

Suitably, given AVODAH's mission and values, the dinner was held at the top of the Times Square Hotel, a housing facility and social service agency for formerly homeless adults.

On a smaller scale, the nice weather has brought people out of hibernation and neighbourhoods are alive with block parties, roof soirées and goodbye get-togethers.

Recently, my colleague Sheila, a member of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps – a program for Catholic youth that is almost identical to AVODAH – threw a roof party and invited all of our co-workers from the Urban Justice Center. Her housemates brought colleagues from each of their non-profit organizations. The party was a fun, socially conscious gathering of service-minded individuals.

Meanwhile, we have begun to receive Jewish Service Corps alumni event invitations. I am both frightened and excited by the invitations as they make me aware of how soon my year in AVODAH will end, while I realize that I have people with whom to commiserate, to network and to maintain friendships with in the future.

It is times like these that remind me that I'm building a community, not only with my housemates and fellow young Jewish professionals, but also with public-interest lawyers, caseworkers from anti-poverty organizations and other caring people who spend their time working toward positive social change.

One of the major goals of AVODAH is to be far-sighted and far-reaching. This is not just a year-long service corps program, but one that also helps its participants find their niches in the world of Jewish social justice advocacy, in the non-profit sector, in political activism and in philanthropy. I already sense that my introduction into this world is helping me use my intellect, skills and compassion to do what I love, while improving individual lives and the world.

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About Life

Dear Ella,

Something happened recently that absolutely infuriated me. I was breastfeeding my 6-week-old baby daughter in the corner booth of a downtown cafeteria. I was being very discreet, having worn a big sweatshirt and jacket because I knew I would be breastfeeding at some point that morning. An older woman approached me and told me there are more appropriate places for me to feed and said that if I didn't stop, she would complain to the manager.

I was so taken aback that I collected all my things and left in tears. But I am no longer upset. I am angry. How dare she!

Yet, I think I handled the situation very poorly. If I had the chance to travel back in time, I would behave quite differently.

What do you think of this incident? Should I have held my ground, or was leaving the right thing to do?

Not Indecent Exposure
Dear Not Indecent Exposure

There are moments in all of our lives that we would love to have the chance to relive. However, since that is impossible, you have to come to terms with the way you handled this situation and learn from it.

Nursing in public often creates strong opinions on both sides. I polled approximately 20 people on their opinions about it and the reactions were mixed. Some felt it should be done only in private, while others felt that if a baby is hungry, he or she should eat wherever the mother feels comfortable.

Here is where I stand: Done discreetly, there is absolutely nothing objectionable about breastfeeding in a public place. Personally, it would make me smile. Nursing a baby is one of the most loving and selfless things a mother can do. You are nourishing and nurturing your child naturally, and for that you should feel proud.

You have to get comfortable in your convictions about breastfeeding in public and prepare yourself – not with anger, but with confidence and knowledge – in case you encounter another incident. Trust yourself that you are doing the very best thing for you and your baby.

Readers may submit their questions to Ella at The CJN., *email: eb@cjnews.com. But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional.*

Is Jewish suffering inevitable?

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

Carl Jung, a Swiss-German psychoanalyst, coined the phrase "soul work." He defined it as the development of strength of character through plumbing the torturous, tangled depths and vastness of our own minds.

URBAN WRITER

In the case of the Jewish people, this introspective process would oblige us to explore aspects of our collective consciousness, including how we view our position among the nations and how we think we are seen by the gentile.

Such a process would, no doubt, reveal some very interesting things about the Jewish mindset. One such revelation, I believe, would be the conviction held by most Jews that we are, and always will be, a hated people and religion, and that one day another catastrophe will befall us.

Put another way, if we were to poll the Jewish people and ask them whether they believe the destruction of the Temples, the Spanish Inquisition and the Holocaust were inevitable – perhaps even pre-determined by God – and whether suffering is our lot, most Jews would answer in the affirmative.

If we are then to take our "soul work" to the next step, we would have to ask ourselves if just as the scent of the rose is loved by all who smell it, so too will the Jew be hated and persecuted by all generations, then what is our responsibility as we wait for this looming tragedy?

Should we not view the peace and freedom that the Jewish community of Toronto is currently experiencing as a blip in time and plan for the future by building fortresses to prepare for the worst?

Would it not be wise, knowing that the Righteous Gentile is an anomaly among the nations, for Diaspora Jewry to make aliyah and huddle with our Israeli brothers and sisters, protected by their military might?

If we are indeed powerless, or metaphysically stymied, in our attempts to adjust this divine plan, should we not consider the relevance of traditional and common prayers such as *O'seh shalom b'imromav*, in which we ask God to bring peace to us and all of Israel?

Or is there another possibility?

Maybe there are plenty of gentiles in the world who are not like the biblical Esau – evil and wanting to destroy the Jew. What if we actually dismissed for a moment the inescapability of anti-Semitism and instead – using the wonderful minds of so many Jews and the tools of the communication age – made a gargantuan, thorough and dignified plan to discover and develop friendships and alliances with non-Jews all around us? Could our suffering not be tempered?

A few years ago, a movie starring Bill Murray called *Groundhog Day* told the story of a man who woke every morning to a day that was exactly like the one before. In it, he relived his miserable existence over and over again and was prevented from reaching his goals, without any hope for the future.

If the Jewish mind holds the belief that no matter what we do, as in *Groundhog Day*, tomorrow will produce the same persecution of our people as yesterday, have we not, in effect, precluded ourselves from doing everything we can to prevent another catastrophe?

We cannot and should not wait helplessly and hopelessly as anti-Semitism brews in Europe and other parts of the world. If we insist on feeling powerless about our influence on this "social and divine inevitability," aren't we far too committed to the role of victim and, therefore, slipping when it comes to our guardianship of Judaism in our times?

Why is there so little effort to counter this? Where is our "soul work?"

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The Canadian Jewish news
Section B

Tribute to ISRAEL

The Colour of the Flag

by David Zvi Epstein

We know how it feels.
We know how it feels to starve for two thousand years
to mourn every night
for the city we cannot enter
for the mountain we cannot climb
for the nation we cannot build.
We know what it feels like to win a city
and lose a thousand sons.
To live knowing that ten thousand feet are waiting
to dance on their graves.
Do we have the courage to say
our nation is worth a life
ten lives, a hundred lives, more
so that we may pray where our fathers prayed
and live where they lived?
What will we say to them?
What will we say to a man, no, a boy!
A boy with a machine gun
A boy who will die before he understands what life means?
Who lies bleeding on a battlefield,
his cheek still warm from his mother's last kiss?
What will we say to him?
When we ask ourselves, what colour most befits this country,
What the colour of our flag shall be
What will we say?
Perhaps we will say red.
Red: the colour of war
The colour of Kalashnikovs and mortar shells and AK-47s.
Of remorselessness and madness.
The colour of a mother closing the door behind her 18-year-old baby,
a rifle bouncing awkwardly between his thin shoulder blades.
The colour of smoke over a silent battlefield.
The stickiness of blood and saliva, the crunch of bone against bone,
the taste of metal on the tongue.
Perhaps we would say that our flag should be red.
But when Ben-Gurion declared our rebirth
when our brothers reclaimed the Kotel
when our tanks and our buses exploded before our eyes,
when our dead were lowered into the ground.
they had the audacity to do so beneath a flag of bright blue
the colour of our tzitzit
the colour of the sea and the sky and the Throne of God Himself
the colour of children's eyes growing bright learning their aleph bet
for the first time
the colour of baking challa in erev Shabbat Yerushalayim
the colour of the cohanim blessing the people
the colour of a mother hugging her son who has returned,
The colour of windows filled with Shabbat candles and tables
filled with
Torah
The colour of hope.
And to our children's blood that screams out from our soaked ground,
this is what we answer:
There is no amount of red that will make our flag waver,
no amount of red that will make our skies question,
or our seas not fathom,
that we are a nation of brilliant blue and will never, ever change.

'A nation of brilliant blue'

Editorial

The poem on this page by David Zvi Epstein poignantly expresses one of the sustaining truths of Jewish life throughout the ages and of late, especially in the State of Israel. Despite all the travail and hardship, the imperative has always been to go forward, fully believing in the hope and the goodness of the future.

"We are a nation of brilliant blue" resolutely conveys the sense of purpose – and I would add, even optimism – that must permeate our every action in this world.

That is the theme of and main message underlying this Tribute to Israel.

We must think of Israel as more than a land and a people in constant crisis, under constant siege. We must not allow the defining perception of the Jewish state to be that which its enemies have etched into the international consciousness since 1967.

With all its flaws, Israel is still a land flowing with the milk and honey of science, arts, theatre, literature, medicine, creativity and collective commitment in all its glorious and inglorious human manifestations.

***The Colour of the Flag* is a perfect complement to the photograph by Yael Baruch from Montreal, which we are also pleased and honoured to publish. It is the winning entry in the Sixth Annual Canada Israel Experience Photo Contest sponsored by EL AL Israel Airlines, ROOTS Canada, *The Canadian Jewish News*, Canada Israel Experience and UIA Federations Canada. The runner-up photos appear on page 27 of the paper.**

We are indeed a nation of brilliant blue and we thank David Zvi Epstein for reminding us.

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to the State of Israel
on its 56th Anniversary
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Tribute to Israel

For Tel Aviv, UNESCO award is an honour and responsibility

By DINA KRAFT
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

TEL AVIV — Under the layers of soot, the stucco walls are beginning to crumble and the once-sleek rectangular balconies have peeling walls and battered shutters. Inside, a bicycle is chained to the curved metal railing lining the staircase.

The address is 79 Gordon St., one of hundreds of Bauhaus-inspired buildings that line the streets of Tel Aviv, home to the largest collection of Bauhaus-style buildings in the world. Many, like this 1935 building, are classics of design but are sorely in need of restoration.

In recent years, however, the conservation bug has begun to catch on in Tel Aviv, with hundreds of the city's 4,000 or so Bauhaus-style buildings restored and repaired, painted in gleaming whites and pastels, and returned to their former glory.

On June 6, the "White City" of Tel Aviv was declared a World Heritage Site by the United Nations Education and Cultural Organization, UNESCO. The White City refers to the concentration of Bauhaus-style architecture in and around the city centre.

City officials hope the honour – Tel Aviv is only the second city in the world to be given the title – will give a boost to much needed restoration efforts.

"Tel Aviv is not an ancient city, but now it looks like an old city, and I would like it to look like a new city, fresh and clean, all the wrinkles ironed away," said Danny Kaiser, the city's chief engineer, who is an architect by training.

To make that happen, the city is offering unique incentives to the owners of the buildings to take on the expense of restoring their properties. In exchange for committing themselves to restoration, for example, owners can receive permission to add additional floors to buildings as long as the floors are as "unseen" as possible, blending in with the original structure. Some real estate-related taxes can also be reduced.

"I think people are starting to recognize that it is not a burden but an opportunity," Kaiser said, adding that owners need to see their buildings as precious property worth investing in.

Restoration is ultimately a worthy investment, he said, providing extra income from the creation of new apartments and increased rent because what was once a run-down building will become a highly sought-after property.

The building at 3 Strauss St. has been expertly restored. It now appears as it originally did – a large, cream-coloured edifice with dark red railings and a window running vertically the length of the staircase.

Such windows, dubbed "thermometers" by local architects because you could see people going up and down the stairs, are typical of Tel Aviv's Modern-style buildings.

"You look around and each building could look like this," said Peera Goldman, who heads restoration efforts for the Tel Aviv municipality. She shakes her head and sighs.

The Bauhaus-inspired architecture, more accurately referred to as part of the Modern or International style, reached the country's shores in the early 1930s with the arrival of Jewish architects fleeing Europe.

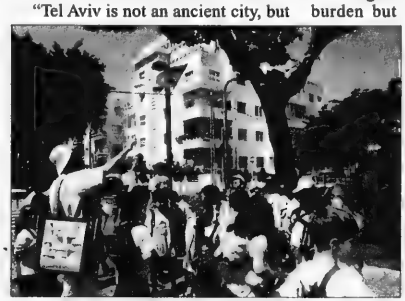
Many had studied at the top avant-garde architecture schools in Europe, and it was their convergence in Tel Aviv that helped create a synthesis of truly modern architecture in ideology and style, stripped of the heavy ornamentation of the past.

"They created an outstanding architectural ensemble of the Modern Movement in a new cultural context," a UNESCO statement said.

Constructed between 1931 and 1956, the buildings looked somewhat out of place in many parts of the world, with their flat roofs and pastel colors, but here along the Mediterranean coastline, they seemed to find their home.

Continued on page B3

The City Hall has erected a series of posters and instructional material describing the original Bauhaus buildings. The route has been dubbed the Bauhaus trail.



1st graders on the Bauhaus trail with a teacher outside 113 Rothschild Boulevard.

Tel Avivers take delight in the Bauhaus trail. [Israel Sun photos]

A teacher explains the fine points of Bauhaus architecture to her grade one students.

'The buildings adapted to the culture and climate of the place'

Continued from page B2

Architects also adapted their designs to suit Tel Aviv's weather and landscape.

The Modernist movement was based on the concept of art in the service of society, striving for architecture that was functional but at the same time aesthetic. It sought to remedy the ills of the Industrial Revolution and concomitant urban poverty, and its emphasis on concepts of utopia and equality fit well with the Zionist ideology in pre-state Palestine.

"The buildings adapted to the culture and climate of the place," Goldman said. "It was a very good integration of the socialist spirit of the Israeli ethos of the time and the ideology of the Modern movement."

Characteristic of the building style are columns and ribbon windows running horizontally. There is experimentation with the idea of volume and a focus on the asymmetrical – similar to Cubist art of the period.

Balconies are often curved and overhung with ledges that provide shade. In an effort to keep interiors cool in humid Tel Aviv, angled skylights and small windows were installed.

UNESCO chose Tel Aviv not only because of the buildings themselves but also for the city's original urban design.

"The new town of Tel Aviv is an outstanding example of new town planning and architecture in the early 20th century, adapted to the requirements of a particular cultural and geographic context," a UNESCO statement said.

Tel Aviv started as a suburb of Jaffa in 1909 with 66 families. The original residents planned a garden city, so the sandy terrain was levelled and a linear garden was planted – the remnant of which can be seen today on languid Rothschild Boulevard – lined with ficus trees.

The garden was envisioned as the heart of the city, a point of social connection.

As the city grew, a Scotsman named Sir Patrick Geddes won the competition to design a city plan. He was moved by Tel Aviv's community feel and he sought to preserve that sense as he planned for the city's northward expansion.

Though his plan was not fully implemented, Geddes' innovative idea – to create green squares tucked away in neighbourhoods between major streets – gives the city a feeling of intimacy even today.

The design allows for residents to live in quiet neighbourhoods but still be close to major, commercial roads.

The underlying plan was "a city that is very informal," Goldman said, a city that fit with the informal lifestyle championed by the early Zionists.

UNESCO's recognition of Tel Aviv stands as a challenge to the city and its residents to protect their urban heritage, officials said.

Kaiser, the city's chief engineer, said he thinks the honour will help keep up the momentum of the conservation movement.

"I hope we are in a new era in Tel Aviv," he said

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Canadian Birthrighters hear Sharon discuss his Gaza plan

By JENNY HAZAN
CJN Israel Bureau

JERUSALEM — The most enthusiastic group among 3,000-odd Birthright Israel participants June 6 at the fifth annual Birthright Israel Mega Event were the Canadians, who waved flags, danced and sang at the tops of their lungs before hearing Prime Minister Ariel Sharon discuss his Gaza disengagement plan.

"This trip has been amazing! Everything is so beautiful here. I love it!" said 20-year-old Neil Fine from Ottawa, taking a break from jumping up and down with fellow Birthrighters in the International Convention Center to comment on his first trip to Israel.

"When I was planning on coming here, everyone was saying, 'Be careful; don't get killed.' All of my relatives were scared that I was going to get blown up. They made me promise that I would come back in one piece," continued Fine, who just completed his first year at the University of Ottawa in human kinetics.

"But it's not like that at all here. It's not like there are bombs going off everywhere. I don't feel scared to walk around the streets. In fact, I would definitely feel comfortable coming back again."

In his first public appearance after cabinet approved his Gaza plan, Sharon addressed the issue in his speech to the Diaspora youth.

"You have come to Israel during an important period for our future," he told the crowd, which, in addition to Birthrighters from Canada, the United States, France, Russia and Ukraine, included Minister for Diaspora Affairs Natan Sharansky as well as Charles Bronfman and other Birthright philanthropists.

"Today, the State of Israel took a stand of great importance for its future. The government of Israel has approved the disengagement plan that I submitted, sending a clear message to the people of Israel, our Palestinian neighbours and to the entire world that Israel is taking its future into its own hands.

"Today, the government decided that it is Israel's intention to relocate all of the Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip and four settlements in Samaria by the end of 2005," he added. "Most Israelis understand the great importance of today's government resolution. It is a resolution that ensures the future of Israel. It is a resolution that is good for Israel's security, its international standing, its economy and the demography of the Jewish people in the Land of Israel."

Sharon appeared to have earned the Birthrighters' support.

Jeremy Peskin, a 20-year-old Birthright Israel participant from Toronto, said the plan is "an inevitable eventuality. It's necessary for it to happen to end the violence conclusively.

"But what's most important are the conditions upon which it takes place," he added. "I am hopeful and confident that Prime Minister Sharon will make the right decision and that he will gain the support of the country."

Sharon also talked about their return to Israel after Birthright. "Every visit like yours strengthens Israel," he told the participants.

"Every young person who returns from Israel and tells what he saw here to students on campuses overseas; every young person who takes part in Jewish activities in his community; every young person like this strengthens Israel.

Ariel Sharon speaking to the Birthrighters **[Israel photo]**

"Above all, every young person who makes aliyah to Israel is the greatest resource of strength for the future of the State of Israel," he continued. "I call upon you to join us in building the Jewish nation, the only country where Jews can truly live as Jews. The Jewish people need you; the State of Israel needs you, today more than ever."

The mood of the Canadian Birthright participants was perhaps summed up by Aaron Grossman, a 26-year-old Waterloo native who lives in Toronto.

"I love this country! This country is here for us and I understand that now. Jews live all over the world, but this is our home."

Overwhelmed with emotion, he said it was hard to describe how he felt.

"I have always been Jewish, but until now, I haven't felt Jewish," Grossman said. "This is the first time in my life that I have really felt Jewish. Being Jewish does not just denote your religion, it denotes who you are. I am Jewish and the people of Israel are my people. I am a part of them and they are a part of me."

We extend our congratulations to the State of Israel on the occasion of its 56th Anniversary of Independence

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Canadian Birthrighters before they plunge into the water. [Israel photo]

SCENES OF THE BIRTHRIGHT:

Young Canadians recently in Israel on the Birthright program pose for the camera.

[Isranet photos]

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Tribute to Israel

The Exodus 1947 and UNSCOP

By JOHN ROSS

Every nation that has successfully achieved its independence looks back in time for the historical event that can be considered the symbolic turning point that led to its statehood.

In the case of the United States, this event is generally accepted to be the Boston Tea Party, the famous act of defiance in a colonial seaport that demonstrated to the world the many unresolved trade and economic grievances that led directly to the American Revolution.

In the case of Israel, many people believe the critical turning point was also a maritime event: the arrival of the Haganah refugee ship Exodus 1947 in the port of Haifa at a time when the British Mandatory government was enforcing its restrictive immigration policy of allowing only 1,500 Jews a month into Palestine.

The 4,500 Holocaust survivors on board this ship were all forcibly disembarked by the British and placed on prison ships that took them back to Germany, and they came to symbolize the sorrowful plight of European Jewry and their unwavering determination to settle in their national homeland. Accordingly, many historians point to the Exodus 1947 as the catalyst for the reversal in policy of the United Nations towards Jews, and the impetus for the General Assembly's resolution that partitioned Palestine to form a Jewish state in November 1947.

Ivan Rand

This perspective was legitimized by some of Israel's greatest leaders and was premised on the fact that when the Exodus 1947 arrived in Haifa harbour on July 18, 1947, several members of the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP), the 11-member committee entrusted by the United Nations to write a report on the future of Palestine, watched the events unfold that entire afternoon. They had been escorted to Haifa in advance by Aubrey (Abba) Eban, then a Jewish Agency liaison officer for UNSCOP, who had recognized the potential significance of the Haganah operation, and had suggested that they might want to see for themselves the arrival of the ship.

Eban wrote about this in his autobiography and stated that the UNSCOP members who had witnessed the scene "were pale with shock. I could see that they were preoccupied with one point alone: if this was the only way that the British Mandate could continue, it would be better not to continue at all."

This sentiment was further echoed by Golda Meir in her memoirs, when she wrote that "before the shocked eyes of the members of UNSCOP, [the British] forcibly caged and returned to Germany the 4,500 refugees…, and by so doing I think that they actually contributed considerably to UNSCOP's final recommendations."

Finally, Michael Bar-Zohar, a biographer of David Ben-Gurion referred to this event in the same terms when he wrote that Ben-Gurion "was aware that more than any 'historical right,' more even than moral obligation on the part of the world toward Jewish people as expressed in the Balfour Declaration and the Mandate, the tragedy of the Jewish DPs in Europe was the most convincing argument for the members of UNSCOP to recommend founding the state."

He added that "the tragedy of the 4,500 Exodus 1947 immigrants was not in vain; on the quay in the port of Haifa, watching in agitation, stood members of the United Nations inquiry committee. Ben-Gurion was absolutely certain that the Jewish state was knocking at the gates."

Present-day history books, such as Martin Gilbert's *Israel: A History*, reaffirm the centrality of Exodus 1947 as the basis for the UNSCOP majority recommendation in favour of the partition of Palestine, with the historical lesson being that worldwide sympathy for the victims of the Holocaust and the strategic and forceful intervention of Jewish Agency leaders in bringing this issue to the forefront led to the creation of the State of Israel. But is this assessment about the role of Exodus 1947 correct and is the lesson to be derived from it still valid and helpful?

A review of the historical record and of the UNSCOP papers indicates that the popular account connecting UNSCOP and Exodus 1947 is not only erroneous, but entirely contrary to what actually occurred. The transcripts of meetings of the UNSCOP representatives show that the majority of the members were unresponsive to the issue of Jewish immigration and that the events in Haifa on July 18, 1947, played absolutely no role in their decision on partition. Vladimir Simic, the UNSCOP member from Yugoslavia, who was widely quoted as being the most upset at the treatment of the Holocaust survivors by the British, actually voted against partition. Instead, he recommended to the United Nations General Assembly, in his minority report, that Palestine be turned into a unitary state with an Arab majority.

Continued on page B7

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Members of the special committee were not impressed

Continued from page B6

Another highly respected UNSCOP member present that day was Emil Sandstrom, the Swedish jurist who had been appointed chair of the committee by his fellow members. Sandstrom, however, was also unimpressed. He stated that although he sympathized with the plight of the refugees, he was sickened by the capital made out of it by the Zionist propaganda. Sandstrom had seen the efforts of British soldiers to comfort and assist the refugees, and in particular, the "actions of one soldier who was carrying a suitcase down the ship's gangway for a crying boy, comforting him with the words, 'Cheer up laddie, it won't be long before you're back here.' Sandstrom, having read the newspaper articles on Exodus 1947 in the Jewish press, questioned why this wasn't reported in any of the coverage.

David Ben-Gurion

The only mention of Exodus 1947 in the entire UNSCOP report was in clause 119 of the "Background Facts," and it read as follows:

"During its stay in Palestine, the committee heard from certain of its members an eyewitness account of the incidents relative to the bringing into port of Haifa, under British naval escort, of the illegal immigrant ship Exodus 1947. In this, as in similar incidents, the committee has noted the persistence of the attempts to bring Jewish immigrants to Palestine, irrespective of determined preventive measures on the part of the administration, and also the far-reaching support which such attempts receive from the Jewish community in Palestine and abroad."

This neutral comment was also followed by an additional UNSCOP finding that the issue of Jewish refugees could not be addressed by allowing unrestricted immigration into Palestine, and that their recommendation on Palestine should not be considered a solution to the Jewish problem. These findings by UNSCOP, therefore, do not support the conclusions of Eban, Meir and Ben-Gurion, and in light of the fact that UNSCOP members were not impressed by the actions of the Jewish Agency in the whole affair, it can be reasonably argued that Exodus 1947 was actually counter-productive in the UNSCOP recommendation for partition. But if the UNSCOP report was the primary reason for the United Nations' resolution in favour of partition, the question still remains: what were the events and factors that prompted UNSCOP to recommend a Jewish state?

Ironically, the answer may rest with both a "tea party" and a speech that was given on July 18, 1947, once the focus is shifted towards the member of UNSCOP who had the greatest impact and influence upon the final report. This person was Justice Ivan Rand of the Supreme Court of Canada, the member who was credited with putting forward the scheme for partition and for ensuring that the Jewish state had the Negev and the Galilee within its borders. He was also the member who had the most appreciation for the historical significance of the Balfour Declaration and who vigorously advanced the Jewish cause at all the UNSCOP meetings. Most importantly, Rand garnered support for the partition plan from his fellow members and helped draft the final report so that its majority recommendation was clear, precise and unanimous, all of which made it the formidable document that ultimately persuaded the United Nations General Assembly to vote in favour of the report.

Moshe Sharett

The key to understanding the UNSCOP decision, therefore, is to identify the people who influenced Rand while he was in Palestine. The numerous exchanges between Rand and expatriate Canadians, both Jewish and Christian, who had moved to Israel, and his meetings with Zionists who were involved in the economic development of Palestine under the auspices of the "Brandeis Group," an economic corporation that had been guided by former justice Louis Brandeis of the U.S. Supreme Court to invest in Palestine, undoubtedly left a powerful impression on him.

Continued on page B8

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'Rand was thoroughly won over to the Zionist cause'

Continued from page B7

But two Jewish political leaders appear to have imparted to Rand the understanding and tools necessary to advance the Zionist cause and to have it prevail in the UNSCOP deliberations. These men were Chaim Weizmann, former head of the World Zionist Organization and first president of the State of Israel, and Moshe Sharett (Shertok), former head of the Jewish Agency's political department and the second prime minister of the State of Israel.

Weizmann was fortunate to have been able to even address the UNSCOP members in Jerusalem, as Ben-Gurion, his successor in a bitter rivalry at the World Zionist Organization, had sought to ostracize Weizmann and to keep Weizmann's recommendation for partition excluded as a valid option for consideration. This was because Ben-Gurion had wanted a Jewish unitary state in all of Palestine and had believed that Weizmann's pragmatic philosophy of quiet diplomacy and civility would be totally unproductive.

But while Ben-Gurion expressed displeasure at Weizmann's address, Rand listened attentively and accepted Weizmann's position as the basis for his own partition scheme. Rand was so impressed with Weizmann that he and the other committee members sought an additional private meeting with Weizmann. They arranged this by having dinner and tea at Weizmann's residence in Rehovot. At this relaxed and informal opportunity for conversation, Weizmann's ideas, his scientific achievements and his influential friendship with world leaders were discussed and completely captivated Rand.

According to David Horowitz, the Jewish Agency liaison officer who accompanied Rand throughout his time in Palestine, Rand continually expressed his view as to "what a great man Weizmann was," and it was therefore no accident that the words of Weizmann found their continued expression in Rand's memorandum on partition and the deliberations leading up to the UNSCOP final report.

Chaim Weizmann

On July 18, 1947, while some of the UNSCOP members were in Haifa watching Exodus 1947 sail into port, Rand remained in Jerusalem, listening to Moshe Sharett give his address on the economic disparity between Jews and Arabs living in Palestine. This topic was critical for UNSCOP members and especially for Rand, since the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs had suggested to Rand that a continued trusteeship for Palestine was the best option to follow because the economic and political disparity between Jews and Arabs was too great. Canada wanted, as did most western countries, the status quo to continue until the Arabs could develop their own economy and infrastructure to be on par with that of the Jews, whether it took five years or another 50 years.

Sharett, in a brilliant analysis that incorporated a review of the labour laws enacted during the British Mandate, demonstrated how the discrepancy was entirely due to British and Arab exploitation of their fellow workers, despite the efforts of the Jews to obtain better wages and working conditions for all the inhabitants of Palestine. He also explained to Rand how a Jewish state in Palestine would be an economic benefit to the entire region and how the standard of living would immediately rise for Arabs and Jews with the enactment of progressive laws and equitable wage settlements.

Sharett's comments undoubtedly struck a responsive chord, as Rand was a social activist and Canada's leading jurist. Not only had Rand supported and enshrined progressive laws in Canada by his own judicial decisions, he was also a highly distinguished labour arbitrator having recently settled a major labour dispute by creating the "Rand Formula," a ruling still in use today.

On July 18, 1947, the clinching arguments for partition were given to UNSCOP, not in Haifa, but in Jerusalem. As a result, Rand, the key member of the committee, was thoroughly won over to the Zionist cause, and a report was soon issued that changed the world. Yet mainstream history books and political autobiographies have completely overlooked the pivotal role of Rand, Weizmann and Sharett in the founding of the State of Israel and have continued to concentrate on the myth of Exodus 1947 being the rationale for the UNSCOP majority report. This error deserves to be rectified; however, even if it were possible to erase the offending passages in all these books, justice would still not be complete until one canvassed anew the valuable lessons that can be taught about this important time in Israel's history.

John Ross is a lawyer in Hamilton, Ont.

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Tribute to Israel

The Carmel Forest Spa Resort: an enchanted world

By MORDECHAI BEN-DAT
Editor

Mount Carmel, in the north of Israel near Haifa, was always celebrated for its lush, verdant fertility.

The very word Carmel in ancient times was synonymous with beauty. It is not surprising therefore that it appears in the canonized love poem *Shir Hashirim*, *Song of Songs*, as a metaphor for beauty.

Carmel is a contraction of the words *Kerem El*, meaning God's vineyard, suggestive of the fact, as the late Israeli geographer Zev Vilnay noted, that the area was once covered with vineyards.

While there may be fewer vineyards there today than in days of old, the beauty of the forested promontory some 500 metres above sea level, is no less noticed and no less admired by the people who live nearby. Its pine trees are said to be the largest, most beautiful in Israel. And Israelis love to stroll, hike and picnic among those tall trees of the Carmel range, where the air is clean and scented with the refreshing aroma of pine.

The Carmel Forest Spa Resort's surrounding grounds.

High atop the mountain range, almost hidden among the trees at the end of a winding road near the kibbutz Beit Oren is the Carmel Forest Spa Resort.

I recently spent three days there as a guest of management. It was like falling into an enchanted world.

As soon as I entered the premises, I immediately felt the atmosphere of a "different" world. All was quiet; there was total calm.

Subsequently I was told that the use of cellphones in the public areas of the complex was prohibited. That alone set the resort apart from every other place in Israel.

Ya'arot Hacarmel has the appearance of a chalet and the feel of a fine hotel. Earth tones of beige and brown are the predominant colours of the open, central spaces, highlighted by wood and stone finishes on the floors and walls.

Many of the guests I saw in the lobby and in the other public spaces of the resort were wearing white terrycloth robes. They appeared relaxed and at ease, even though they were wearing, essentially, only slippers, a housecoat and undergarments. "Laid back" hardly described the smoothness or the languor of their steps.

It was a foreshadowing of the relaxation I too would experience in the ensuing days.

The actual complex is built like a cross-section of a honeycomb, terraced into the side of the mountain, each floor stacked at an angle above the next to afford all the guests a view of the Mediterranean, which is visible and glistening in the sun a short distance to the west.

From my room, I could see Atlit on the coast. In Crusader times, Atlit was a castled waystation for pilgrims. In modern times, it was a detention camp built by the British government to imprison Jewish refugees trying to reach Eretz Yisrael during and after World War II.

Yitzhak Rabin, then a young Palmach commander, led an attack against the camp to rescue the refugees, and then took them through the very area where the spa hides in the forest, to sanctuary at Beit Oren, a kibbutz nearby.

A short jaunt to the east of the resort is Mukrakha, where Carmelite Christians built a monastery on the same spot from which they claim Elijah the prophet built his altar to God and from which tradition holds he ascended to heaven.

The significance of the environs is not lost on me. Not only is the area geographically breathtaking, but it is also rich with history in a way that lends deep satisfaction to the moments of quiet contemplation that the surroundings encourage.

The Carmel Forest complex has two components: a resort and a spa, both of which are relatively new. The building was actually built by the German government as a convalescent home for survivors of the Shoah. But seven years ago, its owners, Isrotel, expanded and renovated the structure into its present bi-functional, luxurious, eye-catching form.

The complex is situated on 15 forested acres adjacent to a national state park. It employs approximately 250 people, and general manager, Sylvie Cohen, was quick to point out that this translates into a staff-to-guest ratio that far exceeds the norm in the hotel industry.

The purpose and the result of that high staff-guest ratio, Cohen suggested, was to ensure a very high standard of service and of pampering for the benefit of the guests at Carmel Forest Spa Resort.

My days there confirmed Cohen's assertion. Devotion to detail and deference to the guests, it seemed to me, were the operational imperatives of the staff. The spa resort advertises itself as the "preferred place to relax and enhance your life style." It was impossible to quarrel with that self-description. At every turn, there were programs, facilities and opportunities to integrate physical, intellectual and spiritual health.

The resort has 126 rooms, each luxuriously appointed with modest, understated elegance.

The symbol of the resort is the pine cone, and with good reason. The gentle scent of pine is ubiquitous. It filters through the halls. It crackles in the fireplace in the lobby at night and permeates all the materials distributed to guests, including the zesty body splash and soap in the washrooms.

Very few details have been spared to create a comforting and comfortable ambience.

Continued on page B11

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Tribute to Israel

'Unforgettable and a great time'

Relaxing in front of the fireplace in the main lobby at Carmel Forest Spa Resort.

Continued from page B10

Along with the absence of cellphones in public spaces, so too are cigarettes forbidden. Nor are children below middle teenage years of age allowed in the resort.

The many indoor and outdoor nooks and crannies are designed for private sitting and relaxation.

For guests who cannot relax by quiet contemplation there is also a games room with a pool table, dart boards, playing cards, backgammon, checkers and chess boards and dominoes.

In the evening, low lighting sets the mood. Candlelight in the tea room and various sitting rooms provides the accent. For added delight, there was also live harp and piano entertainment.

For guests seeking the inspiration that derives from the sounds of silent streams, there is an inner court near the lobby with a small pond and benches nearby on which to rest or simply read a book.

My chief joy in the resort however, was with the uncompromisingly high standard of the fine gourmet dining. Expert hands were at work in the resort's kosher kitchen. Even the foam on the cappuccino was formed into the shape of a heart.

"Healthy and tasty" is the motto of the resort's chefs. Three lavish meals are provided daily. Each meal is anchored by a delightfully generous salad bar. And the main courses for both lunch and dinner are varied, delicious and healthy.

Five sous-chefs help the master chef prepare lunch; seven sous-chefs are at work for dinner. And to add an additional esthetic of ambience and charm, rose petals adorned the dinner tables. The pitchers of drinking water contained fresh lemon and mint.

The resort even posted nutritional information about the meals each day in the dining room.

Desserts are exquisitely tasty, adequate sizes, indulgent but not excessive. Sorbets, chocolate…

There are 25 individual treatment rooms in the Spa. The number of different personal health treatments available is so large and varied that a 68-page information booklet is required to record and explain them.

The facilities include an indoor and outdoor pool, a solarium, Turkish hamam, jacuzzi and exercise rooms.

The indoor swimming pool is fully accessible to people with disabilities.

When it was time to leave, I read some of the testimonial statements written in the guest book. I was struck by the fact so many guests were from outside Israel.

"This is a unique place where mind and body meet in harmony, where all your needs are satisfied. The decor is splendid, the food exquisite and exciting, the rooms so inviting, and all the activities are fun and well-presented. The spa is fab. Yes, we shall come back. We leave stress-free and happy. Thanks." (from London)

"Unbelievable pampering, beauty, elegance and taste." (from New York)

"A wonderful, magical place, marvellous facility, outstanding service and sumptuous meals." (Highland Park, Illinois)

"Unforgettable and a great time. Ciao." (from Rome)

And there were other endorsements from places such as Florida, California, Boulogne, Lyon, Milan and many others.

And I agreed with them all.

It is no wonder that Eliahu may have ascended to heaven in his mystical chariot from somewhere in the Carmel Forest. Having spent three days at the Carmel Forest Spa Resort, his point of departure may have been a close facsimile of where he was headed.

For more information about Carmel Forest Spa Resort contact the resort spa at P.O.Box 90000, Haifa 31900, Israel, or call 972-4-830-7888, or e-mail carmelf @isrotel.co.il

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Intifadah inspired aliyah

By JENNY HAZAN
CJN Israel Bureau

Two years after the intifadah erupted, in October 2002, native Torontonian David Spindel decided it was time to come and visit Israel.

"When the intifadah started, it was like an awakening," says Spindel, 24, who was then working as a tech researcher for Data Monitor, a British consulting market research house in New York City. "Israel was on the front page of the paper every single day and seeing terrible things happening there day after day caused me to start thinking, talking and reading more about Israel."

Spindel's interest in Israel also grew as a result of the anti-Israel comments of some of his colleagues.

"I heard one woman at my company say that what Israel was doing was worse than South African apartheid and worse than what the Nazis did," Spindel recalls. "When people say these things, you feel in your heart that it's not true. But maybe they are right. Maybe I had been told the wrong things all my life, and so I started reading about it and the more I read about it, the more I had this longing to be part of it."

Then one day, while perusing the Internet with a non-Jewish colleague/friend who had found a particularly brutal photograph depicting a scene in Gaza City, Spindel told his friend, "You see Gaza and you think that is Israel. I wish you could see Israel like I have seen Israel."

The Yeshiva University (YU) graduate then told his friend about the year he spent in Israel studying at Yeshivat Hakotel in 1997.

"My friend said, 'OK, let's go to Israel,'" Spindel recalls. "So, we did."

Less than a month later, the two were on a plane bound for Ben-Gurion Airport.

"I saw things in Israel that I had seen before, but that I had never really seen before. I saw things that I had never seen before," says Spindel, who spent 10 days touring around the country. "All of a sudden, I started to get that feeling, that vibe, that I just wanted to stay longer and longer. I just fell in love with the country."

The trip was a turning point in Spindel's life. When he returned to New York, he couldn't get Israel off his mind.

"I wanted to reconnect and I wanted to come back to see if that feeling was just a feeling I had because I was on a vacation, or if it was always there with me," says Spindel, who is currently studying Hebrew at Ulpan Etzion in Jerusalem, after making aliyah at the beginning of January.

"Aliyah seemed like a good idea, or at least an idea worth pursuing," he says. "So, here I am pursuing it."

Continued on page B13

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Tribute to Israel

'Just this feeling that you want to be a part of it'

Continued from page B12

But the path has not been easy. The first challenge he faced was dealing with the immigration process. "The bureaucracy surrounding immigration is a hassle in every country," says Spindel, who spent his first week in Israel travelling from office to office and from line-up to line-up. "But, here it's a nightmare.

"For instance, I have learned that the post office is king in this country," he says with a laugh. "Everything goes through the post office, which runs hours that I still have not figured out."

Living in Jerusalem has also been a big adjustment. "Jerusalem has lost some of its magic for me," he admits. "The dog poop and the trash tend to have that effect. The lack of environmental consciousness in Israel, and in Jerusalem in particular, is terrible."

He goes on to describe the city's never-ending construction, lack of professional opportunities and tensions between the cultural and religious sectors. "This is the capital of Israel and it's very, very dirty."

When his ulpan ends next week, Spindel intends to move to Tel Aviv immediately. "In Tel Aviv, you've got the beach, it's a more fun city, it's cleaner and there are jobs there," he says. He has already landed a position as a currency trader near Ramat Gan.

The bureaucracy and filth of the capital city aside, Spindel's biggest challenge has been dealing with life without his friends and family. "The hardest thing in the world is leaving everything you know. I miss my friends and family every day," he says, explaining, for example, that his second niece was born in Toronto while he was in ulpan. "Even with e-mail and instant messaging and the phone, it's not the same.

David Spindel

"I don't know if anyone can truly explain what motivates someone to come to Israel. It's a combination of so many things, of so many feelings," Spindel continues. "I don't know if it's possible to put into words why a person chooses to leave all his friends, his family, his job, his apartment, the place he knows and the people he loves, to go to a place thousands of miles a way where you don't speak the language, where taxes are insane and where everything costs a fortune.

"Yet people do it by the droves. There is no other nation of people in the world that does this," he says. "There is just this feeling that you want to be a part of it, and in a way, you feel empty without it."

Life in Israel has its ups and downs. "It really depends on the day," says Spindel, who looks forward with anticipation to his mother's home-baked-cookie care packages. "On a good day, I'm thrilled and on a bad day, I am homesick."

But the people of Israel have been good to him, he says. "The best thing about Israel is that some of the people here are the kindest and most open-hearted."

Before he found a job as a currency trader, he met with a friend of a friend who offered him help finding a job, an apartment and even new friends. "He was a total stranger to me, but he treated me like I was his next of kin. People take care of each other in Israel in a way that you don't find anywhere else."

He has also made lots of new friends at ulpan. "I am friends with people I never thought I would be friends with," he says. His ulpan class, which has about 120 people from some 26 different countries, represents a microcosm of the ingathering of the exiles. "It has been an experience to meet Jewish people from such a wide variety of backgrounds.

"At the end of the day, we can disagree with each other politically to a huge degree. But at the end of the day, we are all interested in the welfare of the Jewish state and the future of the Jewish people," he says. "That underlying concern is what unites us. I came here because I wanted to be a part of that unity and I hope I will be here to stay."

Mazel Tov to the State of Israel on its 56th Anniversary

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Centre aids victims of rape and abuse

By ATIRA WINCHESTER
Israel Press Service

JERUSALEM — Domestic and sexual abuse in the religious community has always existed, but professionals in the community have been ill-equipped to deal with the problem and have often even denied its existence outright.

In 1993, Debby Gross, a religious mother of six, established the National Crisis Center for Religious Women (NCCRW), which provided a lifeline for many long-suffering religious women.

The Jerusalem Rape Crisis Center (JRCC), run by former hotline volunteer Noga Shiloah, has provided crisis intervention and services regardless of religious orientation or nationality since 1981.

Last month, these two remarkable women were awarded the Teddy Kollek prize for leadership and excellence by the Jerusalem Foundation for their dedication and personal devotion in raising awareness among all sectors of the country's population about violence against women.

Gross, a developmental psychologist, was first moved to action in 1992 after a spate of child sexual abuse cases in Jerusalem's religious community forced the issue into the spotlight. She realized that a service geared to religious women had to be established and understood the discretion and sensitivity with which it needed to be approached. She chose 12 religious women volunteers and sought the approval of a number of rabbis from the entire religious spectrum for establishing a centre.

In November 1992, Gross opened a 24-hour hotline in Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek hospital, which received more than 300 phone calls in its first year.

"But we realized that helping people 'afterwards' just wasn't enough," Gross explains. "We needed to go out into the community and into the schools and educate people in order to raise awareness."

Gross faced the challenge of developing workshops on domestic and sexual abuse for a community that is uncomfortable talking explicitly about sex.

"We gave them names like, 'How to Keep Children Safe' and explained that not everybody is nice and can overcome their evil urges, and that we have a mitzvah to protect ourselves."

Ten years later, Gross's centre is still the only place that provides workshops for very young children, ages four and up. In the past year alone, the centre provided 600 workshops throughout Israel, mostly run by the seven paid NCCRW staff.

"Our aim isn't to scare these children. We talk about good secrets and bad secrets. We say: 'A good secret is when mummy prepares a surprise birthday party for daddy. A bad secret is something that gives you an icky feeling in your stomach.' We teach them to keep telling people a bad secret until they believe it."

In April 2003, the NCCRW moved from Shaare Zedek to new, more spacious premises in Talpiot. Just last year alone, volunteers answered 4,000 calls, a rise that can be attributed in part the establishment of a Russian-speaking hotline and, more recently, an Amharic hotline for Ethiopian women.

"When we started, people said the problem didn't exist," says Gross. "Now we have day-long workshops for ultra-Orthodox rabbis. We've come a long way."

Shiloah officially joined the JRCC in 1994, after two years volunteering on its hotline. It wasn't an obvious professional choice for a woman with a master's degree in marine biology, but her volunteer work with the centre while studying at the Hebrew University convinced her a change of direction was necessary.

Continued on page B15

A scene from a movie produced by the Jerusalem Rape Crisis Center which deals with date rape.

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Tribute to Israel

'We raise the issue of honour and respect'

Continued from page B14

"The fish were too silent," Shiloah jokes. "I felt very disconnected from the world and I wasn't satisfied. Working here has always been very demanding, but it's also very rewarding."

Under Shiloah's guidance, the centre has grown considerably. Services that were already in place have flourished, and new ones have been added, such as support groups for parents of abused children, the developmentally challenged, and victims of rape and incest.

Three years ago, the centre also started a hotline for Arab women called SAWA. The hotline was run from the centre until April 2003, when it moved to its own premises.

Even without SAWA, the JRCC boasts 102 hotline volunteers. Before starting, volunteers – of all ages and from a range of socio-economic backgrounds – receive more than 60 hours of training from experienced volunteers.

A painting by a rape victim at the Jerusalem Rape Crisis Center

"We teach volunteers what the law is concerning rape, abuse and harassment, and we explain what happens when a woman goes to the police or to a hospital," explains Shiloah. "Mostly, though, it's a personal, emotional process… Our approach is one of understanding and sympathy, realizing that we could have been the victim."

In addition to the hotline, JRCC volunteers have run 660 educational workshops– 500 of them in junior high or high schools – in the past year alone.

"Things have changed drastically," says Shiloah. "People used to think that we were this bizarre fringe group of radical feminists. Now we get so many calls asking for workshops that we can't even answer the need out there.

"In workshops, we raise the issue of honour and respect between men and women, we talk about issues surrounding relationships and a woman's right to say 'No,' and we screen a film that we produced which deals with date rape, a situation that teenagers can easily relate to.

Since the start of the intifadah 3½ years ago, the JRCC's task has become even more difficult. "The terror has silenced many women," says Shiloah. "They are reluctant to come to us with their problems when such horrific things are happening around them. This is very difficult, particularly as the ongoing conflict has led to heightened levels of tension throughout the country… which has been reflected in the nature and number of calls received by the hotline this year."

Nonetheless, some have spoken out: "I've learned that it's possible to live with the damage," wrote one woman. "That the damage caused doesn't fill all of me, that I'm a human being. The support group has become my family. The centre has become my home."

Although both Gross and Shiloah are donating their prize money to ongoing operating costs of their respective centres, both have plans for new projects should more funding become available.

Gross hopes eventually to establish a hostel to house women on a short-term basis until they make plans for alternative accommodation.

Shiloah dreams of printing the 40 testimonies that she has documented in a book similar to the American collection, *Kiss Daddy Goodnight*. She also hasn't given up on the idea, initiated more than six years ago, of building a joint centre for the JRCC, SAWA and the NCCRW.

An Arab hotline volunteer

[IPS photos]

"I'm not saying that everything would be unified," says Shiloah. "There might even be separate entrances, but we would co-operate as women. If in such a divided, conflicted city we could make it work, that would be highly symbolic."

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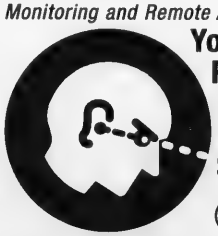

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Tribute to Israel

It's tough feeling like an outsider when Israelis make insider jokes

By JONATHAN UDREN
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — I've decided that I no longer want to be American.

I'm not making a political statement or giving up my citizenship. I'm not even refusing to come back for a visit. I'm just sick of being American.

It's not even the fact that I'm American that really bothers me. It's more the fact that I'm not Israeli.

Sure, I have my Israeli identification card with my smiling face on it. I even have my new Israeli driver's licence. I'll vote in the next election, and the government will take my tax money once I start working.

But no matter how hard I try, I'm just no good at being Israeli. And even after nine months of citizenship and four months of Hebrew immersion, I still don't feel like I'm getting much closer.

A few nights ago, I went next door to the pizza shop and ordered a slice. The waitress didn't even entertain the idea of answering me back in Hebrew. She just started asking me what I wanted to drink in English.

How did she know just from my Hebrew line, "One slice with peppers please," that I wasn't Israeli? Was it because I said "please"? How un-Israeli of me. Maybe she noticed my Gap khakis? Or maybe it was just my accent. As much as I improve my Hebrew, I'll always be viewed as an immigrant.

Lately I've felt a strange contrast here in Jerusalem. On one hand, I feel completely at home, more at home than I felt even in North America. But on the other hand, I feel that in so many day-to-day situations, I'm standing outside peeking into the window of Israeli life. In an attempt to escape from the English-speaking womb I've been nestled in since my aliyah, I've made some changes over the last few months.

The first was to make an effort to improve my language skills. I've been practising every morning in a five-hour-a-day, state-sponsored Hebrew-language class for the last four months.

But I wanted not only to learn Hebrew grammar and vocabulary in the morning. I wanted a chance to use my Hebrew in real-world situations. This was also the advice that I got from every immigrant I know who has become fluent in Hebrew. At some point, they all had to immerse themselves.

So I began attending an Israeli yeshiva every afternoon. I knew a few Americans who had successfully integrated into the yeshiva's Hebrew program with great results. I would see them sometimes around town with their Israeli friends, speaking freely, laughing loudly and looking very Israeli. I couldn't figure out exactly what made them seem more Israeli, but whatever it was, I wanted it.

Over the last four months, spending four to five hours every day interacting with Israelis, I see the differences much more clearly. Despite their loud and tough exterior, there is a real honesty and sweetness to them. The comparison of an Israeli to a sabra, a desert cactus that is sharp on the outside but sweet on the inside, is actually well deserved. Overall, I have been shocked to find them more kind and genuine than me.

For example, the other day two men who apparently hadn't seen each in a while greeted each other with a huge hug, then kissed each other on the cheek. One put his hands on his friend's face. These were such loving and genuine gestures, unlike anything I had ever seen before between two male friends.

In general, Israelis seem more hands-on. It's uncommon to go through any conversation of significant length without being touched on your hand or shoulder. Often, two friends passing each other in the hall will make some contact, whether a pat on the back or a playful tickle. It took me aback at first, but I'm warming up to their caring gestures.

I pondered the reason for their affection and closeness. Israelis don't grow up in big suburban houses with white picket fences separating one family from another. They don't come from a culture of respecting "personal space." Instead, they embody the attitude of "what's mine is yours." While a beautiful idea, it's also very foreign to me.

But these Israelis are also veterans of the army, and that, too, has influenced them. Along with their sweetness and genuineness, there is also a toughness and distance that I've sensed in them.

Every night, I usually stay at the yeshiva for its simple Israeli-style dinner. I try to avoid sitting with my North American friends, even though they too will speak Hebrew with me. With them I can always fall back on English, and I don't want that option.

But when I sit with the Israelis, I find myself acting uncharacteristically shy. Sure, I recognize them and they recognize me, but we don't really know each other.

I generally don't start a conversation, though I usually introduce myself. Mostly, I find myself sitting there and listening, trying to understand their jokes or follow their conversations.

Sometimes they look at me with a hard stare as if say, "What, are you just sitting there eavesdropping?"

I look down at my sliced tomatoes and cucumbers. I'm so intimidated, not only because they speak so fast, but also because there is something intangibly different there that I will never quite get a grip on.

One recent night I was the only non-native Israeli sitting at a table of eight. One guy started by speaking to me in Hebrew: "Pass me the...," he started, then said the word "jam" in English with a poor imitation of a Southern accent.

"Jam" must be a funny word for Hebrew speakers, because the rest of the table got a real kick out of his question. I tried to laugh along, thinking this was their way of trying to relate to me.

I answered back in Hebrew. "Sure, here's the jam," I said, using a real Southern accent, the one I picked up going to college in Tallahassee, Fla.

But no one laughed.

The rest of the meal people kept asking me for the "jam," and each time it would bring a few chuckles. I guess it was an inside joke, but I didn't feel like an insider. I still felt like an onlooker peeking in the window, despite how much I wanted that barrier to vanish.

I think there must be things that I bring as a North American that can add to the richness of the culture here: saying "excuse me" when I bump into someone, a greater use of "please" and "thank you," the patience to not to cut in front of others in the grocery line.

I'm glad I can bring these qualities to Israel, but I can't help but want what I'll never acquire. I'll never be able to speak without an accent, I'll never remember all the abbreviations on my bank statement. I am an immigrant, and will always be looked at as one. I never will be truly Israeli.

But maybe one day I'll be the one surprising an American bystander with a heartfelt gesture.

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As the Chairs of UJA Federation Campaign 2005, it with great pleasure and even greater pride that we pay tribute to the dedicated volunteers featured within these pages.

Your selfless and unwavering efforts power the annual UJA Federation campaign and provide life-saving assistance to thousands of our community members. Through your wonderful work, Jews in need here at home and the people of Israel can always count on us.

As UJA Federation Campaign 2005 raises funds for a secure Jewish future in a disturbing world, your exceptional volunteer achievements enhance the personal security that all of us require.

Thank you for demonstrating our sacred responsibility for each other by sharing your time, your talents and, most of all, your kindness.

Robert Harlang **Chuck Winograd**
Chairs, UJA Federation Campaign 2005

Together ... as one person with one heart

We have recently celebrated the giving of the Torah on Shavuot, and are moving towards the sorrowful period marking the destruction of the Holy Temple. This marks an important transition on our calendars.

While encamped at the foot of Mount Sinai to receive the Torah, we were "as one person with one heart." Tradition teaches that all souls — past, present and future — were present to witness the giving of the holy Torah. We were able to reach the apex of our spiritual and national perfection because each individual was included in the collective.

It is interesting to note that the Torah's 600,000 letters correspond to the 600,000 who left in the Exodus from Egypt. We learn that if just one letter is missing, an entire Torah scroll is considered flawed. Similarly, then, the community must be cognizant of the tremendous worth of each and every member. If even one Jew is omitted, we are all deficient.

If receiving the Torah at Sinai was predicated upon unity, the obverse is then true for the destruction of the Temple, which was due to baseless hatred ... for caring only about one's self and not considering the importance and needs of the "other."

This week's *Parsha* begins with the narrative of Korach, whose desire to assume the leadership of the Jewish nation caused him and his followers to revolt against Moses and Aaron, his cousins.

The *Parsha* opens with the words "*vayikach* Korach," literally "and Korach took." The commentator Rashi suggests that Korach took himself to one side ... he separated himself from the collective. He did not see himself as part of the community, but separate and apart from it — with tragic results.

We must heed these timeless lessons from the Korach tragedy. We are enjoined to be communally inclusive, which is the only path to grow and build and prosper as a people. This obligation is incumbent upon us all — the "organized" community and *amcha*. We are all leaders in our own unique way. We cannot be lulled into thinking that someone else should worry about the other person ... it has been remarked that to the other person, you are the other person!

We are at a pivotal point — on the calendar and in the history of our community. We must draw upon the lesson of our Sinai experience as a foil against the tragedy of the anti-communal views of Korach and his rebels.

As you peruse this Volunteer Recognition Supplement, you will be struck by the numerous volunteers and organizations being recognized together. It is testimony that the Toronto community is heeding the call of our tradition of inclusiveness ... emanating directly from Sinai.

Daniel Fine, Director, UJA Federation Israel Now, is the 2003 recipient of the World Council of Jewish Communal Service Exemplar Award.

Community Awards

The women and men pictured on Pages C3 and C4 have made tzedakah and community involvement constant priorities in their lives. Their unrelenting commitment to Jewish values helps enrich the lives of so many and instills enormous community pride in us all. These community role models received their Volunteer Recognition Awards on behalf of the entire community at UJA Federation's Annual Meeting on June 3, 2004.

GRANOVSKY AWARD FOR CAMPAIGN EXCELLENCE

Named after the late Jewish community leader Phil Granovsky, this award is a tribute to individuals who exemplify the best in UJA Federation campaigning.

DONALD BENNETT

For nearly 25 years, Donald has been actively involved in Toronto's Jewish community, demonstrating outstanding leadership in a variety of roles. His accounting background led him to chair the UJA Federation Lawyers and Accountants Division in 2004, a division he had been involved in for many years. He also chaired UJA Federation's Pledge Redemption Committee in 2002 and 2003, leading the charge to bring in funds and boost annual campaigns.

A former Shem Tov Award winner for his involvement with UJA Federation's Board of Jewish Education, Donald is a fervent telethon participant and has given hundreds of hours of his time to canvassing for UJA Federation Campaigns.

Among his other community commitments, he has been a member of the Board of Directors of UJA Federation, the Board of Jewish Education and JIAS (Jewish Immigrant Aid Services) Toronto.

"This award is quite humbling. I really accept this award on behalf of all the volunteers who work tirelessly for the UJA Federation Campaign and achieve remarkable results. The Campaign is a partnership that only succeeds because of the help and cooperation between the volunteers, the donors and, last but not least, the wonderful professionals. Volunteering is fun!"

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

Leadership Development Awards, established to encourage young men and women to assume community leadership roles, are presented to those individuals who demonstrate extraordinary commitment and service.

NATAN ARONSHTAM

An immigrant to Toronto himself, Natan has long been committed to improving life for newcomers to our city. His community involvement began as a volunteer at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, where he later joined the Board of Directors.

A member of the UJA Federation Board for the past year and a member of the JIAS (Jewish Immigrant Aid Services) Toronto Board for the past two years, Natan also sits on UJA Federation's Community Engagement Committee, Community Planning and Allocations Steering Committee, and the Vaughan Campus Steering Committee, and is a long serving member of the Board of the Jewish Russian Community Centre.

"I volunteer because it is my way of giving back to this great community which welcomed our family when we arrived here. The need for more services is great and I feel privileged to be a part of organizations trying to make a difference in improving the quality of life for our community."

DAVID SPIRO

A volunteer in Young Leadership at the local, national and international levels for several years, David has been a member of the United Jewish Communities Young Leadership Cabinet since 2002, and its Canada Co-Chair since 2003.

In 2001, David founded and chaired the UJA Federation Young Lawyers Network. He is an Executive Member of the UJA Federation Ben Gurion Society, and co-chaired the Young Adult Division for Campaign 2004. He is also the YAD Cabinet Chair for UJA Federation Campaign 2005. An Executive Member of the UIA Federations Canada National Young Leadership, David received their Young Leadership Award in 2003.

"My paternal grandfather was a rabbi, shochet, mohel and chazzan, serving small communities across Canada while working tirelessly to save fellow Jews from the flames of the Holocaust. My maternal grandfather was a model of quiet tzedakah whose greatest pleasure was helping others. I volunteer because of their dedication and selflessness."

Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

This Award of Excellence recognizes professionals in the Jewish community whose outstanding long-term contributions benefit the Foundation, lawyers, accountants, estate planners and charitable organizations.

WOLFE D. GOODMAN, Q.C.

Wolfe is the first recipient of the Professional Advisory Committee Award of Excellence.

Wolfe was instrumental in helping create the infrastructure that enables the Foundation to offer services to so many individuals, families and professionals.

Without his resolute leadership, his pursuit of achieving philanthropic goals for clients and charities alike, and his enormous depth of understanding of the tax and estate planning fields, the Foundation would never have become the important resource centre that it is today.

Presentation of the Award of Excellence was made at a Professional Advisory Committee Seminar on May 12, 2004.

Community Awards continue on Page C4

Community Awards (con'd)

SHEM TOV HONOUREES

The Shem Tov Awards are presented to leaders representing the highest levels of excellence in volunteer service in Toronto's Jewish community.

ALAN DESSAU
Circle of Care

For 30 years, Alan has been a dedicated volunteer at Circle of Care, serving in various capacities, including President of the Circle of Care Foundation. He also sits on the Board of Directors at Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care and is the Past President of the York Region United Way, where he is also an honorary Board Member. In addition, Alan is a Past President of Temple Har Zion and currently sits on the Fundraising Committee.

"It is a privilege to volunteer when needed. It is extra special to be asked to contribute in a leadership role. I've been lucky to have been able to do both, working with many dedicated people at Circle of Care."

NATHAN DISENHOUSE
Toronto Jewish Free Loan Cassa

Since 1984, Nathan has been a fixture at the Toronto Jewish Free Loan Cassa. He has held a variety of positions, including President, Chair of the Endowment Committee and Chair of the Board and Executive. He currently is a member of the Loan Cassa Past Presidents' Council. In addition, Nathan is a Board Member and the Treasurer of Jewish National Fund.

"Volunteering in our community was part of my upbringing. My parents taught me that you need to give back to the community what they have given to you. TJFLC gives assistance to our own whether they have their roots in Canada or are coming to establish new roots."

BERNARD FISHBEIN
Bathurst Jewish Community Centre

Currently the President of the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, Bernie has spent many years on the BJCC's Executive and Board of Governors. An extraordinarily dedicated member of the community, he sits on the Board of Governors of Adath Israel Synagogue. A lawyer by profession, Bernie is a former Chair of the Labour Law Section of the Canadian Bar Association of Ontario and presently serves as Vice Chair of the University of Toronto Discipline Tribunal.

"Every time I see the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre buzzing with families, or the happy blend of seniors and day care children, I have no doubt that the time I give is well worthwhile."

SUSAN FRIEDRICH
Kehilla Residential Programme

It can be said that Susan is one of the true visionaries of Jewish Toronto. A well-respected architect, she has recently completed the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life at the University of Toronto, an exciting component of UJA Federation's Tomorrow Campaign initiative. Her many volunteer activities include serving on the Board of Directors of the Kehilla Residential Programme and on the UJA Federation Real Estate Cabinet.

"It is a great privilege to contribute to the Toronto Jewish community as a volunteer. As an advocate for affordable housing and special needs projects, it is especially significant to be able to address these issues within the Jewish community. Moreover, as a child of Holocaust survivors, and given the current environment, it is particularly important to me to be part of a process that involves building for the future of this wonderful community."

MARSHALL KESTEN
UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education

A devoted volunteer, Marshall is the Immediate Past Chair of the Board of Jewish Education, having chaired or served on numerous BJE committees. A UJA Federation and Bathurst Jewish Community Centre Board Member, he is also Past President of Jewish Family & Child Service, Netivot HaTorah Day School and Shomrai Shabboth Congregation. In addition, Marshall has been involved in various committees planning UJA Federation's City North, the proposed Jewish community development in Vaughan, a Tomorrow Campaign initiative.

"For me, volunteering is just trying to make things a 'bit better.' Paraphrasing Rabbi Tarfon, 'You needn't complete the task, neither may you ignore it.' Volunteering is intrinsically rewarding!"

CHARLES NOVOGRODSKY
Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre

Since 1998, Charles' impressive association with the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre has included sitting on the Board, and serving as President from 2002-2003 and Vice President from 2000-2001. His many past volunteer commitments include a seat on the New Israel Fund of Canada Board of Directors, Co-Chair, Huron Street School Parent Association, and Founding Member of the U of T Campus Community Day Care Centre.

"Volunteering is an expression of Jewish values. The revitalized Miles Nadal JCC, powered by volunteer effort, adds immeasurable value to our downtown/Jewish community."

Volunteer in your Toronto Jewish community

You, too, can share your expertise or talents – offer your time to someone who needs you – make new friends and contacts – experience the satisfaction that comes from helping others – develop a stronger connection to our Jewish community.

The many rewarding volunteer opportunities waiting for you include administrative support, serving as a Big Brother, visiting the sick and the elderly, fundraising for UJA Federation or working with children who have special needs.

For more information on these and other community volunteer opportunities, visit **www.jewishtoronto.com** (click Volunteering)

A Decade of Distinction

In *Pirkei Avot* (Ethics of the Fathers), we are advised not to separate ourselves from the community. This seemingly simple injunction represents the essence of Jewish living. We are all dependent on each other and responsible for each other. The community strengthens every individual and every individual strengthens the community.

This strength is visible through our vibrant schools, our community centres, our agencies and our skilled, motivated and devoted volunteers.

For the past ten years, UJA Federation has been honoured to help the community pay tribute to these volunteers without whom our community could not function. And in this, our 10th Annual Volunteer Recognition Supplement, we urge you to join the thousands of dedicated women and men who represent the spirit of voluntarism across the broad spectrum of our Jewish community.

Because we strengthen each other – **Together We're Stronger.**

***Fern Orzech*, Volunteer Recognition Project**

Adath Israel Congregation

Perpetuates and promotes Conservative Judaism and the Jewish way of life. www.adathisrael.com

CLAUDETTE EDGHILL

" 'A life without service to others is a life not lived.' It is an honour to volunteer for Adath Israel and in the community. Working with the Adath family and making a difference has added new meaning to my life."

Associated Hebrew Schools of Toronto*

Provides students with an excellent Jewish and General Studies education based on Torah values in a safe and supportive environment. www.associatedhebrewschools.com

JOANNE PERLMUTTER

"AHS has afforded me the opportunity to grow as an individual through volunteer experience. At the same time, I'm grateful to be playing a role in enriching the lives of our students, our next generation of leaders."

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre*

The BJCC is committed to building Jewish community by enriching Jewish life and by providing opportunities for social, cultural, educational and physical activities. www.bjcc.ca

BERNARD FISHBEIN

"Every time I see the place buzzing with families, or the happy blend of seniors and day care children, I have no doubt that the time I give is well worthwhile."

Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care

Internationally-renowned for its care, research and education related to aging and geriatrics, its unique continuum of care includes supportive residential care and community services for seniors, short-term specialized medical care, as well as long-term and complex continuing care. www.baycrest.org

ALMA & TED WALDMAN

"Baycrest is very important to us, for it is there we learned that if you care deeply in one direction, it makes us more caring in all others. By enriching the lives of older adults, we found that the life of a person is measured not by what you get but by what you give and that is what volunteering is all about."

BBYO*

A youth-led, worldwide organization that provides opportunities for Jewish youth to develop their leadership potential, a positive Jewish identity and commitment to their personal development. www.bbyo.on.ca

SID ISENBERG

"My greatest experience at BBYO, over the last 11 years as a Board member, is being around the teens. I have such 'naches' when I sit with them. I tell my wife that pearls of wisdom come out of their mouths. It gives me so much pleasure that I look forward to being with them."

Beit Halochem Canada

Raises funds to help support the disabled veterans in Israel, and establishes meaningful relationships between the veterans and the Jewish community in Canada. www.advi.ca

HOPE MAISSNER

"Volunteering for Beit Halochem has helped me understand the price, in human terms, that building and maintaining a strong Israel has cost. Whatever time and money we give these disabled, they give so much more."

Beit Rayim Synagogue

A warm family-oriented Egalitarian Conservative Synagogue that seeks to enrich the Jewish life of our members and Hebrew School students through a celebration of Jewish tradition and love of learning. www.beitrayim.org

KAREN BARON

"I have been touched by so many people, experiences and programs at Beit Rayim Synagogue. The warm, participatory, Egalitarian services make Beit Rayim truly unique. They were the catalyst for my continuing volunteer involvement."

RICHARD LEVICK

"I have enjoyed helping out in many different ways. Stuffing envelopes for our Israel Action Committee, helping at Yom Hashoah and Holocaust Education programs, organizing a toy drive for Zareinu or making sandwiches at the 'Out of the Cold' program."

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living*

A learning and wellness centre committed to maximizing the quality of life for seniors in the community and reflecting Jewish values. www.betelcentre.org

SHIRLEY GLADSTONE

"Volunteering for the Bernard Betel Centre is meaningful to me because of the friendships I have made and the pleasure I have brought to others through activities, such as the quarterly member newsletter that I edit and produce."

Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation

A family Synagogue emphasizing the warmth of Torah tradition. www.bayt.org

NINA BERNSTEIN & SHMUEL SPIEGEL

"A Beraisa that is said every morning lists Gemilus Chasadim and Talmud Torah as those things paying reward in This World and the main reward in the Next World. This applies to helping even a solitary individual. Therefore, aiding an entire group such as the Kehilla is obviously of great merit. Voluntarism is not optional but rather a sacred duty."

Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Congregation

Dedicated to cultivating, developing and sustaining Judaism and Jewish living in accordance with the ideas and standards of the Conservative Movement. www.bethdavid.com

FRED FINE z"l

The late Fred Fine knew the importance of performing deeds of kindness and charity. He gave his time and good will to simple acts of kindness for family and friends and the community-at-large.

Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue

Fosters a full and joyous way of life rooted in a heritage of traditional Conservative Judaism, committed to Jewish values, education, spiritual well-being and community. www.beby.org

ALLAN SNOW

"It is exciting to be a part of a vibrant Synagogue that is interested in implementing new visions and ideas and creating a sense of community and friendship among its members."

Together We're Stronger!

* Denotes 2003-2004 beneficiary agencies of UJA Federation

Together We're Stronger!

WALK WITH ISRAEL, WALK AGAINST HATE

Nearly 20,000 walkers, sponsors and volunteers t
part in this year's UJA Federation Walk with Israe
the world's largest solidarity walk on Israel's beha
Led by Toronto Police Chief Julian Fantino, the Je
community, after recently experiencing disturbir
acts of antisemitism, also walked in record numb
together as a proud community against anti-Jew
and anti-Israel hatred.

REMEMBERING THE PAST...

Torrential rain and thunderstorms couldn't keep away a record 2,500 people from attending the annual Yom Hashoah Community Commemoration, making it the largest single-day gathering of its kind outside of Israel. Held under a tent at Earl Bales Park, participants of all ages took part in a program that featured readings in English, Hebrew and Yiddish, a candle lighting ceremony, a drama presentation, speeches and the awarding of a "Righteous Among the Nations" medal.

HISTORIC COMMUNITY MISSION

It was a spectacular week in Israel for the more than 300 Toronto participants of UJA Federation's *B'yachad* Solidarity Mission. They were part of a 600 strong Canadian contingent who, while in Israel, volunteered at social service agencies, and attended *Canada Salutes Israel* at the Palmachim Air Force Base. More than 700 IDF soldiers joined mission members in a celebration and heard a special address by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. For information on upcoming UJA Federation missions, call 416-631-5680 or e-mail: amalka@ujafed.org

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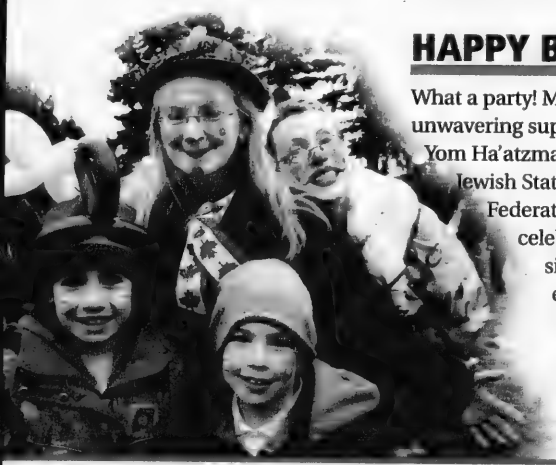
UJA FEDERATION

RALLY AGAINST ANTISEMITISM

In a strong show of unity, more than 3,000 community members attended a standing-room-only rally against antisemitism and hatred at the Leah Posluns Theatre, co-sponsored by UJA Federation and Canadian Jewish Congress Ontario Region. Joining the crowd were federal, provincial, municipal and religious leaders.

EVERY CALL COUNTED!

UJA Federation's Campaign 2004 community telethons were a phenomenal success due to hundreds of dedicated volunteers who took to the phones and thousands of committed donors who answered the call. On Super Sunday alone, over $200,000 was raised - that's a remarkable $3,333 per minute from this deeply committed community!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ISRAEL!

What a party! More than 3,000 people showed their unwavering support for Israel at Earl Bales Park on Yom Ha'atzmaut – Israel's Independence Day – to mark the Jewish State's 56th birthday. Sponsored by UJA Federation and the Israel Now Consortium, the celebration offered fun for the whole family with singing, dancing, activities for children, entertainment and kosher Israeli food. The Israel Now Consortium is comprised of more than 115 community organizations united in solidarity with Israel, under the auspices of UJA Federation and the Consulate General of Israel.

IF IT'S MADE IN ISRAEL, MAKE IT YOURS!

Buy Israeli, an initiative of the Israel Now Consortium, demonstrates how every single Jewish consumer in the Greater Toronto Area can make a significant difference to Israel's economy. More than 90 retail establishments have embraced this project by promoting and selling Israel-made products. Short of traveling to Israel, Buy Israeli is an exceptional way to help Israel on an ongoing basis. For a complete list of products and merchants, visit www.jewishtoronto.com

community united with one Jewish voice.

Beth Sholom Synagogue

Seeks to enrich the lives of our congregants and community through the ideals of Torah, Gemillut Hasidim (Social Action) and Achdut (Jewish Unity).
www.bethsholomsynagogue.com

PHIL STEIN

"I have received much from the community and I feel that it is my responsibility to give back as much as I can. I believe it is important for all of us to strengthen our community institutions."

Beth Tikvah Synagogue

A vibrant forward-looking Conservative Synagogue dedicated to fostering spiritual and Judaic growth and fulfillment.
www.bethtikvah.on.ca

BETTY SWITZER YAN

"In 1978 my late husband Max z'l and I joined Beth Tikvah. Voluntarism was a way of life for us and our five children. I have served on the Board of Governors and also have been the President of the Friendship Group for the last 15 years. I am honoured to be chosen as Beth Tikvah's Volunteer of the Year."

Beth Tzedec Congregation

Founded to preserve Judaism, to inculcate belief in G-d and reverence for our heritage, to translate Jewish spiritual values into terms of present day thought and action, to revitalize Jewish traditional practices in synagogue and home, and to cultivate Hebrew language and literature. www.beth-tzedec.org

RUTHANN LUBIN

"Growing up, my father's commitment to volunteering in many capacities at our Synagogue became a part of my life. Now my greatest volunteer moments are watching his grandchildren pick up that commitment along with me."

Bialik Hebrew Day School* (Parent Teachers Association)

Our mission is to contribute to an enriched learning environment for our students as well as to strengthen the bonds throughout the Bialik community. www.bialik.on.ca

SUE ROSENBLAT

"Volunteering at Bialik has provided me with the opportunity to participate in school activities and events, to meet parents and educators throughout the school, and to appreciate the role that Bialik plays in the community."

Bnei Akiva of Toronto

Instills Jewish youth of Toronto with religious-Zionist values, based on the ideals of Torah V'Avodah and the teaching of Rav Avraham Yitzhak HaCohen Kook. These values are promoted through regular activities, educational programs and promoting a connection with Israel, trips to Israel and finally, Aliyah.
www.bneiakivatoronto.ca

AYLANA REISS

"I enjoy being involved in Bnei Akiva because it has given me the opportunity to meet people from all over the world who share in my ideals of Religious Zionism."

Canadian Associates of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

The University acts as a driving force in the development of the Negev and seeks to excel as a major centre for education and research in Israel.
www.bgu.ac.il

GERDA FRIEBERG M.S.M.

"I suggest and encourage others to support Ben-Gurion University because of its leading role in Israel in research into ways and means to best find and use water resources."

Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University

Develops and promotes awareness, leadership and financial support for the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
www.cfhu.org

BARRY NAIBERG

"During our sabbatical in Israel, my wife Esther and I enrolled in the Masters program at the Hebrew University, where we were privileged to study with world-renowned professors. I am proud to help support the Hebrew University, a bastion of liberal democracy, dedicated to excellence in education and research."

Canadian Friends of Tel Aviv University

Provides support for the educational goals of Tel Aviv University through public awareness and fundraising; encourages the participation of Canadian students in TAU's academic programs; and promotes scholarly exchanges between Tel Aviv University and institutions of higher education in Canada. www.tau.ac.il

LINDA KIMELMAN

"Our family has always felt the love and support of our community. In appreciation, we feel it is important to give back. The CFTAU golf tournament supporting pediatric medical research has provided a wonderful opportunity to do so."

Canadian Shaare Zedek Hospital Foundation

To support and promote educational, research and patient care programs at Shaare Zedek Hospital Centre in Jerusalem.
www.szmc.org.il

BRYAN A. TANNENBAUM

"It is a privilege to work with the dedicated volunteers and staff at The Canadian Shaare Zedek Hospital Foundation. Shaare Zedek Medical Center has a worldwide reputation for superior medical treatment and cutting-edge clinical research. More than ever, Shaare Zedek needs our community's support in order to continue its excellent work."

Canadian Society for the Weizmann Institute of Science

Expresses commitment of the Canadian Jewish community to help the Weizmann Institute maintain its standards of excellence and its significant contributions to world science and Israel.
www.weizmann.ac.il

ROBERT & SUSAN ROBINSON

"We have to regularly ask ourselves how we can use our abilities to improve the world in our own small way. We have chosen the Weizmann Institute of Science because of its people, ideas, spirit of the organization and its significant contribution to science and humanity."

Canadian Society for Yad Vashem

Ensures that future generations will know what befell the Jewish people and so many others through education, research and remembrance, in the hope that the lessons of the Holocaust will not be forgotten. www.yadvashem.ca

ROUHAMA DANTO

"The only way to combat antisemitism, which is gaining global momentum, is with a determined and steady widespread education program. Yad Vashem is committed to two holy tasks: remembering the past and increasing the efforts in Holocaust education – spreading the message of tolerance for the future. As a concerned Jew and an educator, I am committed to this challenge."

Chabad Lubavitch Friendship Circle

The Chabad Lubavitch Friendship Circle is a youth-oriented volunteer program that matches children with special needs with teenage/young adult mentors. www.chabad.ca

CHANIE PERMAN

"When that academic scroll has yellowed in its frame, and those well-meaning textbook pages have faded to a blur, if you're lucky you might stand years later on a sunny day in the playground of Earl Bales Park, observing the young, joy-filled face of a real person on a real Sunday, feeding seagulls in a muddy pond and laughing with the kids...and you'll know you've finally graduated from 'How To' to 'Now Do,' and the most valuable lesson of all dances in the grass beside you."

Circle of Care*

The Mission of Circle of Care is to support individual independence and quality of life in the community.
www.circleofcare.com

SVETLANA GEGUZINSKENE

"The relationship with the client I visit is very important to helping me learn about my new country Canada. I keep her company and she helps me with my English. We enjoy our time together very much."

Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT)*

Striving for excellence in all aspects of education. CHAT provides each student with a Judaic and General Studies education in a co-educational setting. www.chattc.org
www.chatrh.org

PETER SELIGMAN

"My children and I are blessed to be living in a dynamic city with a vibrant Jewish community. Like so many other volunteers, giving time, talent and treasure repays in a small way all of the benefits we have received."

Downtown Jewish Community School*

Provides Jewish students with a basis for Jewish identity in a pluralistic community. Students are taught the concepts and skills necessary to live a Jewish life and to feel comfortable within a Jewish setting. www.djcs.org

HARRY FIGOV

"It is a pleasure to be involved with an organization that reaches out to provide educational services and yiddishkeit to all the elements of the downtown Jewish community."

Dr. Abraham Shore She'arim Hebrew Day School, Sara and Sam Hennick Educational Centre*

Canada's first and only Jewish school for children with learning disabilities and attention deficit disorders. Programs are designed to help students reach their personal and academic potential by providing them with strategies to manage their difficulties. faigied@shearim.ca

ROSE SUSMAN

"Volunteering at She'arim to establish a student library is a gratifying experience. As our library grows, I derive a great sense of satisfaction in knowing that our students will benefit from early literacy."

The Toronto Jewish community is vibrant and thriving.

* Denotes 2003-2004 beneficiary agencies of UJA Federation

Emunah Women of Toronto

An international women's Zionist organization with a long history of providing children and adults in Israel with a broad education and strong Jewish values.
emunah@pssnet.com

JOYCE RIFKIND

"Working as a volunteer for Emunah has enabled me to pursue two important personal goals: raising money to help neglected Israeli children from diverse backgrounds to be productive citizens in Israel, and encouraging potential leaders in our community by supporting their studies in Israel for a year after high school graduation."

Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies

Combats antisemitism and hate by promoting tolerance, justice and human rights worldwide through education and advocacy.
www.wiesenthal.com

LEAH PRICE

"I am a child of survivors. The Holocaust is the touchstone for the Center's important goals of education and action against intolerance. My work for the Center aims to help in achieving these goals."

Friends of Yiddish

To promote the study and knowledge of the Yiddish language, literature, music, art and lore.

SANDY BOKSER

"I feel I need to thank my maternal grandparents for instilling in me a love of Yiddish. Volunteering for Friends of Yiddish has given me a chance to pass on the legacy my grandparents left me."

Habayit Shelanu Seniors Residences Corporation

A unique living environment based on recognition of the changing needs of older adults. Committed to providing an environment that fosters a positive Jewish identity.
afoss@circleofcare.com

REBECCA EGIER

"As a health care professional, I feel fortunate to be able to provide support to the community to make the living environment of our residents as positive and enabling as possible."

Hillel of Greater Toronto*

Committed to building Jewish identity, nurturing intellectual development, and fostering spiritual growth in a pluralistic university and college setting. www.hilleltoronto.org

JORDIE SAPERIA
Hillel at the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life

"I was raised to feel a strong sense of pride in being Jewish and a Zionist. Volunteering for the Jewish community and advocating for Israel has been both empowering and rewarding."

VICTOR VOLFSON
Hillel at Ryerson

"Volunteering has taught me life skills beyond any that can be learned in a classroom. These skills stem from relationship building to leadership. The various organizations with which I have been a part have all contributed to new experiences and many new friendships that will last for the rest of my life. I can't thank them enough."

ALEX GREEN
Hillel at U of T

"It's amazing to be involved in the transformation of Jewish campus life at U of T. I'm proud to be part of the metamorphosis from a small basement facility to a beautiful new multipurpose building."

Holy Blossom Temple

A Canadian Congregation of Jewish men and women committed to the principles of Reform Judaism.
dtameanko@holyblossom.org

PAM ALBERT

The "Adopt a Family" has enriched Pam's life as it has enabled our community to branch out and help victims of terror become healthy survivors. Helping others is key to Pam and her family, and truly a mitzvah.

Israel Cancer Research Fund

Supports scientists working in institutions, hospitals and health centres throughout Israel, enabling them to engage in innovative cancer research to the benefit of all.
www.icrfonline.org

LESLIE WYNN

"I feel honoured to be part of the ICRF team. Their commitment to supporting Israel, combined with relentless fundraising efforts to find a cure for cancer, is truly inspiring."

Jewish Camp Council of Toronto*

Provides residential, recreational camping services to the community, geared to the social needs of the recipient, regardless of ability to pay. Camping services for children provide an opportunity to learn and enjoy recreational skills, while gaining independence and self-sufficiency in a caring Jewish environment. www.campnbb.com

BARRY WINTER

"One has to give something back to the community; it's tzedakah. And where better to give than to the children?"

Jewish Family & Child Service*

Supports and promotes the development of individuals and families through prevention, protection, counselling, education and advocacy services within the context of Jewish values.
www.toronto.com/jfcs

MARGOT CRONIS

"Volunteering is wonderful. My little friend is a precious gift. She lights up my life."

Jewish Family & Child Service – Chaplaincy Services*

Supports and promotes the development of individuals and families through prevention, protection, counselling, education and advocacy services within the context of Jewish values.
www.toronto.com/jfcs

MONA BROWN

"Elderly Jews living in non-Jewish nursing homes now have the possibility of re-connecting with the joy of celebrating an Oneg Shabbat. Thanks to the efforts of Rabbi Ronald Weiss and Laila Clein Friedman of Chaplaincy Services, in cooperation with the group of dedicated volunteers, regular Friday afternoon pre-Shabbat programs are available at some nursing homes. I am grateful to have the privilege of participating in this program."

Jewish National Fund of Toronto

An agency given primary responsibility with regard to afforestation and reforestation in Israel. As well, JNF has constructed over 100 water reservoirs in the last decade, has prepared the infrastructure required for new immigrant housing, is very involved in developing tourist infrastructure, preparing the housing and water requirements in the Negev Desert area, providing employment for new immigrants and is the prime protector of Israel's environment.
tor@jnf-canada.org

JERRY WERGER

"When asked to get involved with JNF, I was reminded of the blue and white 'pushka' that sat atop my grandmother's window ledge. Trees, water, land development, tourism and research - JNF has come a long way since those early days and I felt a strong desire to get involved. It has been great fun and very rewarding. Most important, so many dollars have gone to build a strong and beautiful Israel."

Jewish Women International of Toronto

JWIC is a force for social change dedicated to creating a safe and secure environment for women and children. www.jwicanada.com

NOREEN SHELSON

"JWI is a big part of my life. My parents instilled in me the value of giving back to community and I hope that my children, in turn, have learned from me."

Jews for Judaism*

Dedicated to counteracting the multi-million dollar efforts of numerous cults and missionary groups who target Jews for conversion, offering an extensive variety of preventive education programs and counselling.
www.jewsforjudaism.org

NISON CISS

"My son, Julius, renounced a five-year involvement as a Jew for Jesus and founded Jews for Judaism in Canada. The organization's impact is astounding. I want to help them rescue Jewish souls for many more years."

JIAS (Jewish Immigrant Aid Services) Toronto*

Facilitates the lawful entry and resettlement of Jewish refugees and immigrants arriving in Canada. Advances their well-being through settlement services/programs and expedites integration into the Jewish community and society-at-large.
www.jias.org

TOBY TENENBAUM

"JIAS has a special place in my heart ever since I was a newcomer to Canada 30 years ago. Now it is my turn to give back to the community and I am honoured to be a JIAS volunteer. It is a truly gratifying experience to be needed and I am proud to be able to provide so much needed service to people."

Our remarkable quality of Jewish life is the direct result ...

... of our community's belief in our collective responsibility to care for one another.

* Denotes 2003-2004 beneficiary agencies of UJA Federation

JVS of Greater Toronto*

Provides educational and vocational goals, develops the skills and knowledge necessary to achieve those goals, and deals effectively with educational or vocational disabilities. www.jvstoronto.org

DONNA CRIPPS

"JVS is a wonderful agency. I grew a lot while I was there, both professionally and personally. I discovered hidden talents within myself when given the opportunity to show what I can do. I was encouraged to do my best, advised when I was uncertain on the path to take, and congratulated on jobs well done. I look forward to continuing to volunteer with JVS in the future."

Kehilla Residential Programme*

Identifies and champions affordable housing initiatives responsive to the needs of the Jewish community through education and advocacy, project sponsoring, development consultation, research and management. www.kehilla.ca

DAVID BARKIN

"Volunteering in our community is rewarding on many levels. The more I volunteer, the more I appreciate the many needs of our community, and the more I want to volunteer. I look forward to new challenges and opportunities."

Kehillat Shaarei Torah

Serving the Bayview-York Mills area, this modern Orthodox Synagogue prides itself on providing an open and welcoming setting where all feel at home. tradburk@interlog.com

HEATHER ADELSON

"I am both surprised and honoured to be chosen as this year's Volunteer of the Year, especially as I get to do the fun stuff. The challenge with Mishloach Manot is to make fewer mistakes than the previous year, and to donate more funds to the charities that the sisterhood supports. The real fun fundraiser in 2003 was our Garden Tour which Madeleine Joffe and I organized. It was gratifying that so many gardeners generously opened their gates for us, and we were amazed at the excitement and enthusiasm the day generated. So much so, that we are doing it again in June."

Kolel: The Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning

A pluralistic Egalitarian progressive communal adult education centre that, through the study of traditional texts, gives students Jewish "roots" – a connection to their heritage – and the freedom to apply that knowledge as they best see fit. www.kolel.org

GLENDA WEST

"Kolel builds bridges between Jews of different denominations, education and practice levels by creating a space where all can feel comfortable together. In doing so, it strengthens the Jewish community."

L'Chaim Cancer Support Group for Jewish Women

L'Chaim is a patient support group for Jewish women who are presently undergoing cancer treatment, offering informal peer support in a non-judgmental, caring and confidential manner, with an understanding of both the cancer experience and issues specific to Jewish women. In addition, L'Chaim is committed to raising cancer awareness in the Jewish community.

ELIZABETH ERLICH

"As a cancer survivor myself, I truly understand the need for support from someone who has 'been there.' Through L'Chaim, I can provide that caring peer support to a fellow Jewish woman facing cancer."

Leo Baeck Day School*

Reform Jewish day school where families, professionals and board members together, create a child-centered learning environment in which each student experiences a multi-faceted educational program. www.leobaeck.ca

LAURIE DAVIS

"I feel extremely fortunate to be an active volunteer at LBDS. As Chair of the Parents' Association and a member of the Board of Trustees, I am part of a team of staff and volunteers that are providing our children with an outstanding Jewish education. Personally, I have been able to model for my children the importance of voluntarism and show them that you can make a difference."

Maccabi Canada

Our mission is the promotion of Jewish identity and traditions through athletic, cultural, social and educational activities for both youth and adults and to promote a bond with the State of Israel, both domestically and abroad. www.maccabicanada.com

HARVEY DENOV

"As a volunteer with Maccabi Canada, I have had the opportunity to fundraise, brainstorm and work behind the scenes at countless fundraising events. Through my involvement I have met so many dedicated people, developed enduring friendships and I have enjoyed every minute."

Mekorot Institute of Torah Study for Women

An institute of Jewish learning for the women of the Greater Toronto Area, with the goal of making accessible to its students the full range of traditional Jewish texts. In an atmosphere of spiritual and intellectual growth, Mekorot aims to provide the basic tools for intensive study, a steady development of knowledge and a strengthened respect for and understanding of Torah text and values. inerman@mekorot.ca

RACHEL WEINSTOCK

"As a founding member and vice-president, I have helped to develop fascinating courses, contribute to the new spirit sparking women's text study, and bring impressive female scholars to Toronto to enrich our learning experiences."

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre*

Dedicated to serving the cultural, educational and recreational needs of downtown Toronto through programs and services guided by Jewish values. Open to all members of the community regardless of race, ethnic origin, or religious affiliation. www.milesnadaljcc.ca

The staff of the Miles Nadal JCC would like to express our appreciation and thanks to all of our board, committee and service volunteers for their dedication and commitment. We appreciate your interest and support.

Mount Sinai Hospital

Discovering and delivering the best patient care with the heart and values true to our heritage. www.mtsinai.on.ca

EDITH MANNES

"Volunteering is synonymous with being needed, wanted and appreciated. It is part of my week that gives me tremendous self-worth when I feel I have truly helped someone."

Na'amat Canada

The first to embrace feminist ideals, the women of Na'amat will continue to be innovative leaders in meeting the needs of an ever-changing world. www.naamat.com

LAUREL WISEMAN

"Watching my daughter growing up, I am reminded of how lucky I am to be given the privilege of volunteering with Na'amat. I am blessed with the opportunity of bringing to the children and women of Israel the same joy that I share with her."

National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto Section

A non-profit volunteer service organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of individuals through education, service and social action. www.ncjw-ts.org

MARCY FISH

"I have been a dedicated member of NCJW for many years and involved with several Council projects. I am currently volunteering for the Snack and Reading Recovery Program at local public schools. The students respond to us with letters signed 'thank you with love.'"

Netivot HaTorah Day School*

An Orthodox Jewish Day School striving for excellence in a full program of Judaic and General Studies, incorporating the Zioni Dati philosophy and Halacha and Halachic principles. asteinfeld@netivothatorah.com

SHAWNA MAGENCE & CAROL LESSER

"What better way to teach our children that all Jewish people are responsible for each other than to model that behaviour by volunteering in their school. Netivot HaTorah stands for Israel, Torah and Derech Eretz, which are the keys to the Jewish future. By strengthening our school, we ensure the continuity of the Jewish people."

Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School*

Committed to academic excellence in a warm, supportive environment with a distinctive program that integrates Jewish and secular studies while encouraging artistic expression as a tool for learning. www.djds.ca

MICHAELE-SUE GOLDBLATT

"Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School is a unique school. Situated in the downtown area of Jewish growth, DJDS has a pluralist approach that appeals to a segment of the Jewish community that would not normally consider a Jewish day school for their children. These Jews constitute a precious part of our community and DJDS is succeeding in creating a Jewish option that fills their life with meaning. There is an air of creativity and experimentation that is fresh and invigorating. All of us could benefit from some time in the halls and classes to remedy the complacency that sometimes ails us."

Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Textiles

To encourage participation and foster interest in the study and creation of textile art and needlework based on Jewish themes. www.pomegranateguild.ca

ELAINE GLASSMAN

"My project was designing, coordinating and overseeing execution of a large commissioned wall hanging for Baycrest. The hours of dedication and commitment that this talented group undertook was a most rewarding experience – a labour of love."

Whether as volunteers who offer their time and talent, or as community members who express their concern by supporting events ...

* Denotes 2003-2004 beneficiary agencies of UJA Federation

Reena*

Enables people with developmental handicaps to realize their full potential by forming lifelong partnerships with individuals and their families within a framework of Jewish culture and values.
www.reena.org

SYBIL RABENOWITZ

"I find it all a very fulfilling experience. It takes a while to build up the confidence of the clients but when you get it, all the effort has been worthwhile."

Shaar Shalom Synagogue

Provides for the spiritual, intellectual and social lives of the Jewish community through religious services and educational, cultural, social and recreational activities.
office@shaarshalom.ca

SONNY & ANNE SCHATZ

"Since our retirement a few years ago, we have enjoyed volunteering for the Shaar Shalom Synagogue. We are happy to donate our time whenever needed. It is also a pleasure working with a wonderful office staff."

Shaarei Shomayim Congregation

A modern Orthodox centre of Jewish life that provides the means for the fulfillment of religious, educational and social needs, and seeks to inspire the community to greater commitments to Torah, the Jewish people and the State of Israel.
www.shomayim.org

ALAN BURGER

"While I enjoy working as a current volunteer with a number of communal organizations, Shaarei Shomayim holds a special place in my heart. It's a place where I grew up and is both a spiritual and personal home away from home. The interaction with so many wonderful people is particularly enjoyable and the opportunity to participate in projects such as Strategic Planning, Bikur Cholim and the annual Brotherhood Dinner Draw & Auction is most gratifying."

* Denotes 2003-2004 beneficiary agencies of UJA Federation

State of Israel Bonds

Through the sale of Israel Bonds, provides a steady source of investment capital for the development and expansion of Israel's essential industry and infrastructure. www.israelbonds.net

State of Israel Bonds gratefully thanks its many volunteers for their passionate commitment to the nation and people of Israel. Yasher Koach and Todah Raba!

Temple Emanu-El

A Reform Congregation committed to perpetuating Judaism within the home and the Synagogue through study and worship, emphasizing the celebration of Shabbat, Jewish Holy Days and life-cycle events through innovative and diverse programming within a caring and supportive community. www.temanuel.com

HELEN POIZNER

"Temple Emanu-El has always valued Adult Education and Social Action as two vital cornerstones of community life. In over 35 years of membership, I have served in many capacities, but these are the areas of interest that continue to be the focus of my commitment, and the source of much satisfaction."

Temple Har Zion

Fosters commitment to Judaism through the mitzvot of worship, study and good deeds in a warm inclusive environment.
www.templeharzion.com

KEITH HOLDSWORTH

"I have been Head Usher at Temple Har Zion for over 25 years and, in that time, it has been a pleasure to meet so many fine people at our services. I enjoy helping with decorum and doing my part to make things work properly."

Toronto Hadassah-WIZO

Enhances lives in Israel's communities and promotes women's issues in Canada.
www.canadian-hadassah-wizo.org

ILSA SEETNER

"For almost 60 years of serving Hadassah-WIZO in my chapter and on the Toronto and National Executive Boards, my greatest joy has come from the wonderful work this organization does towards helping the hospitals and the women and children of Israel who require assistance."

Toronto Heschel School*

Envisions an educational community in which students develop an appreciation for learning, mutual respect and cooperation, love of Judaism and an understanding of the role of Jews and Judaism in the broader community and in the world. www.torontoheschel.org

PAMELA MEDJUCK STEIN

"Toronto Heschel connects kids to Judaism through education, spirituality and creativity. Touring Israel, my children were awed by the history, thrilled by the beauty and chatted happily in Hebrew. The program works. I'll keep working."

Toronto Jewish Film Festival

Aims to be both a window to and mirror of Jewish culture, striving to be inclusive of all aspects of the Toronto community, undertaking to show films of excellence that reflect the diversity of Jewish life. Our commitment is to use film for its contemporary, popular value and its ability to address the subject of Jewish identity. www.tjff.com

ELAINE LESTER

"The Festival promotes Jewish culture and heritage through film with thoughtful and powerful images. It is of great importance to me, as an educator, because of its educational value to the Jewish community and to the city of Toronto as a whole."

Toronto Jewish Free Loan Cassa*

Toronto Jewish Free Loan Cassa provides non-interest bearing loans to members of the Jewish community for personal, educational and business economic opportunity needs.
freeloan@ujafed.org

STANLEY ROSENFARB

"Toronto Jewish Free Loan Cassa provides assistance to those in need while preserving their dignity and self-worth. As volunteers, we are able to see the results of our work almost immediately."

Toronto Jewish Youth Council

Brings together young leaders from youth movements spanning the religious and political spectrum. By sharing ideas, debating hot topics, networking and learning together, TJYC brings together the leaders of tomorrow in the hopes of fostering greater unity and understanding in our community. tjyc@rogers.com

ALIZA JESIN

Aliza was a very active member in the Toronto Jewish Youth Council. Most notable was her leadership role in carrying through the Mock Knesset event. It was a demanding task that required a great deal of sensitivity and understanding of the variety of community aspects and a deep love and commitment to Israel.

United Synagogue Day School*

A nurturing and respectful community that strives to provide excellence in integrated Judaic and General Studies programming, focusing on the needs and growth of students in order to foster a lifelong love of learning. www@usds.ca

BARRY STERN

"Tzedakah/charity and contributing to others is part of being Jewish. Through this volunteering activity, you feel part of our community and find it meaningful to be involved in something larger than yourself. As our children have been educated at USDS, it is a large part of our life. As such, not only do we help the school, the students and the community, but we also help ourselves by feeling good about what we are doing."

Ve'ahavta: The Canadian Jewish Humanitarian & Relief Committee

Raises the consciousness of all its members to the world's ills, and actively engages in efforts to repair the world's inequities and imperfections, as part of the Jewish value of tikun olam – "repairing the world." www.veahavta.org

ALISON COHEN

"Va'ahavta provides the opportunity for every caring citizen to contribute to the lives of others. As a volunteer, I am working at the grassroots level – actively involved in making humanitarian programs happen. I am proud to be associated with a Jewish humanitarian organization that reaches out to the non-Jewish community, as this builds bridges and understanding to show that the Jewish community cares about others. I believe strongly in the Jewish values espoused by Ve'ahavta – to care, to be compassionate, to help others based on tikun olam and our rich Jewish legacy."

Zareinu Educational Centre*

We believe that every child has potential and deserves united efforts in providing therapies and learning strategies that will improve the quality of life for both the child and their family. Strives to battle prejudice and encourages inclusion through opportunities for supported integration whenever possible and works towards increasing acceptance of children with special needs in the community. www.zareinu.org

AHUVA KLOMPUS

"I appreciate that I live a healthy and normal life. It brings me great joy to work with special needs children and see their growth, development and progress."

... we all, in our special way, demonstrate our unwavering commitment to Israel and the Jewish people.

Together
We're Stronger!

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

Committed to preserving and strengthening the quality of life in Greater Toronto, Canada, Israel and around the world through philanthropic, volunteer and professional leadership. www.jewishtoronto.com

Annual Campaign**

DR. JERRY TEITEL

"For many years I was part of the silent majority in the Jewish community. I finally became involved because of my concern over the growing threats to Israel and world Jewry, which are without precedent in my lifetime. In the current climate, I felt I no longer had the right to remain silent. Happily, my involvement has led to new and renewed friendships and to the satisfaction that comes from making a small contribution towards worthy and noble goals."

Board of Jewish Education**

GEORGE WEINBERGER

"Especially in today's environment, Jewish education in all forms and for all ages is vital to ensure the continuity and vitality of our community. Our commitment to strive for broadly available and affordable Jewish education must never waiver."

Committee for Yiddish**

MARVIN SCHIFF

"The wit, wisdom and beauty of Yiddish culture constitutes a treasure. I am grateful for the opportunity to have helped maintain and offer it to a new generation."

Community Engagement**

JEFF DICKER

"I work in a firm to feed my family. I volunteer at UJA Federation to feed my soul. I am constantly inspired and uplifted by the dedication of my colleagues on the Community Engagement Committee as we strive to make meaningful contributions to Jewish life in Greater Toronto."

Holocaust Centre of Toronto**

MAX EISEN

"I volunteer as a survivor speaker because of my personal experiences during the events of the Shoah. The effect of our cry 'Never Again' does not come about without historical evidence as well as transmitting pertinent information so people can make connections to the recent past."

Jewish Information Service of Greater Toronto**

AL REINSTEIN

"Voluntarism has been an integral part of our family life. When I retired, I wanted to reconnect with the community that treated me so well during my professional career. Working with JIST fulfils this need because of the multi-faceted assistance we offer."

Ontario Jewish Archives**

DR. SYDNEY WISE

"I find it constantly exciting to come across material, particularly photographs of people or places that I knew personally or knew about many years ago, and to be able to identify them for the OJA staff."

Women's Campaign & Advocacy**

HELEN SILVERSTEIN

"It has been a privilege for me to volunteer for UJA Federation Women's Campaign & Advocacy and have the opportunity to work with very dedicated women who share a common goal of helping to strengthen the Jewish community here, in Israel and around the world."

Jewish Toronto Tomorrow***

JACK CHISVIN

"We read in the Talmud 'a dream never shows the impossible,' so five years ago those who dreamed about a home for Jewish students at the U of T didn't see the impossible. I have gained much from Hillel ever since my student days at the University of Manitoba until today. It is my good fortune to have been able to give back that which I have received and made that impossible dream come true."

LOU GREENBAUM

"I am privileged to be part of a team of talented professional individuals that are responsible for building upon the community's vision to create a campus for Jewish communal life in the City of Vaughan – one that will become a world showcase. Toronto's Jewish community is unique in its ability to respond to many challenges we Jews face both at home and abroad, and I am grateful for the opportunities it has afforded me to serve in many capacities as a volunteer."

** Denotes committees and departments of UJA Federation. ***An initiative of UJA Federation

A Strong Jewish Voice

In today's troubled world, in which we are witnessing a resurgence of worldwide antisemitism and other disturbing developments, it is imperative for us to strengthen our collective Jewish voice.

The new **Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy (CIJA)**, strongly supported by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, offers all of us this crucial opportunity.

As Canada's key coordinating body for Israel and Jewish advocacy, CIJA believes in vigorous action on issues of urgent Jewish concern. Through its proactive, research-based strategies, CIJA responds rapidly to those concerns on behalf of all Jewish Canadians.

The organization's grassroots membership arm, **CIJA-PAC (Public Affairs Committee)**, encourages direct participation by thousands of Canadians in the important process of influencing national leaders on critical issues. For just $18 annually, CIJA-PAC offers members a wealth of education on key concerns and the chance to translate knowledge into action. To join CIJA-PAC, visit www.cija.ca or www.jewishtoronto.com – the UJA Federation web site.

Strengthening our Jewish voice depends on the most active possible participation by members of our community in order to build a secure Jewish future.

Marc Levy (l) and Mark Waldman encourage membership in CIJA-PAC at UJA Federation's recent Walk with Israel.

ISRAEL FOR FREE

If you are 18-26 and have never been to Israel on an organized peer program, the Toronto Jewish community invites you to spend ten days in Israel for FREE on the Canada Israel birthright israel *Program. For more information on this experience of a lifetime, visit www.israelforfree.com or call Canada Israel Experience at 416-398-6931 ext. 3.*

Once participants have returned home, the birthright israel *Alumni Committee (BAC) helps build a foundation of knowledge and experience in order to strengthen ties to the Toronto Jewish community and to Israel, enabling them to become the Jewish leaders of tomorrow. Call Toronto Israel Experience Centre at 416-635-2883 ext. 279 or e-mail: araphael@ujafed.org*

VOLUNTEER IN ISRAEL

Here are some volunteer opportunities that will allow you to share your enthusiasm and love for Israel.

Project Otzma – August 15, 2004-July 15, 2005: *Partially funded by UJA Federation, this special 10-month, 5-track program is for North American college students and graduates to develop as future community leaders.*

For more information, call 416-635-2883 ext. 272 or e-mail: rstoll@ujafed.org

Volunteer P2K Mission to Israel – May 2005: *A unique volunteer mission to UJA Federation's Partnership 2000 (P2K) twinned region of EilatEilot for university students and young adults. Work with youth in after-school programs and group homes, teach English, and much more.*

For more information call 416-631-5731 or e-mail: acrandall@ujafed.org

For additional volunteer opportunities, visit www.jewishtoronto.com (click Volunteering)

We gratefully acknowledge the support and generosity of ***The Canadian Jewish News****. The Volunteer Recognition Supplement is coordinated by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.*

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National

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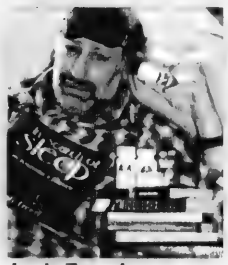
Visiting rabbi defends early Jewish reformers. *Page 5*

Arts & Travel



Josh Freed just wants a little shut-eye. *Page 44*

Books & Authors

Book describes poet's journey into her family's past. *Page 49*

Sports & Leisure

Maple Downs to celebrate its 50th anniversary. *Page 54*

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Chief Sephardi rabbi wants to bridge gap between Jews

By **FRANCES KRAFT**
Staff Reporter

Religious institutions in Israel have been seriously affected by steps taken earlier this year to dismantle the country's Ministry of Religious Affairs, Rabbi Shlomo Amar, the chief Sephardi rabbi of Israel, said last week.

"It's a very terrible situation," with both psychological and practical implications, he told *The CJN* in an interview immediately preceding his June 14 lecture at the Sephardic Kehila Centre. Speaking in Hebrew for both the interview and the lecture, Rabbi Amar was accompanied by Rabbi Amram Assayag, spiritual leader of the centre's Abir Yaakob Congregation, who translated his words into English.

Budgets for religious services, including mikvahs and kashrut, have been "neglected," Rabbi Amar said, adding

Continued on page 19

Rabbi Shlomo Amar

Always defended legitimacy of Israel: Martin

Paul Martin

Paul Martin, Canada's 21st prime minister, was elected leader of the Liberal Party of Canada on Nov. 14, 2003, and his government was sworn in on Dec. 12, with a promise to change the way things work in Ottawa through sweeping parliamentary reforms.

Martin is the MP for LaSalle-Emard in Montreal. He was first elected in 1988. In 1990, he ran for the leadership of the Liberal party, finishing second.

After the election of the Liberals in 1993, he served as finance minister until June, 2002. His chief claim to fame in that post is erasing Canada $42 billion deficit, paying down $36 billion in debt and recording five consecutive balanced budgets.

CJN reporter Ron Csillag interviewed him by telephone last Thursday.

CJN: *Our readers have sensed an increasing lack of support for, and sometimes hostility toward, Israel on the part of the Liberal government since 1993. What can you say to allay those concerns and would policy toward Israel and the Middle East change under a Martin government?*

Martin: Well, first of all, I do not accept the premise of your question. I believe the Liberal government has always defended the legitimacy of the Jewish state of Israel and I have stated publicly on many occasions that I do not believe there is any moral equivalence between defending one's country and terrorists who blow up innocent women and children. So, as far I'm concerned, Israel is a democracy and it also has a lengthy history in this country of being very strongly supported.

Continued on page 23

Learning peaceful coexistence

Jewish and Muslim children participate in the *Image of Abraham* project, an educational program at the Bible Lands Museum in Jerusalem that focuses on a shared heritage between the two religions. ***Please see page 41.***

[Bible Lands Museum photo]

Parsha: Chukat
Candlelighting: 8:44
Havdallah: 9:49

Greater Toronto Area

U.S. sources say Hezbollah sending fighters to Iraq — please see page 39

CANADA

Jews Make Top 100

EDMONTON — Four Jews were named to a list of 100 "Edmontonians of the Century" last month as part of the city's 100th anniversary celebrations. The four are author and publisher Mel Hurtig; the late clothing retailer Henry Singer; the late developer Jacob Ghermezian, patriarch of the family that built the West Edmonton Mall; and the late Joe Shoctor, who founded the Citadel Theatre and co-founded the Edmonton Eskimos football club. They were chosen by the city's Celebrate 2004 committee from among 900 candidates, including 10 Jews nominated by the Jewish community. Biographies of the 100 honorees will be published in a book to coincide with Edmonton's 100th birthday in October.

WORLD

Deportation Allowed

NEW YORK — A U.S. judge ruled last week that former concentration camp guard Jakiw Palij, 80, can be deported to his native Ukraine, based on Palij's service as a guard at the Trawniki forced-labour camp and the fact he concealed his service when he applied to immigrate to the United States in 1949. Palij lives in New York City. The case was brought by the U.S. Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations.

JDLer to Face Trial

LOS ANGELES — A U.S. judge last week voided a plea bargain reached with Jewish Defence League member Earl Krugel. Without giving details, the judge said Krugel, 61, had breached the plea bargain in which he agreed to plead guilty to plotting to bomb a mosque and the offices of Lebanese-American Republican Congressman Darrell Issa. Krugel's co-defendant, former JDL leader Irv Rubin, committed suicide in jail. Krugel's trial is to start in November.

Extremist Elected

LONDON — A Jewish woman has been elected to a local municipal council as a candidate for a far-right British political party. Patricia Richardson was one of three British National Party members to win seats on the Epping Forest Council near London. Richardson denies the party is anti-Semitic and promotes Holocaust denial. "I think that is way, way back in the past," she said in the campaign. Richardson, who says her two sons have been circumcised, has few links to the Jewish community.

Man in Custody in Yeshiva Student's Stabbing

PARIS — A man is under judicial investigation in France for attempting to murder a yeshiva student in a knife attack in Epinay-sur-Seine, a suburb north of Paris, earlier this month.

Eskander Guessine, described as an unemployed bookkeeper, is suspected of stabbing Yisrael Yifrah, 17, outside the Mekor Yisrael Yeshiva and of involvement in at least seven other knife attacks. The other knifings targeted non-Jews, but the investigation notes a racial motive in the initial attack, which would mean a longer jail sentence if Guessine is subsequently charged and convicted. He remains in police custody.

In the attack, a large man described as being of North African heritage yelled "God is great" in Arabic before stabbing Yifrah in the chest. Yifrah's condition has improved since an operation last week.

Save Tajik Shul: WJC

NEW YORK — The World Jewish Congress has urged UNESCO, the UN agency that deals with historic preservation, to help save the only synagogue in Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan, from being destroyed to make room for a presidential palace. The government has offered the small and mostly elderly Jewish community land for a new shul.

UN Warns Caterpillar

NEW YORK — Jean Ziegler, the UN's special expert on the right to food, last week warned Caterpillar to stop selling bulldozers to the Israeli army. He said if the U.S.-based firm keeps doing so, it may be seen as an accomplice in violating Palestinian human rights, since soldiers use them "to destroy agricultural farms, greenhouses and ancient olive groves." Israel says it uses the bulldozers to raze terrorists' homes. Caterpillar shareholders recently rejected a proposal to stop selling the bulldozers.

Madonna now 'Esther'?

NEW YORK — Madonna, known for her interest in Jewish mysticism, has taken the name Esther. "I wanted to attach myself to the energy of a different name," she told ABC's *20/20* in an interview. Madonna's latest book, *Yakov and the Seven Thieves*, is slated to be published this week.

Oz to Appeal Sentence

PERTH — The Australian government plans to appeal the sentence of a Muslim convert who plotted to bomb the Israeli Embassy in Canberra. Jack Roche received nine years in jail after becoming the first person convicted under new anti-terror laws. The maximum penalty was 25 years in jail, but after spending 18 months in custody, and with possible early release for good behaviour, he could be out in 2007.

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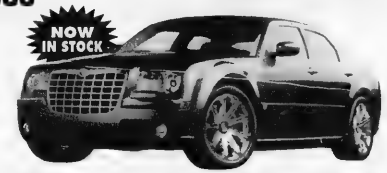
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Dallaire recounts Rwanda genocide

Tribute held to Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Ten years ago, as upwards of 800,000 men, women and children were being brutally slaughtered in equatorial Africa, the world watched, listened – and refused to act.

The situation was similar to that of the 1930s, said Lt.-Gen. (ret.) Romeo Dallaire, the Canadian officer who headed the UN's peacekeeping force in Rwanda at the time. "They were too busy" to intervene.

Speaking at a tribute to Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal earlier this month, Dallaire noted that despite being informed of events, Western states determined that Rwanda had no strategic value. Instead, they sent troops and spent billions in Yugoslavia even though the killing in Rwanda dwarfed the atrocities in that white, European state. The only troops European nations sent to Rwanda were to help expatriates leave, along with the booty they took home.

"We watched and didn't want to get involved," said Dallaire, who has written a book about his experiences, *Shake Hands with the Devil*.

During the genocide that began in April 1994, local killers were encouraged by stations that broadcast "hate radio… and described people as cockroaches." The killers pulled fetuses from bodies and decapitated fathers in front of their children, Dallaire recounted.

Tormented by his experiences in Rwanda, Dallaire has repeatedly spoken about the atrocities he witnessed and has testified at the war crimes tribunal for Rwanda that convenes in Arusha, Tanzania.

Wiesenthal's record of pursuing Nazi killers, including notorious concentration camp commandants, was recounted by a number of speakers at the tribute, which was attended by 1,400 people. Wiesenthal, 95, is too frail to travel and a retrospective on his life was delivered on video and in comments from representatives of the Simon Wiesenthal Center. In addition, Awards of Valour were presented to Max Eisen, Shirley Anne Haber, Irshad Manji and Yaakov Roth for standing up to intolerance.

Dallaire recounted that in 1994, he met personally with the "devils" who were committing atrocities, negotiating with militia leaders whose clothes were bloodstained from their involvement in killings.

Lt.-Gen. (ret.) Romeo Dallaire

Dallaire said that Rwandans sometimes congregated in churches, mistakenly believing they'd find refuge there. Yet their killers – Hutu extremists – did not respect the sanctuary. They threw grenades into church windows and used machetes to kill those who fled.

Continued on page 18

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Greater Toronto Area

More election reflections

This is the final issue of the paper before the election next Monday. Due to the quirks of our production schedule, we will not be publishing any further election stories until the issue of July 8. That is because our next issue, namely July 1, actually goes to press on voting day, June 28 and will arrive in readers' homes after the results of the election are known.

But the electioneering in recent days evokes the following further reflections.

• *The Debate (1)*

That this television event was called a debate is an egregious misnomer. It could have perhaps should have more accurately been called a staged, four-ring argument.

If our children around the dinner table behaved as did the leaders during the English language debate, we would have sent them away from the table.

In a schoolyard, that behaviour usually lands the offending children in the principal's office.

Why should we accept such feuding, quarrelsome and downright rude behaviour from the men who lead our federal political parties? Like many people with whom I spoke the following day, I simply turned away from the politicians' performances after a while.

The blame for their comportment, of course, does not rest entirely with the leaders. The television networks are also to blame. Irascible misbehaviour provides better entertainment than it does civil discourse.

And that is the crux of a television "debate." In keeping with the television industry's core ethos, the "debate" must be a show as well as a vehicle for providing information.

But as a vehicle for providing useful, substantive information about the policies and qualities we require from an aspiring prime minister, it is very poor.

It is past time for the political parties and the networks to devise a format for the "debate" that is truer to the needs of democracy rather than to putting on a good show.

• *The Debate (2)*

It was unfair in the English-language debate to exclude the leader of the Green Party. The Green Party is running candidates in all 308 federal ridings. The Bloc Quebecois is fielding candidates in one province only.

Organizers of the "debate" cannot justify the decision on the basis of a comparison of the total popular vote for the two parties. For the Bloc receives no popular vote in nine of the 10 provinces.

If the Green Party is a serious political movement – and the fielding of 308 candidates might suggest that it is – its leader should have been afforded the opportunity to join the "debate."

• *The Bloc Québécois.*

If the election yields a minority government situation, it would be unconscionable for the either the Conservatives or the Liberals to attempt to form a government with the Bloc.

Lest it be forgotten, the Bloc's raison d'etre is to achieve the secession of Quebec from Canada. Their key objective, therefore, is the dismantling of the country.

The federalist parties must declare without equivocation the unacceptability in principle of any alliance with the Bloc. There should be no political partnership with the Bloc, whether for expedient or for tactical purposes.

There could be negative economic ramifications for Canada in international markets if investors were to see a new government relying for its stability upon secessionist forces.

Beyond the possible harmful economic ramifications of a Bloc-based minority government, however, are the fundamentally unwelcome domestic ramifications of such a collaboration.

It would set a bad example, once again, for the younger generation regarding political power – namely, that principle must surrender to expedience for the sake of holding power.

In addition, of course, the constant spotlight shining on the Bloc would necessarily also shine on the cause of separatism.

* * *

As anyone at *The CJN* can attest, emotions within the community over this election are running high. People are engaged, people are involved and people are committed to their favourite candidates. And that is as it should be.

The freedom to choose is the most precious jewel in the crown of democracy. *Whom* we choose as our candidate is, of course, very important. But far more important is *that* we choose.

There is nearly a week left in the campaign. For those of us still uninvolved, undecided or confused about our choices, there is still sufficient time to be become involved or to sort out our choices. To guide us in our choices or in the myriad ways we can become involved, I remind readers of the helpful election resource available from the political action committee (CIJA-PAC) of the Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy (CIJA).

With the collaboration of the Canada-Israel Committee and of the Canadian Jewish Congress, CIJA-PAC has compiled a superb election primer. It can be accessed at www.feduja.org/evites/cija-pac-election-english

I urge everyone who is eligible to vote next week. It is very important that we do so. —*MBD*

Fire destroys Island Yacht Club structure

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Children playing with matches may have been responsible for the fire on Sunday that destroyed the clubhouse of the mostly Jewish Island Yacht Club (IYC) on Mugg's Island south of downtown Toronto.

Despite the fire, which gutted the club's dining facilities and locker area, the IYC should remain open for business for the rest of the boating season, said the club's commodore, Bruce Bussin.

"The spirit of the club will carry on," he said. "Our members are distraught today, but we're already working at rebuilding our club. Our membership has a strong spirit, a strong determination to see our clubhouse return."

The six-alarm blaze began at around 5 p.m. on Sunday in a grassy area behind the clubhouse, but quickly spread. The wooden structure was engulfed by flames, and despite the efforts of staff to snuff out the fire using extinguishers, it grew out of control. Firefighters were hampered by lack of access to Mugg's Island, shuttling to the island by boat.

At times, flames reached as high as 10 metres and four firefighters were injured fighting the blaze. No club members were hurt.

In addition to losing the clubhouse, memorabilia stretching back to the club's founding 52 years ago were also destroyed. "For me, that's the worst loss," said Bussin. "The rest is wood, paint, nails, wiring and plumbing. All that can be rebuilt. The biggest loss… besides the memories and the vista is our trophies and memorabilia, including the portraits of past commodores."

None of the club's boats was damaged, while the IYC's swimming pool, tennis courts and playground were also unaffected. Bussin suggested the club will try to bring in a temporary structure until the clubhouse is rebuilt.

He said the club's executive met later in the day on Sunday and decided to maintain as much of the club's schedule as possible. The highly regarded junior sailing program, which attracts about 100 youths age seven to 16, will continue as planned. The program has produced numerous talented sailors, including the top two finishers at the 2003 Canadian Youth Championships, Ethan Holtzer and Isaac Bussin (Bruce's nephew).

The club will once again provide a sailing day of respite for families coping with their children's illnesses, in conjunction with the Starlight Foundation.

The IYC was founded in 1952 at a time when Jews were denied membership in established yachting clubs. Club membership today stands at around 150 families (300 people), with a smaller number of associate and junior members.

Greater Toronto Area

Visiting rabbi defends early Jewish reformers

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Was Reform Judaism a mistake? In a word, no, says Rabbi Sanford Ragins, the senior rabbi emeritus of Leo Baeck Temple in Los Angeles.

He is troubled, however, by what he perceives as a lack of empathy among critics of early Jewish reformers, he told listeners at Temple Har Zion in Thornhill on a recent Sunday morning.

Rabbi Ragins, who was ordained from Hebrew Union College and has a PhD in the history of ideas from Brandeis University, is an adjunct professor in the Religious Studies Department at Occidental College in L.A. and a faculty member of the Lutheran Institute for Church and Judaism in Berlin, Germany.

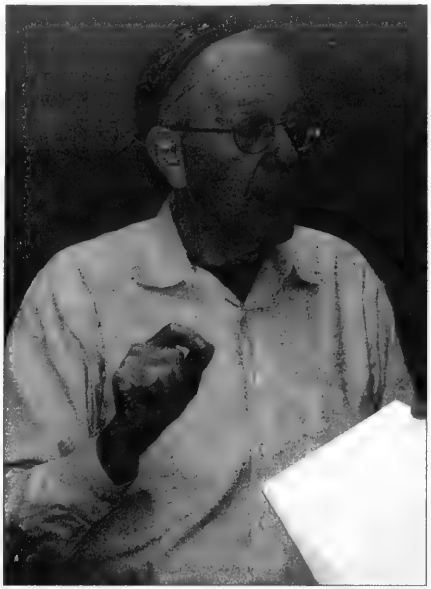
He spent a weekend at Har Zion as a visiting scholar to discuss his views on Reform Judaism and offer a historical perspective.

Even before the Holocaust, in western Europe – and more recently in North America – there has been a sense among many Reform rabbis that "a huge mistake" was made when Jews were emerging from the ghetto into the surrounding society more than 200 years ago, said Rabbi Ragins.

"There's a sense that… they made a horrendous mistake in throwing away something that was precious and beautiful, and that since then we in the Reform community have been seeking to find our way 'back' and reappropriating some [traditions] that have been abandoned."

Present-day Jews, given the context of widespread anti-Semitism and isolation their ancestors had faced in the late Middle Ages and early modern times, "would probably make exactly the same decisions," Rabbi Ragins contended.

To support his case, the rabbi distributed 11 pages of documentation, including a comment by philosopher David Friedlaender, founder in 1778 of the first Jewish Free School in Berlin, who predicted that Judaism would "collapse into ruin" if "competent, daring builders" did not "repair" it.



Speaking at Temple Har Zion recently, Rabbi Sanford Ragins said that Reform Judaism "rose out of responding to modernity" and the perception that Judaism was "dead or dying." [Frances Kraft photo]

With the coming of the Enlightenment in the 18th century, said Rabbi Ragins, "all kinds of traditional and medieval [political, economic and religious] concepts were challenged" among the intellectuals and the rising middle class in western Europe.

Until the early 1800s, said Rabbi Ragins, there was no such thing as "the Jewish Frenchman." Previously, he explained, "there were [only] Jews who lived in France." Likewise, he added, the Jews of 19th-century Germany, were "largely Germanized."

Reform Judaism "rose out of responding to modernity" and the perception that Judaism was "dead or dying," said Rabbi Ragins.

An increase in Jews converting to Christianity – in some cases as a prerequisite for teaching at a university – did not necessarily reflect a change in belief, he noted.

A few radical reformers, whose early pronouncements included rejection of circumcision and renouncing the authority of the Talmud, were responding to a "crisis" by making changes that were "radical – [literally] down to the roots." They were not part of the mainstream Reform movement, Rabbi Ragins said.

At the same time, noted Rabbi Ragins, modern Orthodoxy was also emerging in Germany.

He contends that Reform Judaism was developed "not because we want[ed] to kill Judaism, but because we want[ed] to save it from obsolescence and decrepitude... It was a reasonable option."

Today, Rabbi Ragins told *The CJN*, Reform Judaism continues its role as a "response to modernity. I see it exactly the same way."

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Clairman, Hayyah	חיה	Glik, Aidan	אלדן	Krystal, Ally	לאה	Ostro, Nicole	שירה	Slabodnik, Tzili	צליל	Zicherman, Jonathan	יונתן
Csillag, Emma	טובה	Glowinsky, Jordan	פלא	Langer, Steven	סמחה	Pecchioli, Nir	ניר	Smith, David	יהושע	Zins, Jacqueline	יעל

Greater Toronto Area

JVS Toronto, Israel Elwyn unite to aid disabled

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Funds raised from a recent theatre evening at Famous People Players, sponsored by Jewish Vocational Service Toronto and Canadian Friends of Israel Elwyn, will benefit people with disabilities both locally and in Israel.

In Toronto, the money will support programs at the Al Green Resource Centre to facilitate transitions from a sheltered workshop environment to employment, and in Israel funds are earmarked for Israel Elwyn's Dvora Agmon Preschool Development Center.

Through a number of services that also include adult development centres, supported employment services and transitional employment programs, Israel Elwyn provides more than 1,000 children and adults with special needs with the tools needed to lead more independent lives within the community.

Karen Goldenberg, CEO of JVS Toronto, says the two organizations teamed up after she met Israel Elwyn's executive director, David Marcu, in Israel, and learned that a Canadian Friends of Israel Elwyn had been started up by Mannie Rotman, a past chair of JVS Toronto.

"David Marcu said that the Canadian Friends needed to move forward and attract another generation of volunteers, so we began to work with a [new] group, and we put together a new board," says Goldenberg.

"Israel Elwyn's significant focus is on preparing people for the world of work, and that is our communal interest," says Goldenberg, who visits a different Israel Elwyn program each year.

Mickey Milner, past chair of JVS Toronto, says that Israel Elwyn serves people of all ages across the country. "It caters to kids, and it has excellent rehabilitation centres."

Based on a program that has 10 Israel Elwyn clients working at Hadassah Hospital, says Goldenberg, JVS Toronto applied to the Ontario Disability Support Program, and received funding to begin a hospital-based pilot project here.

"We were inspired by the program in Israel. That kind of sharing often occurs. The idea that organizations can cross-fertilize continues to be a valid way of learning," she says.

They chose an evening at Famous People Players for their first joint fundraiser, "because it is a wonderful venue in which people with developmental disabilities are involved in all aspects of a show that is as good as any Broadway performance.

"It is particularly meaningful because it showcases the potential of people with disabilities. It is an inspirational program that demystifies the myth of what is possible."

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JIAS helps immigrant artists mount exhibition

By JESSICA HELLEN
CJN Intern

When Paula Slimovich moved from Buenos Aires to Toronto last year, she found it hard to make connections in her new home.

Slimovich, an artist, told the Jewish Immigrant Aid Services of Toronto (JIAS) how difficult it has been for her to establish herself in the city.

"She said, 'What am I going to do? I'm an artist and I don't know anyone here,'" said Janis Roth, executive director of JIAS Toronto.

When JIAS staff discovered that other immigrant artists were experiencing the same challenges as Slimovich, they created the New Immigrants' Art Exhibition, which runs until July 11 at the Koffler Centre of the Arts in the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre.

"These artists need an opportunity to gain exposure here," said Suzanne Solnik, a community development and integration worker at JIAS.

"They are all new to the community and they don't have networks of people they know."

The exhibit displays the works of six new immigrant artists from Argentina, Israel, Mexico and the former Soviet Union.

The art ranges from "abstract to real life to photography," and illustrates the different styles of the artists, who, in addition to Slimovich, also include Moy Volcovich, Merav Sagiv, Yivgeni Matoussov, Peter Gur and Sergey Popov.

"Some of the artists are well-known in their own countries, but they need to gain exposure here," said Solnik.

Volcovich, the only artist in the exhibit who is not a JIAS client, said he wanted to be involved in this exhibition, "to show [his] work here in Canada, because here in Canada, nobody knows [him]."

Volcovich's photographs on display are taken from his book *Una Semana en la Vida del CDI* (*One Week in the Life of the JCC*), and show the different activities taking place at the Jewish community centre in Mexico City.

Sagiv, who came to Canada five months ago from Israel, said she included her paintings in the exhibit because she "wants to feel that [she] belongs somewhere" and "meet other artists.

"I thought this was a good place to start," she said.

Matoussov, 17, and the youngest artist in the exhibit, said it wasn't hard to select the paintings he wanted to display.

"I just chose those that I liked best," he explained.

Roth said the exhibit provides the artists with "an opportunity to do what they did in their homeland, here [in Toronto]."

TEACHERS TO STUDY AT YAD VASHEM:

The Canadian Society for Yad Vashem has funded three scholarships – two in memory of Ted Libfeld of Toronto and one in memory of Robert Rogow of Vancouver – to send nine Canadian teachers to Jerusalem for three weeks this summer to study at the Yad Vashem International School for Holocaust Studies. Seen, back row from left, are Dana Cohen, Thomas Penney, Audrey Gerwing, Canadian society education co-chair Rouhama Danto, Michele Root and Joan Shapero. Front row, from left, are Margaret Darmanin and Audrey Ferrer. The others teachers were Rochelle Gamlie of Winnipeg and Paul Gowan of Ottawa.

JUNE 2004

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Prime Minister Paul Martin
marked Israel's Independence Day on April 27, 2004, stating:

"Our relationship reaches back to the very founding of the Jewish state when Canada endorsed and worked for the creation of a national homeland for the Jewish people. Since then, our special friendship with Israel, based on the shared values of democracy, freedom and social justice has developed, expanded and matured."

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Over the past year, our Members have:

- Submitted a significant foreign policy critique, entitled *Canada and the Middle East*, which urged Canada to combat the deligitimization and demonization of Israel, in the international arena and to curtail the 'cycle of violence' rhetoric, condemn terrorism against Israel, improve votes at the UN and establish a broad Friendship Treaty with Israel.
- Successfully led the push for a complete ban on Middle Eastern terrorist groups, including the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, Hamas, Hizballah and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad.
- Opposed the licensing of the satellite channel Al Jazeera in Canada before the CRTC, arguing that it *"...will contravene our hate law regulations by demonizing the Jewish people and ... will endanger the public good through anti-Semitic incitement...."*
- Achieved a greater sensitivity from the Canadian government to the plight of Israelis living under the shadow of terror, resulting in more forceful and numerous condemnations of Palestinian terror.

Authorized by the Official Agent of the Liberal Party of Canada and by the Official Agents of Carolyn Bennett, Ken Dryden, Susan Kadis, Anita Neville, Jim Peterson and Joe Volpe.

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Iran's mischief, the world's woes

The security situation along Israel's northern border became somewhat more complicated last week. Hezbollah fired anti-aircraft shells from Lebanon into Israel on the weekend, hitting an Israel Defence Forces base. No one was injured. The IDF retaliated within hours, striking at a Hezbollah base in south Lebanon. It was the third volley in two weeks by the the radical Shi'ite Iranian surrogates against the Jewish state.

Many people believe Hezbollah's escalation of activity against Israel is tied to increased scrutiny by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) of Iran's nuclear activities. The *New York Times* reported that "Iran was formally rebuked by the IAEA last Friday in a resolution that sharply criticized the Iranian government for a lack of co-operation in disclosing the details of its nuclear program," and again urged Iran to stop trying to create enriched uranium.

This time, however, the resolution departed from precedent. Its sponsors were Britain, France and Germany, and it passed unanimously, unimpeded by interventions from Iran's usual "protectors," Russia and China. Iran's dissembling and duplicity have begun to worry even its close friends.

It is widely known that Iran is hiding important information concerning its nuclear activities and in particular its feverish efforts to produce weapons-grade uranium. It has repeatedly stated that its nuclear program is geared only to producing electricity. But the IAEA is skeptical, as it should be. There is simply too much evidence to the contrary. Even the promise Iran made last October to the IAEA to suspend its low-grade uranium enrichment activity has proven to be worthless.

The IAEA is now investigating reports that Iran may have conducted forbidden nuclear activities on a secret site, which in some reports has been identified as Lavizan Shiyan, a military facility near Tehran. According to the *Times*, "commercial satellite images indicate that Iran razed buildings and removed topsoil from the area." A sampling of the soil would have enabled experts to detect the type of nuclear-related activity, if any, that had been performed there. In addition, with breathtaking gall, despite the "before and after" photos, Iranian officials have denied the existence of any buildings on that site.

Earlier in the month, reports circulated that some 10,000 Iranians have signed up for suicide attacks on Israel and U.S.-led forces in Iraq. Last week, U.S. intelligence agents claimed Hezbollah had sent a number of its agents into Iraq to operate against American-led forces. There are also reports that the co-operation between the Hezbollah and Al Qaeda is extensive. And now, once again, Hezbollah – Iran's surrogates in south Lebanon – have decided to raise the security temperature along Israel's northern border.

Iran's mischief must not be ignored; the potential for harm to the western world is too great. Now is the time for the West to show its resolve against the extremist Iranian theocracy.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

MIAs: Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz.

Dry Bones

RABBI, WE NEED A REPLACEMENT FOR MRS. COHEN.
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?
INSTEAD OF THE FUND RAISING COMMITTEE..
SHE THOUGHT SHE HAD VOLUNTEERED FOR THE FUN RAISING COMMITTEE
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Young Jew expresses opinion

I find it truly amazing that Ron Singer would actually attack Yaakov Roth's criticism of Keith Landy ("Criticism of Landy unfair," letter to the editor, *CJN*, June 10). Singer paints the two leading parties in Canada as if they are essentially equals on the question of Israel. The only problem with this reasoning is that the Liberal party consistently supports blatant anti-Israel resolutions at the UN, funds the Palestinian Authority with no accountability and ignores Hamas charities that actually fundraise openly in Canada with full knowledge of the Liberal government. On the other hand, for years leading Conservative MPs have been the strongest advocates of Israel's right to self-defence and have rarely, if ever, condemned legitimate Israeli operations against terrorists. One can blindly ignore the past or realize this trend and wake up to reality.

Young Jews like Roth and myself support the Conservative party because they are so clearly on Israel's side in the current war.

I hope the average Jewish voter can see that support for Israel and stopping terrorist activity in Canada begins with a vote for the Conservative party.

Michael Tweyman
Toronto, Ontario

* * *

Youngest candidate

Frances Kraft's article on the federal candidates in the Eglinton-Lawrence riding ("Youngest candidate seeking seat in Toronto riding," *CJN*, June 10) could have been more helpful if readers would have been given a more thorough understanding of Max Silverman's position vis-à-vis Israel. Perhaps *The CJN* did not wish to appear unduly focused on Israel as an election issue, but readers are not well-served when they are simply told that Silverman "tried (unsuccessfully) to have the controversial film *Jenin, Jenin* screened at his high school."

This movie promotes the view that members of the IDF perpetrated a massacre in Jenin; that they executed disabled Palestinians; and that they crushed Palestinians with an army tank as they lay bound and helpless on the ground. And what is Silverman's personal opinion of this film? He is on record as describing it as a "beautiful film." May we all be spared such beauty. Those who look to their federal representatives to advocate (or at least maintain an open mind) on Israel's behalf should look elsewhere.

Susan Kendal
Thornhill, Ontario

* * *

Canadian Jews helped defeat enemy

Cpl. Barney Gordon is not a household name. He was a Toronto Jewish Junction "boy" who served with me in a Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) mobile signals unit attached to the army. We left Southampton a few days after D-Day on a landing ship tank. Later, during the Cannes-Falaise tank battle with the Nazis, Barney was dispatched to that front – the only unit member to be so privileged. He returned a shaken man – Falaise is recorded in military history as one of the most vicious of all tank battles.

Canadian Jews are proud of the contribution and sacrifices the Jewish enlisted men made in World War II. People we know, and knew, like Maj. Ben Dunkelman, Wing Cmdr. Sydney Shulemson and Maj. Eddie Goodman made individual heroic efforts.

On D-Day, Jewish servicemen included Sgt. Freddy Harris of Toronto, killed by a German bullet as he alighted from his landing ship tank; Goodman, Sgt. Si Goldenthal and Capt. Barney Danson.

Capt. Ted Herman, Pte. Max Schwartz and Cpl. Sam Romberg (who, among others, experienced action in Normandy's Cannes/Falaise Gap) soon followed them.

The RCAF was an important strategic member of the invasion forces and included, on D-Day and later, beloved members of our Jewish community, among them Pilot Officer Harry Glass, Flight Lieut. Sammy Kwinter, Mel Isenberg, Flying Officer Barry Caplan, Flying Officer Ab Shuman, Sgt. Solly Kay, Warrant Officer Jack Spiegel, Flight Lieut. Wilf Canter (who later served in Israel's War of Independence) and Squadron Leader David Goldberg.

The above are but a handful of our Canadian Jewish boys who helped silence the enemy.

Prime minister William Lyon Mackenzie King, in a letter to Canadian Jewish Congress, dated March 20, 1947, praised the Canadian Jewish contribution to World War II: "For them, World War II was not a way of life, but life itself... they fought not only for survival but for freedom."

Bill Stern
Toronto

* * *

An amazing learning trip

Earlier this year, teenagers from junior high schools across Canada had the opportunity to take part in a trip to Washington, D.C., to learn about the Holocaust as a part of the Asper Foundation Holocaust and Human Rights Program. Approximately 330 teens from Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg, Ottawa, Montreal and Halifax took part.

To prepare for the trip, we first undertook 16 hours of group sessions and 16 hours of community service. On May 2, each group arrived in Washington, D.C.

Participants toured with their own city group, but students from all the cities met on bus rides, in evening programs and for group sessions.

The main purpose of the four-day trip was the visit to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, but we also visited several monuments and memorials throughout Washington, as well as the Smithsonian museums. We also saw a play at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

The trip was an amazing experience that allowed us to learn about the Holocaust, meet new people, bond with peers, visit a beautiful city and have an overall great time.

On behalf of all the participants from all the cities, I would like to thank the Asper Foundation for the opportunity to take part in this outstanding program.

Leah Shafran, 14,
Edmonton

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Middle class day school parents face crisis

By JERROLD LANDAU

Over the past few years, a crisis has been brewing in the Jewish community that has not led to mass protests in the streets, nor rallies by the organized Jewish community. It is the quiet, almost imperceptible crisis of the middle class of Jewish parents opting out of the Jewish day school system, or, alternatively, sticking with it and compromising the financial stability of their families. The impact of this crisis on the future of the Jewish community will likely be subtle, leading to a gradual weakening of communal involvement and support for Israel in the years and decades to come.

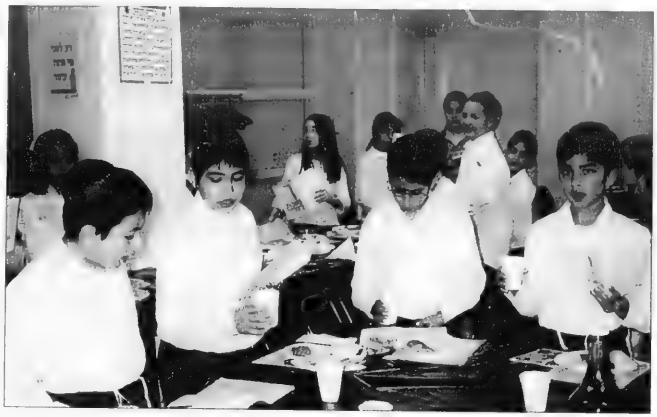
Annual tuition at the elementary level in Toronto has risen to more than $9,000 per child, while fees for high school exceed $14,000. These costs rise annually at a rate significantly higher than the rate of inflation. The situation is ameliorated somewhat by the issuing of federal charitable tax receipts for the religious component of education. But for people with more than one or two children, these fees pose a serious financial challenge, even for those who earn a respectable salary.

Based on figures from the Ontario Association of Jewish Day Schools (provided by the schools), the net drop in day school enrolment for the 2004-2005 school year is estimated at one per cent. The drop in preschool enrolment – a very good predictor of the day school system's future health – is estimated at three per cent. Considering that the Toronto Jewish community is growing, and that the annual growth rate in day school enrolment over the past 25 years has been 4.8 per cent, these figures herald a brewing crisis. Tuition hikes for the 2004-2005 school year average five per cent.

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto provides more than $8 million in subsidy funds (representing just under 15 per cent of its annual fundraising campaign) for those who can't afford the full cost of tuition. This is the most generous allocation to Jewish education by any federation in North America, and, indeed, it ensures that those most in need will not be deprived of a Jewish education. Yet, it comes nowhere near to solving the growing problem.

The depth of that problem is most poignantly illustrated by examining the percentage of day school students who receive tuition subsidies in Toronto. This figure hovers at approximately 40 per cent. For Orthodox schools, where family size tends to be larger and the level of sacrifice that parents make to provide a Jewish education tends to be greater, the number exceeds a staggering 60 per cent. And the recipients of communal financial aid are not restricted to lower salary earners. Many people earning middle class salaries have joined the ranks of subsidy recipients, due to the impossibility of meeting their tuition obligations while providing for their families in a respectable manner.

These statistics should worry anyone who is concerned about the ongoing health and vigour of our community, as the effect of this situation plays itself out in two different ways, both of which are slowly eating away at the viability of our community as we know it. On the one hand, many schools are suffering from declining enrolment and high dropout rates, as parents feel they can no longer shoulder the heavy burden. On the other hand, non-wealthy families who continue to send their children to day schools despite the costs are slowly having the carpet of financial security pulled out from under them.



Students at Or Haemet preparing for Pesach

The effect of declining enrolment on the long-term health of our community is obvious. Study after study has shown there is no better predictor of continued Jewish affiliation and commitment into adulthood, and no better antidote against assimilation and intermarriage, than a day school education. That is not to say that those who do not receive a Jewish education are lost to the community – far from it. Yet, when one looks at affiliation statistics, the trends are impossible to ignore.

The financial squeeze on middle class day school parents is perhaps harder to appreciate, yet it also has a detrimental effect on the health and well-being of the community. Some parents avoid the subsidy application process for reasons of pride and self-respect, even though they would qualify for help, and choose to suffer their financial challenges in silence. Other parents find themselves earning too much to qualify for a subsidy, yet are still faced with tuition fees that cut significantly into the financial well-being of their families. Whether on subsidy or not, the ability of these families to send their children to Jewish summer camps and to contemplate trips to Israel and other such means of strengthening Jewish identity is destroyed. There are even families who forgo synagogue affiliation, leaving school as their sole source of Jewish affiliation.

> ***'The community as a whole should be clamouring for change in the strongest possible manner'***

As the initiative, drive and efforts of these middle class day school parents are directed toward providing the basics for their families on top of tuition that can exceed 25 per cent of their net income, their ability to participate in the organized community is severely compromised. For instance, they can give only token amounts of tzedakah to the UJA and other charities. Furthermore, as people need to work long hours and take on additional jobs to meet their obligations, the time available for communal work and family life is extremely compromised. As a result, tzedakah in Toronto is rapidly becoming a situation of the rich giving to the poor, with middle class day school parents being shoved to the sidelines.

An economically insecure middle class of day school parents does not bode well for the future of our community. When added to the opting out of day school education by less committed families, the extent of the crisis should be self-evident.

At this point, we might ask, "What can be done?"

There are two levels of response – political and communal – that must be pursued.

On the political front, the issue of government funding for our schools looms large. Ontario is the only jurisdiction in the free world that provides full funding to the school system of one religion and nothing to the schools of any other religion. The previous Conservative government introduced a measure of funding for independent schools in the form of the Equity in Education Tax Credit. When fully implemented over a five-year period, and when combined with the existing charitable credit, this measure would have provided significant relief for hard-pressed Ontario parents. Unfortunately, the current provincial Liberal government made it its first order of business to repeal the credit. This was done in a retroactive fashion, inflicting a great deal of damage on families who had already prepared their tight budgets with the EETC in mind.

The community as a whole – individuals, communal leaders, rabbis, editors of Jewish newspapers – should be clamouring for change in the strongest possible manner. If any community in Canada were being discriminated against on the basis of religion, in open and established violation of international law, we would certainly stand up and speak strongly against it. We should be doing so even more vehemently when our community is the victim of the discrimination, and when the discrimination affects a service of such importance – education – that it harms our very ability to preserve our proud, distinctive culture. We must make this issue a real priority. Politicians and political parties who look favourably on the needs of our community and are prepared to end the long-standing injustice and discrimination should be given our full support. Those who do not should be shunned.

But political action, while vital, is insufficient to address the economic squeeze on day school parents. A true solution to the crisis will involve a combination of government funding and communal support. As has been noted, the community is already allocating a significant amount of funding to Jewish education. Nevertheless, the problem continues to worsen with each passing year. Massive communal fundraising efforts, including innovative approaches such as implementing a standard five per cent estate levy for Jewish education, are desperately needed. For the near to medium term, this will also have to be coupled with a reallocation of communal funds. Our community prides itself in its very substantial financial support for Israel. A decision to keep a greater percentage of funds at home would indeed be a painful one. However, the stark choice is either to maximize support for Israel in the short term or ensure that there is a strong and viable community that will continue to be able to support Israel in the next generation. Given the current situation, our community is failing in the latter aim.

Readers of this article might claim the problem is not theirs. Not all members of the Jewish community send their children to Jewish day schools. This is a personal choice. Nevertheless, even those who have made other choices for their families must realize that the economic oppression of day school parents and mass defections from the day school system can only weaken the long-term viability of the community. The day school tuition crisis is everybody's problem.

Two choices confront the Jewish community of Ontario. Either we take strong and decisive action on both the political and the communal fronts to ameliorate, and ultimately solve, the day school tuition crisis, or we can watch the community slowly implode at its most vulnerable middle.

Jerrold Landau is the parent of four children, two who attend Jewish day school and two who will do so in the next few years. He is a longtime advocate for the affordability of Jewish day school education.

Between America and Israel

The right to criticize governmental policy is fundamental to the democratic process. We reserve that right for ourselves both internally and externally. Thus, we feel free, and safe, to criticize other countries and their policies. Offence emerges with the indiscriminate extension of that critique.

Norma Baumel Joseph in Montreal

As Jews, we may feel very protective of Israel, but we ought to acknowledge that people can disagree with specific political decisions and actions of any government. Where we part with some of our neighbours is in the spread of that critique. The Israeli government – or rabbinate or any policy-making entity – may do things that are not agreeable to all. We may voice our disapproval of such decisions or endeavours, but that does not mean all of Israel is wrong, or that Israel is bad or hateful. This type of expansion is racist. Racism occurs when a community is accused of monolithic behaviour or is charged with having one – usually negative – characteristic. It is racist to categorize all the individuals in a specific cohort as being the same or adhering to the same policy. When an entire nation is demonized, we are certainly dealing with racism and not legitimate criticism.

Hence, our protest to the world is a demand that people distinguish critique from unconditional condemnation. The State of Israel has a right to exist. It is not an evil empire.

We have seen ignorant and malicious anti-Israel sentiment shift easily into anti-Semitism. Protests begin with "down with Israel" and conclude with shouting "death to the Jews." This is racism at its very worst.

Having fought for principles of democracy and fairness and suffered the consequence of thoughtless censure and invective, how is it possible that so many Jews find comfort in their anti-Americanism? I have been present at a number of Jewish communal events where critique of American policy slides glibly into the repugnant: America is a terrible country, all its politicians are corrupt, it is a selfish nation with no redeeming characteristics. That, too, is racism and we should protest.

Whether one agrees or disagrees with the war in Iraq or current policy, we must acknowledge that America has a right to exist and that while not perfect (do we think Canada is?), it is not all bad. The world has certainly benefited from America in many ways. Americans are not ugly and America is not an evil empire. Make the comparison with our rhetoric in defence of Israel.

One final, personal perspective. I am an American and a Canadian and proud to be both. And I cannot help speculating that if someone had done to Hitler what Bush did to Saddam, we would be living in a very different world.

Shaking hands with the Devil

If there is a Canadian public servant deserving a reward in the world to come, it is Lt.-Gen. Roméo Dallaire, hero and victim of the Rwanda genocide.

When Dallaire was chosen to head the UN mission to Rwanda, he left believing that he would be able to put into action the honourable goal of UN peacekeeping missions – to restore or protect the peace in areas of conflict. That was the goal of former Canadian prime minister Lester B. Pearson, who was responsible for establishing the first UN peacekeeping force.

Jean M. Gerber in Vancouver

In Rwanda, Dallaire found a cesspool of hatred, power struggles and tribal conflicts, which escalated beyond the usual bounds of armed struggle.

The conflict quickly became a war in which women were gang-raped and murdered and children were hacked to pieces in front of their parents. People drove machetes into the skulls of their neighbours – with whom they had lived and worked for years – yet no one seemed to care.

Dallaire recounts his experiences in Rwanda in his recent book, *Shake Hands With the Devil: The Failure of Humanity in Rwanda*.

When he left Rwanda, he came home a broken, guilt-ridden man who had to be rescued from the brink of suicide. The dithering at the UN, the venal behaviour of some of his troops, the machinations of countries such as France and Belgium, and U.S. and Canadian indifference to Rwanda would have caused distress for anyone.

Dallaire was short of the resources he needed to prevent the warlords from inflaming their drunken militias and he was abandoned by western powers. He once met with some of the leaders of the massacres and one he encountered still had dried blood on his shirt and arm. "I felt that I had shaken hands with the devil... I had given him an opportunity to take pride in his disgusting work," Dallaire writes.

The child soldiers he met in Rwanda were either drugged or completely cowed by their experiences. Without skills, they returned to the bush or took up arms again. The girls who got pregnant after being raped were shunned.

Why am I writing about Dallaire? Because he is a hero for telling this story? Yes. But there is more.

Open the newspaper today and you will read about massacres and rapes in the Sudan and atrocities in the Congo. Zimbabwe is governed by a man so demented that every decision he makes drives his country further down.

Since 1981, the number of people in Africa living in abject poverty has increased 91 per cent.

"Attention must be paid," Willy Loman pleads in the play *Death of a Salesman*. Boy, do we need to pay attention.

Our current and farcical federal political campaign has paid no attention to creating a coherent foreign policy, nor has the Liberal party – or any other – articulated a clear policy for the mission of our military.

Thus we stand unready to act on the world stage in any way to undertake the peacekeeping role Pearson and Dallaire believed Canada should undertake, or be an effective player with a clear sense of foreign policy in any but a reactive mode.

Perhaps it was the western world's unwillingness to fully understand our Holocaust, the one that still resonates today, that has allowed it to ignore Rwanda. Canada, which refused to rescue Jews from Hitler's Europe, has turned its back on another slaughter.

Why should we as Jews care? We have our own crises to deal with, you might say. I disagree.

Unlike Dallaire and many others who have recognized that failure in Rwanda will inevitably lead to more death, poverty, disease and despair, Canada has not bothered to attend to the condition of the billion people on the African continent.

We are mesmerized by Asia and its successes. Yet Africa is a challenge we cannot ultimately escape. Our failure points to the lack of any credible Canadian position on foreign policy. And I haven't even mentioned AIDS.

If we cannot persuade our government to attend to our unrealized potential for good on the world stage, then we have failed to fulfil our roles both as citizens of Canada and as a mitzvah-obligated people.

Those failures will come back to haunt us. Believe it.

Here's to you, Mary Robinson

McGill University should not have given Mary Robinson, the former United High Commissioner for Human Rights, an honorary doctorate on June 4.

The recipients of such honours are meant to be examples to students. Their careers are held up for emulation. But Robinson behaved dishonourably. Her example should be avoided, not followed. During the run-up to the United Nations World Conference Against Racism, and its companion NGO Forum against Racism, held in Durban, South Africa, in September 2001, Robinson acted disgracefully.

David Matas in Winnipeg

I went to Durban for B'nai Brith Canada and became the rapporteur for the Jewish caucus. That role put me in the midst of an anti-Semitic conflagration. Robinson was around when the first sparks were lit, but she did nothing to extinguish the sparks. Instead, she fanned the flames.

While Robinson could not control anti-Zionist governments, she could control what she said and did. Her record shows that she was not prepared to stand up to attempts to turn the conference into an anti-Zionist platform. The office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is a human rights leadership pulpit, one she abused in giving comfort to the anti-Zionist cause.

A series of preparatory regional meetings took place prior to the Durban conference, including one in Tehran for Asia, where Robinson's behaviour amounted to appeasement. Congressman Tom Lantos, the head of the U.S. delegation to Durban, wrote in a 2002 article in the *Fletcher Forum of World Affairs* that she took no action to overcome the ban on attendance by Israeli government representatives. In the other regional preparatory meetings, she opened the meetings with appeals to governments to recognize and confront their own present-day problems with discrimination. In Tehran, however, there was no such appeal.

In a statement to the press after the Tehran conference, which ended with a one sided, anti-Israel concluding document, she congratulated the delegates on their degree of consensus and urged them to carry on in the fight against racism. She characterized the meeting as a productive dialogue between civilizations. When asked about the inflammatory rhetoric directed at Israel, she stated, "The situation in the Palestinian occupied territories was brought up at the meeting and it is reflected in the final declaration."

At a preparatory meeting in Geneva just prior to the Durban Conference, Robinson refused to reject the notion in the draft conference text that the wrong done to the Jews in the Holocaust was equivalent to the pain suffered by the Palestinians in the Middle East. Instead, as Lantos notes, she discussed "the historical wounds" of anti-Semitism and of the Holocaust, on the one hand, and "the accumulated wounds" of displacement and military occupation on the other.

As well, instead of insisting that it was inappropriate to single out Israel in the context of a world conference on racism, she condoned it by referring to the "need to resolve protracted conflict and occupation, claims of inequality, violence and terrorism, and a deteriorating situation on the ground." Lantos writes: "It was clear to me that Mrs. Robinson's intervention during the Geneva talks represented the *coup de grâce* on efforts to save the [Durban] conference from disaster."

At Durban itself, Robinson cried crocodile tears. In response to the travesty of the NGO Forum's concluding declaration, she said she was "disheartened and dismayed" by the inappropriate language accusing Israel of genocide. She called the document "unacceptable and hurtful." When presented with the anti-Semitic literature being distributed there, she said: "When it comes to this, I am a Jew." All very fine, but two-faced and oblivious to her own role in bringing about this result.

In the movie *The Graduate*, Simon and Garfunkel hit exactly the right note with their mocking musical tribute to a woman who seduced a friend of her daughter: "Here's to you Mrs. Robinson. Jesus loves you more than you will know." Well, here's to you Mary Robinson. McGill has honoured you more than you had any reason to expect.

David Matas is senior counsel to B'nai Brith Canada.

The Kirshner File

Reagan was both a friend and critic of Israel

Ronald Reagan had a mercurial, sometimes testy relationship with Israel in his opening four-year term as president of the United States. But generally, he was well-disposed toward Israel, being the first president to formally regard the Jewish state as a strategic ally.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Reagan, who died on June 5, the 37th anniversary of the Six Day War, assumed office in January 1981 with a strong pro-Israel track record. During the 1967 Mideast war, when he was governor of California, he attended rallies on behalf of Israel. Subsequently, he persuaded the state legislature to pass a bill authorizing banks and savings institutions to buy Israel Bonds.

Reagan's pro-Israel tilt was politically smart. In a state with a substantial Jewish community, centred mainly in Los Angeles and its suburbs, how could he not be partial to Israel? Yet Reagan's sentiments toward Jewish causes were formed before Israel's birth as a nation. As a Hollywood actor, Reagan tended to move in Jewish circles, and therefore, he did not perceive Jews as outsiders. In an impressive show of principle, he resigned from a country club in Los Angeles in 1948 over its anti-Semitic admissions policy.

Being a Republican, Reagan could easily have been cool toward Israel. After all, traditional Republicans usually perceived Israel as an impediment to better American ties with the oil-rich Arab world.

Yet Reagan's perception of Israel was different. To Reagan, who won 39 per cent of the Jewish vote in the 1980 presidential election, Israel was a staunch U.S. ally in the struggle to limit Soviet influence in the Middle East. Writing in the *Washington Post* in the wake of the 1979 Islamic revolution in Iran, which toppled the pro-Western Pahlavi monarchy, Reagan observed: "The fall of Iran has increased Israel's value as perhaps the only remaining strategic asset in the region on which the United States can truly rely… Only by full appreciation of the critical role… Israel plays in our strategic calculus can we build the foundation for thwarting Moscow's designs on territories and resources vital to our security."

As a result of his anti-Soviet worldview, Reagan made Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union a centrepiece of his concerted campaign of pressure against Moscow. The Reagan administration nudged Moscow to liberalize its restrictive immigration policy, and by the end of his presidency in January 1989, the trickle of Jews leaving the Soviet Union had increased to something of a torrent. The imprisoned Refusenik, Anatoly (Natan) Sharansky, was one of the prime beneficiaries of this historic realignment.

But Reagan's anti-communism worked both ways. Considering Saudi Arabia a member of the anti-Soviet camp, Reagan fought a pitched battle with Jewish lobbyists after declaring his intention to sell the kingdom five specially-fitted reconnaissance airplanes, known as AWACS. The proposed sale was enthusiastically promoted by defence secretary Caspar Weinberger, a close friend of Reagan who strove to strengthen the United States' links with Saudi Arabia at Israel's expense.

Reagan knew that Menachem Begin, the Israeli prime minister, opposed the $8.5 billion transaction. But Reagan thought that Begin's opposition would be merely perfunctory. When Begin lashed out bitterly at the proposed deal, Reagan took it rather personally. But Israel's opposition was to no avail. Saudi Arabia got its AWACS.

The next crisis to roil Israel's relations with the United States unfolded in June 1981, when Israel destroyed Iraq's nuclear reactor near Baghdad. Reagan's vice-president, George Bush, denounced the attack, and in a fit of pique, the Reagan administration suspended the shipment of F-16 aircraft to Israel and voted for a United Nations Security Council resolution condemning Israel.

Ronald Reagan

Israel's raid angered Washington for two reasons. Though it had yet to re-establish diplomatic relations with Iraq, broken off by Baghdad during the Six Day War, the United States tacitly supported the Iraqis during the interminable Iran-Iraq War.

And the bombing seemed to threaten a pet policy Reagan's first secretary of state, Alexander Haig, had recently developed. Haig's "strategic consensus" doctrine was designed to weld together Western-leaning Arab countries and Israel in an informal anti-Soviet alliance. The Reagan administration was concerned that Israel's strike would undermine it. In fact, Haig's policy was a non-starter because of the refusal of Arab states to be openly associated with Israel in a pro-American entente.

In November of that momentous year, Israel's defence minister, Ariel Sharon, visited Washington, D.C., to sign and seal a Memorandum of Understanding on strategic co-operation. Coming on the heels of the setback in Iran, the agreement was meant to deter Soviet expansionism in the Middle East. The Soviets had recently invaded Afghanistan and had shored up relations with Syria, a client state of long standing, and Washington was clearly worried.

The Memorandum of Understanding would spawn joint Israeli-American military exercises and greater co-operation in intelligence gathering. The pact was expanded in 1988 as Israel was designated "a major non-NATO ally of the United States."

Less than three weeks after Sharon's visit, with the United States preoccupied by the imposition of martial law in Poland, Begin pushed through a Knesset bill applying Israeli law to the Golan Heights, captured by Israel in 1967. To Reagan, Israel's annexation of the Golan smacked of dangerous unilateralism and insensitivity to U.S. interests in the region.

In retaliation, the Reagan administration temporarily suspended the Memorandum of Understanding. Infuriated by what he considered an unfriendly act, Begin asserted that the United States had no right to preach to Israel. In a tirade, he asked, "Are we a vassal state of yours? Are we a banana republic?"

When the dust finally settled, Haig – one of the most pro-Israel figures in Washington apart from Jeane Kirkpatrick, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations – made one last effort to wrap up the faltering talks on Palestinian autonomy. He failed. Israel and Egypt could not agree on the fundamentals of an agreement.

It was left to Reagan to intervene.

On Sept. 1, 1982, he introduced the Reagan peace plan, which was hyped as the "next step" in a process that had begun with the 1978 Camp David accords, president Jimmy Carter's legacy.

Speaking of "the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and their requirements," Reagan proposed a five-year transition period that would lead to Palestinian self-rule and require Israel to freeze construction of new settlements in the territories. Begin opposed the scheme. "What some call the West Bank… is Judea and Samaria, and this simple… truth will never change," he said.

During Reagan's presidency, Lebanon was a constant source of instability.

The so-called Syrian missile crisis was his baptism of fire in Lebanon. It erupted in 1981 after Israel shot down two Syrian helicopters over Mount Lebanon and Syria responded by placing ground-to-air missiles in the Bekaa Valley.

As tensions flared, Reagan appointed a seasoned Arab-American diplomat, Phillip Habib, to mediate. He hammered out a truce, but a fresh crisis emerged when the PLO stepped up its shelling of Israeli settlements in the Galilee.

On June 6, 1982, Israel attacked Lebanon. The war opened a serious though fleeting rift between Israel and the United States. Reagan was furious that Israeli forces had stormed north of a 40-kilometre security zone in southern Lebanon and had taken up positions in Beirut. And Israel's heavy aerial bombardment of Beirut in mid-August prompted Reagan to compare it to the Holocaust. The Phalangist massacre of Palestinian refugees in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps whipped up further tension and emboldened the United States to contribute a contingent of marines to a western peacekeeping force in Beirut. The marines were withdrawn after their barracks was bombed with a high loss of life.

In 1983, American diplomacy suffered a grievous blow when Syria sabotaged a peace agreement between Israel and Lebanon that the new secretary of state, George Shultz, had meticulously brokered.

Tensions flared yet again in 1985 when Jonathan Pollard, a U.S. Navy analyst, was arrested on charges of spying for Israel, and when Reagan visited an SS cemetery in Bitburg, Germany. But these incidents were offset by the signing of a free trade accord.

In 1988, the United States started a dialogue with the PLO, but it was a short-lived exercise in futility, collapsing within about a year-and-a-half.

Reagan's approach to Israel was characterized by emotion, ideology and gut politics, according to Steven Spiegel, a scholar at the University of California.

Reagan could be a passionate friend, but also a withering critic.

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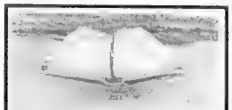
LISA CORISTINE ז"ל
on her tragic and untimely passing.
May the Family be spared further sorrows for many years to come.
חמקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

ב"ה
Associated Hebrew Schools of Toronto
The President and Board of Directors of Associated Hebrew Schools of Toronto express their sorrow on the passing of
Gertrude Miskin ז"ל
Associated Pre-School teacher for 30 years
Her love for Jewish Education and devotion to the children of our school will not be forgotten.
We extend sincere sympathy and condolences to the family.
המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים
Sheldon Carr, *President* — Sheldon Goodman, *Chairman of the Board*

Jewish Life

An essential lesson for leaders

By RABBI RONALD WEISS



Most people believe that justice means the punishment should fit the crime, so it would appear a tremendous injustice is done to Moshe in this week's Torah reading – one imposed by none other than the Almighty himself!

In parshat Chukat, the Almighty prevents Moshe from accomplishing his life's goal of entering Eretz Yisrael.

But what exactly is Moshe's sin?

Immediately after the death of Miriam, the source of water used by the Jews in the desert disappears. Without water, they become so unruly that they eventually say it would have been better if they had died in Egypt rather than been brought "to this evil place, which is no place of seed, or of figs, or of vines, or of pomegranates; neither is there any water to drink."

In response, God commands Moshe and Aaron to "take the rod, assemble the congregation... and speak to the rock before their eyes that it give forth water." God says this action will sanctify him in the eyes of the people who, presumably, will return from their rebellious ways.

Moshe and Aaron gather the Jews together and Moshe "lifted up his hand and smote the rock with his hand twice, causing water to come forth abundantly." But before hitting the rock, he cries out in anger, "Hear now, you rebels, are we to bring forth water out of this rock?"

In response to Moshe's anger, God becomes angry. Moshe's potential for sanctifying God before the people is found wanting. As punishment, he is told that he "shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them."

It's true that Moshe does not precisely follow God's instructions – instead of speaking to the rock, he strikes it. But in his defence, our commentators note that since, in the past, God had commanded Moshe to smite the rock to bring forth water, it was not unreasonable to believe the command applied to the present circumstances.

After all God instructs Moshe to take the staff with him. Was it unusual for Moshe to assume that he was to use it? Furthermore, if God wants to be sanctified via a rock that flowed with water, does it really matter whether Moshe speaks to the rock or strikes it? In either case, the miracle is clear.

The Rambam describes Moshe's punishment in terms of "displaced anger." The main problem is that Moshe calls the people rebels and loses patience with them – he wants to strike them, but hits the rock instead. A leader who is impatient or angry with his charges can't possibly bring them to the next stage of history in the Land of Israel.

What causes this change in Moshe? Up to that point, he demonstrates unlimited and unconditional love, concern and patience for the Jewish people.

Two key events in the last two Torah portions offer insight into how Moshe could move quickly from the heights of compassion for his people to the depths of impatience with their immaturity.

The first is when 10 of the 12 scouts convince the nation to despair and abandon hope of entering the Promised Land. The second is when Korach rebels against Moshe's leadership and not one Jew rises to his defence.

Perhaps these events cause Moshe's devotion to the Jews to waver. It's possible his frustration with their childishness turns into anger.

And who can blame him? The Almighty himself describes the Jews as being incredibly stubborn, a "stiff-necked people." Nevertheless, the message to Moshe, and to us, is clear: a leader must have love and compassion for those he leads, or he must relinquish his leadership to someone who can more easily provide it.

All of us, on occasion, become disappointed and even angry with the people around us. Yet, we should learn from Moshe about the impact our anger can have, and how it can help destroy everything we spend our lives building.

May we always be able to keep our disappointments and anger in perspective and not let them affect our relationships with others.

Rabbi Weiss is director of chaplaincy services at Jewish Family & Child Service.

Tragedy in one split second

By MONA LYNN CHARENDOFF
Special to The CJN

Guest Voice

It was to have been the most magical weekend of their lives. All the guests had replied and family and friends were arriving from out of town. The excitement was overwhelming.

The house was being prepared. The traditional life-size picture of the bar- mitzvah boy was ready, and we, family and friends in Toronto, were all eagerly waiting to leave on our flights to Atlanta, Ga.

A beautiful, loving, brilliant young boy, Michael Benjamin Zalkin, was to be bar-mitzvahed on the first Saturday of June, in the company of his parents, brother and sister and all who loved him.

As I prepared breakfast for my youngest daughter, the phone rang. You know that queasy feeling you get in the pit of your stomach when the phone rings unexpectedly? I had it when I picked up the phone.

I had no idea the impact that phone call would make, nor was I prepared for how it would change forever the lives of so many people.

I learned that on the Thursday afternoon before his bar mitzvah, Michael was tragically struck down and killed by a truck. There was no driver in the truck, but its emergency brake had given way when Michael and his uncle were getting into their car.

It is said we are not to question God, but for me, well, who else does one ask?

As I sat in shul with my husband and my daughters on Friday night, it occurred to me that Michael would never stand on the bimah he was so proud of, nor would he read his portion from the Torah, with his parents by his side.

His rabbi said, and I quote, "Michael was a special kind of individual, one who grasped the understanding of Judaism with love and a deep understanding, a boy who would have made a difference as a man."

When I asked my rabbi for an explanation of the tragedy, he just looked at me and shook his head. Was this an answer that I was to accept?

Why did this happen to Michael and why in God's name did it happen less than 48 hours before he would stand before "HaShem, blessed be He" and prove himself worthy of becoming a respected member of the Jewish community as a man? In one split second, the lives of Michael's family had changed forever.

A bar mitzvah was booked three years ago, and within an hour, we were preparing for a funeral.

My friend, Ilana Stone, was born in Toronto, and found the love of her life, Andy Zalkin, on a blind date. They married and moved, eventually settling in Atlanta.

Again, my original question comes to mind: Where is it written that we must accept the decision of God's... plan? God giveth, and God taketh away, but how much must one endure?

It has been a life-altering experience for me, not to mention Michael's family. Their lives will never be the same, but they are blessed with another son, Adam, and a beautiful daughter, Hailey. In time, they will learn to cope with their loss and continue as a family. There is a great deal of love there, and a wonderful support system, including from members of their community.

But the most important thing that has happened in my life – if I can imagine, from this horrific ordeal, some good has come – is that I have learned that nothing in life means anything if you haven't told the people who matter to you how much you love them.

Moms and dads, sisters and brothers, remember to kiss your kids when you see them, and then kiss them again. Tell your parents how much you love them and don't lose your patience if your bubbie or zaide tells the same story again and again.

You'll never get yesterday back. There's only tomorrow.

Mona Lynn Charendoff lives in Toronto.

Jewish Life

Internet (mis)information quiz

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Last week, we looked at how to spot rumours and hoaxes on the World Wide Web. Now it's time to play a little quiz. See if you can determine which of the rumours making the rounds are true, which are false and which were once true but are now outdated.

1. Starbucks pulled out of Israel in sympathy with Arab boycotts.
2. BMW omitted Israel from a regional map of the Middle East.
3. The kosher slaughter of animals has been banned in Holland.
4. Students in Tennessee collected six million paperclips to construct a memorial for victims of the Holocaust.
5. An Israeli satellite successfully photographed the Space Shuttle Columbia as it exploded over Texas.
6. Designer Tommy Hilfiger said on the Oprah Winfrey Show that he wishes African-Americans, Hispanics, Jews and Asians would not buy his clothes.
7. Online bookseller Amazon.com is partnered with the website Intifada.com.
8. In response to Mel Gibson's film, *The Passion of the Christ*, Steven Spielberg is planning to direct a film about the Crusades.
9. As a teenager, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell learned Yiddish working at a Jewish-owned store in New York.

Answers:

1. False. Starbucks has closed shop in Israel but says that this was strictly a business decision. The Snopes website says Starbucks was a latecomer to the saturated Israeli market and offered little to distinguish itself. **[www.snopes.com/politics/israel/starbucks.asp]**
2. Outdated. The automaker did omit Israel and has apologized. "As a car manufacturer we are not involved in Middle East politics, do not support any of the given political attitudes and did not aim to make any kind of political statement." **[www.adl.org/Internet_Rumors/default. htm]**
3. False. The government of the Netherlands says it has never banned the ritual slaughter of animals. It is true, under Dutch law, that animals must be under anesthesia for slaughter. However, exceptions are made for methods used under Jewish or Muslim law. **[www.truthorfiction.com/rumors/k/kosherslaughter.htm]**
4. True. The project was carried out in the town of Whitwell which has 425 students, all non-Jewish. It was a way to help teach about the enormity of the Holocaust. Note, however, that the students actually collected 28 million paperclips. **[www.truthorfiction.com/rumors/s/studentmemorial.htm]**
5. False. The rumour is not true nor are the accompanying four photographs ostensibly showing the explosion of the Space Shuttle Columbia. The photos are actually from the science fiction film *Armageddon*. **[www.truthorfiction.com/rumors/c/columbiapix.htm]**
6. False. In a detailed denunciation of the rumour on his own website, Hilfiger includes statements of support from Oprah Winfrey and the Anti-Defamation League in addition to his own comment, "I am deeply upset that a malicious and completely false rumour continues to circulate about me. I create my clothing for all different types of people regardless of their race, religious or cultural background." **[www.tommy.com/help/rumor/]**
7. Outdated. Amazon.com does run "associates programs" with many websites that link to the online retailer. However, Amazon.com has "suspended" its relationship with Intifada.com and no links remain between the two sites. **[www.snopes.com/rumors/amazons.htm]**
8. False. Calling it a "vicious, totally fabricated story," Spielberg representative Martin Levy said "nothing could be further from the truth. Anyone who knows Mr. Spielberg would know that he is dedicated to doing what he can to rid the world of hatred and intolerance wherever it exists." **[http://urbanlegends.about.com/library/bl_spielberg_crusades.htm]**
9. True. Powell's family "moved to a largely Jewish neighbourhood in the Bronx, where Powell picked up some proficiency in Yiddish from his neighbours and through working at Sickser's baby equipment store in his teenage years." **[www.snopes.com/glurge/powell.htm]**

So how did you do? 0-2 correct –You understand a little about hoaxes; 3-5 correct – Rumour has it you're learning; 6-7 correct – You're almost an urban legend yourself; 8-9 correct – E-mail maven!

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@ rogers.com.

Living with terrorism

Still Life with Bombers: Israel in the Age of Terrorism **by David Horovitz Random House $38.**

Since the collapse of the Oslo accords in the fall of 2000, almost 1,000 Israelis have died as victims of terror.

This book is an anguished and gripping account of how Israelis pursue their daily lives despite the attempt by Hamas and similar murderous groups to kill and maim as many Israeli civilians as possible.

Books
Bernard Baskin

The author, editor of the widely read and respected biweekly magazine *The Jerusalem Report*, describes his friends and neighbours as on edge and angry – filled with frustration and uncertainty – and, at the same time, resilient and tenacious.

Almost everyone, Horovitz asserts, has had a close call with terrorism or knows someone who has narrowly escaped death or injury.

His wife was driving her children to school one morning last June when the 32A bus in Jerusalem exploded a few feet in front of her, the sound drowned out by loud music in the car.

"Long before the ambulances arrived," Horovitz writes, "before the first policeman had closed off the street, she passed nearby and saw the twisted metal skeleton. As her stomach lurched, she had the exceptional presence of mind to tell the kids to cover their eyes for a moment, which they did, while she executed the next right turn towards school and away from the scene."

The author indicates how Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat deliberately scuttled the peace proposals at Camp David after then-Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak offered "as much as, if not more than, Israel can ever offer for peace, for beyond these concessions lies only national suicide."

Arafat knew, suggests Horovitz, that the Palestinians would eventually outnumber Israelis. Today, there are just over five million Jews and 4.5 million Arabs between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea. By 2020, demographers say, there will be a substantial Arab majority. And that is why, when a genuine chance presented itself at Camp David to achieve statehood for his people on almost all of the land they purported to seek, Arafat spurned it.

In this work of skilful reportage, many voices are heard, including government officials; relatives of murdered victims; suffering Arabs, deprived of basic freedom and subject to daily humiliation; Jewish settlers; peace activists; and university students from the United States.

In a detailed and revealing chapter, *On the Second Battlefield*, the author makes clear how much of the media, especially CNN and BBC – but also newspapers in many countries – are blatantly anti-Israel, as are many one-sided international conferences, including the 2001 NGO meeting and UN conference in Durban, South Africa. It was ostensibly dedicated to battling racism but turned into a festival of Israel bashing.

What hope is there for the future? Lisa, the author's wife, views the situation as hopeless and believes that the Palestinians will never agree to an accommodation – or that the day when they might is so distant that many thousands more will die before we reach it.

She wonders how different things would have been "had we and the Palestinians been blessed with a [Nelson] Mandela rather than an Arafat. I refuse to believe that Palestinian mothers are essentially different from Jewish and Christian mothers. I refuse to believe that their faith obliges them to regard murder and bloody, premature death as the finest ambition for their child."

The author is convinced that the only avenue for maintaining Israel as both a democratic and Jewish state is to reach negotiated settlements for territorial separation from the Palestinians. It will be possible only with a Palestinian leadership that honestly seeks coexistence, he believes.

This poignant and eloquent chronicle ends on a positive note: "My most fervent hope is that this book… can come to be read as history, an account of a bloody bygone era, since superseded by a blessed return to sanity."

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Hearing impairment no barrier for bat mitzvah girl

By CARA EDELL
CJN Intern

As Brooke Wayne proved at her bat mitzvah on May 29, having moderate to severe hearing loss will not prevent her from achieving her goals.

Brooke Wayne

"It was one of the biggest accomplishments of my life. I'm very proud of myself for accomplishing something so big and important," she said.

"It was a blessing to work with Brooke," said Asher Tannenbaum, Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Congregation's ritual director. "She did a remarkable job. It was very emotional."

Her father, Martyn, said his daughter requires two hearing aids, but she can lip read and speak audibly, and she even listens to music.

Winning two public speaking contests for the deaf and hearing impaired in York region's junior and senior divisions has helped Brooke gain confidence in her performing abilities, he said.

And because the bimah is a lot like a stage, she was "not nervous a bit" when she read her portion in shul, he said.

"The service went very well. I wasn't nervous at all," she agreed.

Brooke began practising with Tannenbaum for her bat mitzvah last October. The two met weekly for 30 minutes, routinely running through her Torah portion, Naso, from the book *Bamidbar*.

"It wasn't the usual way of teaching," Tannenbaum said. "I had to burn a CD for Brooke with her portion, because the quality was better than a cassette tape."

Tannenbaum said Brooke is "a very bright individual" who always completed her homework on time.

Because some of the Hebrew words were hard for her to pronounce, Tannenbaum said he transliterated them using English letters. Mastering the cantillations, or notes, that depict the syntactic structure of the text was also made easier by mouthing the sounds and relying on eye contact, he said.

"It was a little tricky with the sounds and pronunciation. I became used to it and I learned new things," Brooke said.

Although she shared her service with another bat mitzvah girl, the spotlight narrowed when it was her turn to read from the Torah.

"There were about 500 people present," said Tannenbaum. "When Brooke was chanting her portion, you could hear a pin drop. The room was that quiet."

Martyn said a signing interpreter helped guests who were also hard of hearing to understand the ceremony, which allowed Brooke's milestone to be enjoyed by all.

A luncheon followed the Saturday morning service, and the family held a Sunday night party at the Richmond Hill Country Club.

Now that her bat mitzvah has passed, Brooke said, "I feel very relieved that I don't have to practise any more."

She has since turned her attention to completing Grade 7 at York Hill Elementary School.

Martyn said a special teacher assists her in the classroom for up to six hours a week. Her marks are in the 80s.

In her spare time, Brooke enjoys arts and crafts, reading Harry Potter novels and listening to her new Avril Lavigne CD. She has also taken part in ballet, swimming, jazz, hip hop, karate and softball.

Grade 2 student sells frozen treats for Third World

By JESSICA HELLEN
CJN Intern

During afternoon recess on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Andrew Shinoff can be found surrounded by a frenzied crowd of impatient students waiting to buy frozen juice pops from him.

Andrew, a Grade 2 student at Forest Hill Public School, started selling the treats last year in Grade 1, when his teacher assigned a project in which students had to help people, animals or the environment.

"I chose to help people, and I chose to help Third World countries," Andrew said.

Andrew's mother Mindy Shinoff, a registered nurse, suggested he raise money for Interplast, a nonprofit organization that provides free reconstructive surgery to needy children and adults in developing countries.

Originally, Andrew wanted to sell lemonade, but after telling his mother they would have to start by buying wood to build a stand, she suggested selling something frozen instead.

"That way we just needed a cooler, which we didn't have to build," Shinoff laughed.

Andrew started pitching his wares on weekends at a nearby park, until the family got the idea to have him sell them at school during recess.

After raising almost $600 last year, Andrew decided to raise money for Interplast every year.

"He got such phenomenal acknowledgement from Interplast," said Shinoff. "They sent him letters and stories about the types of children he's helped."

Andrew has written for the school newsletter and made announcements over the PA system to let fellow students know how much money he is raising.

Andrew Shinoff

Shinoff said Andrew's goal is to raise at least $500 for Interplast each year.

"This year, we've been doing pretty well," he said. "Even though we started just in June, we've raised over $100 so far."

Andrew said the job isn't easy.

"Everyone doesn't line up, they just crowd all around, and we have to do it really fast because recess is only 15 minutes and there's like 50 people!" he said.

Shinoff said Andrew's nanny usually helps him.

"It's very difficult for one person to do by themselves, whether you're seven years old or 27 years old," she said. "It gets pretty crowded, pretty fast."

Shinoff described the scene as "100 kids in a crowd all fighting over the last blue one."

Andrew sells each treat for 75 cents.

"We contribute the freezies, and everything he sells goes to Interplast," Shinoff said.

Andrew said he doesn't mind missing his recess.

"I would rather help other countries than [have my] recess," he said. "We don't want other countries to be really really poor and to be hurt."

Shinoff said Andrew has always been concerned about helping others.

"It's in his nature," she explained.

Andrew's grandfather, Murray Rich, agreed.

"He's a delightful kid and a good boy," Rich said. "I'm pretty proud of him."

Andrew will continue to sell the treats until the end of the school year.

"When school's over, he'll probably [sell them in the park] until he goes to camp, just to make his goal of $500," Shinoff said. "If he passes it, that's a bonus."

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Photo artist donates images to Toronto hospital

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Photo artist May Karp has donated 27 original framed images to the new surgical waiting room at the Toronto General Hospital.

"I hope my gift will add serenity and peace of mind to people who are in an otherwise stressful situation," Karp says. "I have carefully selected these images to reflect the multicultural aspect of Toronto – the people who use this room."

Most of us, she says, will spend time in a hospital, as a patient or as a visitor. "Hospitals can sometimes feel like impersonal places. While busy doctors and staff go about their important work at a demanding pace, many patients and their loved ones endure difficult and potentially life-altering scenarios.

I "spent long hours in waiting rooms during my late mother's bout with breast cancer, There were many times that the anxiety and stress took their toll. That's when I began thinking of a way to improve the experience of others."

Karp formerly worked as a library technician, but when her father retired, she bought and operated his automotive fabric and vinyl business. Ten years ago, she herself retired to travel with her husband, Fred Karp.

She was always interested in many different creative art forms, including painting, batik making and print making. When she retired from business, she decided to pursue her lifelong love of photography, and she always carried a camera with her.

She got positive feedback and encouragement from Sorel Etrog and other photographers, and she began working on her photography in earnest.

Karp has previously donated her photographs to the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care, Mount Sinai Hospital and Princess Margaret Hospital. To date, she has donated more than 100 pieces.

Photo artist May Karp is seen with her photograph titled *Sunscript*, one of the pictures donated to the Toronto General Hospital.

She has had three one-woman shows at the Moore Gallery in Toronto, and her eclectic photographs can be found in corporate offices and private collections throughout North America and Europe, and she has participated in many fundraising events.

The photographs donated to Toronto General were taken in diverse locales. Karp sometimes uses the Sabbatier effect, in which a developing image is exposed to white light during the development process, giving the effect of a partial reversal of the image. She also uses other techniques that she says she has developed herself.

"These transform some of my photos into abstract and painterly images," she says.

"We are thrilled to have May's collection," says Dr. Tyrone David, head of cardiovascular surgery at the United Health Network. "Gifts of this nature benefit everyone. They have a positive and profound effect on families, visitors and volunteers alike."

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Wiesenthal 'spoke for those who could not speak for themselves'

Continued from page 3

In *The Sunflower*, Wiesenthal described how the Jews of a town were herded into a building and how SS units set fire to it. Those trying to flee by jumping out of windows were shot.

While a prisoner at a concentration camp, Wiesenthal learned of the incident from a dying SS man who had participated in the atrocity and wanted a Jew, any Jew, to forgive him. Wiesenthal was summoned to the camp's medical facility, where the young officer, named Karl, told him the story and asked to be forgiven. Wiesenthal remained silent. He is still troubled by the incident and has asked many theologians and thinkers what they would have done in his place.

The school's dance interpretation of the moral dilemma was one of the many highlights of a program that honoured Wiesenthal's 60-year effort to preserve the memory of Nazism's victims by bringing their killers to justice.

Rabbi Meyer May, executive director of the centre's Los Angeles office, said Wiesenthal "spoke for those who could not speak for themselves, for children not able to be adults and for parents not able to become grandparents."

He noted that despite the hope after the Holocaust that such events could never happen again, "Cambodia, Rwanda, Kosovo happened. Today, the threat of international terrorism hangs over us."

As part of its mission to teach mutual respect and tolerance, the Wiesenthal Center is planning to establish a "Center for Human Dignity; Museum of Tolerance" in Jerusalem.

The evening's program, which raised $650,000 for the centre's Canadian operations, was hosted by CBC personality Evan Solomon.

Israel's chief Sephardi rabbi visits Canada

Continued from page 1

that some rabbis and religious council employees have suffered a complete loss of remuneration. On a positive note, he said the unpaid workers likely generated goodwill by not going on strike, even though it had been suggested to them as their only option.

Rabbi Amar is optimistic that the situation will improve, because there has been a staffing change in the office of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

A native of Morocco who made aliyah as a young teenager, Rabbi Amar served as a rabbinic court judge from 1982 until 2002, when he was unanimously acclaimed chief rabbi of Tel Aviv – a "miraculous" accomplishment, noted Rabbi Assayag in his introduction, alluding to the rarity of consensus among Israelis.

In the year since Rabbi Amar was appointed to his current position, he has met with Pope John Paul II in Rome, and with King Mohammed VI of Morocco, among his other duties.

Referring in part to his meeting with the Pope, whom he visited in January along with Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yona Metzger to discuss Catholic-Jewish relations, Rabbi Amar noted that he has worked more with Christian counterparts than with Muslims. However, he noted, he has had contact with Muslim clerics from outside of Israel and also with a local Palestinian sheik who "claims he wants to work towards peace," an idea Rabbi Amar described as "still on a slow burner."

"We're always happy to have an opportunity for interchange," he said. "We believe that when [Muslim leaders] gain courage to come forward and speak, that will bring peace closer."

Rabbi Amar's meeting with Mohammed VI last July led to a meeting in Morocco of Moroccan-born rabbis, at the initiative of the rabbi. A planned meeting between rabbis and Muslim clerics was cancelled, but Rabbi Amar expects it will be rescheduled later this year.

Despite socio-economic gaps and wide variations in religious observance among Jews in Israel, Rabbi Amar believes the population is united by a desire for a "Jewish vision" for the country.

He believes that, even more than security issues, class differences and extremism on the part of some elements in both the secular and religious communities constitute the most serious problems facing the Jewish community in Israel.

Rabbi Amar feels that part of his mission is to bridge the gap, he said. "We're all Jews. We all believe in the same religion. Some are more observant, some are less observant."

Referring to recent news that former chief Sephardi rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron advocated putting an end to the rabbinate's monopoly on performing marriages in Israel, Rabbi Amar said he has great respect for his predecessor, but could not explain how he came to that conclusion.

In his talk, Rabbi Amar urged listeners to study Torah, which he described as the Jewish nation's source of stability and "the only thing that will bring the final redemption."

Following his visit to Toronto, the rabbi went to Montreal to take part in the Quinzaine Sépharade de Montréal, a major Sephardi cultural event.

Knife-wielding restaurateur threatens Kashruth Council staff

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

A knife-wielding restaurant owner will face a variety of assault and weapons charges after he threatened staff at the Kashruth Council in the Lipa Green Building last Friday.

Police were called to the Kashruth Council's second-floor offices after a man brandished a large kitchen knife and expressed anger at his difficulties in receiving kosher certification for his business, said Len Rudner, director of community relations for Canadian Jewish Congress, which is also located in the Lipa Green Building.

By the time police arrived, Kashruth Council staff had wrested the knife away and building security had been called, Rudner said.

Det. Mike Stones of 32 Division said the individual would be charged and held overnight pending a bail hearing. He said the incident involved "a dispute over licensing" and that the only person hurt was the accused, who was cut for two stitches in his hand when he tried to take the knife back.

Stones would not release the name of the individual until he had been formally charged.

Rudner said the individual was familiar to the building's security staff and was not prevented from entering the facility. "There was no reason to suspect him," he said.

Rudner said Congress officials could not recall a similar incident at the Bathurst Street community building. "Whenever an occurrence like this takes place, it presents an opportunity to evaluate security measures," he added.

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Hitting the streets for One Hot Day

By WENDY LAMPERT
UJA Federation

For Ben Mogil, being a Jew is about giving back.

And he sees no better way to do that than by rolling up his sleeves and getting right down to the business of helping others through One Hot Day, a program run by the volunteers of Hands on Toronto, an initiative of UJA Federation's Young Adult Division (YAD).

One Hot Day, now in its fifth year, will be held Sunday, June 27. Young Jewish people from across Toronto will participate in 10 hands-on projects throughout the GTA that will give them a chance to make a tangible difference in the lives of those in need.

"*Tikun Olam* (repairing the world) is one of the basic tenets of Judaism, and that's why it's so important for us to go out in the community and help others in need," said Mogil, who is chairing One Hot Day with Sharlene Milgram.

At least 100 young people are expected to take part in at least one of the projects around the city, which include helping out with gardening and outdoor clean-up at the Kehilla Centre; at downtown youth shelters or on the Oak Ridges Moraine; spending time with adults and children with developmental disabilities at Reena; giving the elderly spa treatments at a local retirement home; making sandwiches for the homeless; packing food at the Second Harvest Food Bank; helping a newly arrived family get settled in their homes; and new this year, helping out at the Wildlife Centre through cleaning and making repairs. Following the projects, participants will celebrate their success at a Bathurst Jewish Community Centre barbecue.

"Everyone has an obligation to give back, and this is a great way to get involved in a meaningful project where participants will see tangible results by the end of the day," Mogil noted. "Everyone walks away feeling good."

"This is a great opportunity for young people to help others in need, while having fun at the same time," added Milgram. "Being a part of this program makes me proud to be Jewish," she said.

Mogil noted that One Hot Day is a great way for people to introduce their friends to new ways to volunteer. "Often people bring their friends with them – the more the better," he said.

Jennifer Verschraegen, Coordinator of Volunteers and Development at Second Harvest Food Bank, said her organization is always excited when UJA Federation volunteers walk through the door.

"Every time they come out, they're providing at least 15,000 pounds of food to our agencies, so that much more food can get to the front lines of hunger. It really makes a difference," she said.

Verschraegen noted how impressed she has always been by these young volunteers. "Whenever we get a group through UJA Federation, they're always extremely happy to be here, and they are extremely productive. The level of involvement they give is really outstanding."

Members of UJA Federation's One Hot Day program pitched in last summer, helping to clean a garden at toronto's Anshei Minsk synagogue. Those with the green thumbs are: (l-r) Marni Banack, Eli Mogil, Ben Mogil and Robyn Kaiser.

Former emissary from Israel returns to build bridges in informal education

Natan Kandler just can't seem to get enough of Toronto.

Natan Kandler

The former shaliach (emissary from Israel) to Toronto, who served as the student activities coordinator at Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto from 1996 to 2000, is coming back to the city for another posting starting in August. This time he'll be working at UJA Federation's Board of Jewish Education as head of the educational delegation to Canada, replacing Channa Pinchasi, who will be returning to Israel after serving in Toronto for three years.

Kandler, who was born in London and made aliyah with his family at the age of four, is an informal educator with a Master's degree in education and a rabbinical ordination. Prior to his first stint in Toronto, he founded a program in schools across Israel offering seminars and lectures on Judaism. Since his departure from Toronto in 2000, Kandler has been the director of youth activities for the Shomron Regional Council.

Dr. Seymour Epstein, Vice President of Education for UJA Federation, cites Kandler's great success both in the classroom and in informal education for the decision to bring him back to Toronto.

"What impressed us most was that, while he represents the very best of Israeli educators, he also has a very positive feeling about Diaspora Jewish youth, and he sees himself very much as a community educator with pluralist values. He manages to demonstrate deep respect for all the various movements in contemporary Jewish life," he said.

"Natan was able to relate very professionally to his colleagues, but at the same time, students instinctively felt he was someone who understood young people - he could get them involved," added Paul Shaviv, CHAT's Director of Education, who worked with Kandler during his last posting in Toronto.

"This is a great opportunity for me to build another significant bridge between Israel and the Jews in Toronto," Kandler said of his return. "The relationship between the Diaspora and Israel is one of the most important issues to explore, and I think I have something important to contribute to this relationship."

Kandler cites several goals for his two-to-three-year stay in Toronto.

"I would like to have an impact on the informal education structure in the city by getting involved with youth movements and Jewish camps. I would also like to really bring Toronto's Jewish community to Israel, and bring Israel to Toronto," he said.

That shouldn't be hard for a man who was loved by his students and respected by his colleagues.

"I felt embraced by Toronto when I was here in 1996. I look forward to reconnecting with all of my friends and former students upon my return," he added.

Torontonians meet Israel's finest

Ariel Waks (2nd from left) and Cole Rotman, participants on UJA Federation's recent Prime Minister's Mission – chaired by 2005 Campaign chairs Robert Harlang and Chuck Winograd - met with Israeli firefighters at the Israel Fire & Rescue Services Academy near Tel Aviv. The Academy recently purchased a new fire truck with UJA Federation Israel emergency campaign funds.

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The changing face of Jewish Toronto

Report cites shifts in population

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA Federation

While Horace Greeley once urged, "go west, young man," it's Jewish Toronto's northern and southern fringes that continue to see unprecedented growth today, while some more traditional neighbourhoods, once synonymous with Jewish Toronto, are experiencing just the opposite.

These are just some of the findings from a recent report, published by UJA Federation. The report, based on data collected from the 2001 census, was written by Charles Shahar - chief researcher, national demographic study on the Jewish population of Canada.

Not surprisingly, Toronto Jewry - which currently stands at 180,000 - continues to "go the way of the cottage", migrating north to York Region, where the Jewish population increased from roughly 1,500 in 1971 to almost 60,000 in 2001.

"I've lived in Vaughan my entire life," says Debby Starr, a 44-year-old Richmond Hill mother of four. "I grew up in Thornhill and I've always felt very comfortable here. I'm very excited about the new Jewish community project in Vaughan that should be up and running in a few years too. So are my kids."

While the majority of Jewish York Region residents live in Vaughan, Thornhill, Richmond Hill or Markham, the ongoing northerly trend has spread even further to Aurora and Newmarket. In the last ten years, Aurora's Jewish community has grown by almost 800 individuals, while Newmarket Jewry has grown by an impressive 81 percent, or 330 new Jewish residents.

Meanwhile, Toronto's Jews are moving south as well at an impressive clip into the city core. At least 21,000 Jews now live south of St. Clair Avenue.

"This increase is similar to the gains experienced in the previous two decades," says Shahar. "In short, there is a continuing momentum for population growth in the downtown Jewish community."

For example, the youthful Beaches district - a place known more for its cafes, frozen yogurt, and roller-blading than it's Jewish content - has quietly, yet steadily, become more attractive for Jewish residents over the past three decades.

The Jewish population of the Beaches and the Danforth area, also known as Toronto's 'Greektown' for its distinctive architecture and prominent restaurants, has more than doubled in that time. It is among the fastest growing Jewish populations in Toronto.

At the other end of that spectrum is Bathurst Manor, known simply as "the Manor" by Jewish Torontonians, where the Jewish population has declined by 36 percent over the last two decades, after peaking in 1981.

"My best guess is that some of the elderly residents in these areas have been dying in the last 20 years and younger families have not necessarily been moving there to replenish it, so the population started to decline," says Shahar.

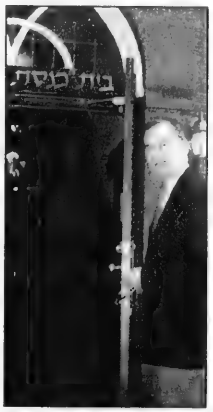
One resident of the Manor with no plans to leave is Norma Richmond, who, after arriving from Montreal 17 years ago, made the area her home.

"Growing up in England, I really didn't have much chance to participate in Jewish life," she says. "I truly enjoy living in a real Jewish area today. I especially love the fact that, while I'm so close to downtown, I have parks and open spaces here that I absolutely love."

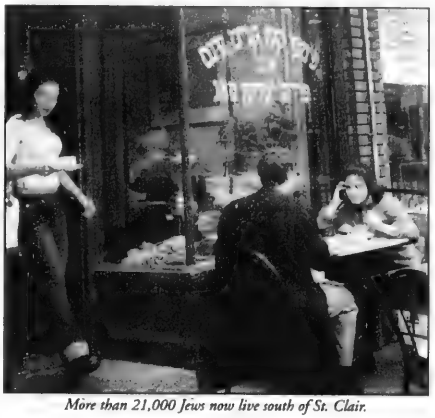
The report also showed a small decrease of 4,000 in the last decade for the central Jewish community between St.Clair and Steeles Avenue.

"The 1981 Census marked the peak year for the Jewish population here, with a total of almost 100,000 individuals," says Shahar. "In fact, there were 4 times as many Jews here then as the downtown and northern regions combined."

But some central Jewish neighbourhoods have enjoyed significant increases. For example, the Jewish population of the Lawrence and Wilson district has not only grown by 28 percent, it's also among the fastest growing Jewish neighbourhoods in Toronto.



Arie Nerman, President of the Beach Hebrew Institute and a member of the shul for more than 30 years.



More than 21,000 Jews now live south of St. Clair.

Bathurst Street remains the hub of Jewish life in Toronto as seen here during UJA Federation's 2003 Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration.

Off the beaten track!

A growing Jewish population in Aurora? What about up in Newmarket? Steady Jewish growth in Oakville? Twenty years ago it may have seemed like science fiction, but today, it's reality.

The number of Jews living in Aurora has been increasing steadily as the migration north continues. In the last 10 years, the Aurora Jewish community has grown by close to 800 individuals.

Newmarket's Jewish presence is 81 percent larger than it was in 1991.

Between 1991 and 2001, the Jewish community of Oakville experienced a significant gain with an increase of 67 percent, or 515 individuals. Oakville's Jewish population has been growing since 1971, but the gain of the last decade has been the most noteworthy.

Jews continue to migrate to outlying areas of the GTA.
(Photo by Eve Marks)

Portrait of our community

- Over two-thirds of Jews living in the Greater Toronto area reside along the Bathurst Street corridor, between Dufferin and Yonge.
- The Jewish population of York Region increased from 1,500 in 1971 to almost 60,000 in 2001.
- Toronto's downtown Jewish population continues to flourish today. Currently, there are more than 21,000 Jews living south of St. Clair Avenue.
- The neighbourhood with the highest density of Jewish elderly is Bathurst Manor. More than a third (38.6 per cent) of Jews in "the Manor" are senior citizens.
- Richmond Hill's Jewish community is the youngest in the GTA with a median age of 32.5 years.
- The Jewish populations of Caledon, Orangeville, King, Milton and Halton Hills are rather small but they have been increasing in the last decade.
- The Annex / Bloor West / Yorkville Jewish population has been steadily rising over the last three decades.
- The Jewish population of the High Park and Junction districts has been increasing in the last three decades.
- Markham has by far the largest percentage of Jewish teens and young adults between the ages of 15 and 24. They represent the children of middle-aged adults, who dominate the age distribution of Markham Jews. The lowest proportion of Jews 14-24 is found east of Bathurst on Finch and Steeles.

Any questions concerning information or photos that appear on these pages should be directed to jewishtorontonews@ujafed.org

JEWISH TORONTO IS PUBLISHED AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

Tory hopes for 'quantum shift' in Jewish vote

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

In politics, name recognition can go a long way and Ken Dryden, a former Stanley Cup-winning goaltender for the Montreal Canadiens who is now president of the Toronto Maple Leafs, has it in spades.

York Centre

One of the Liberal Party's star candidates, plunked by the party into the York Centre riding vacated by former defence minister Art Eggleton, he is facing a spirited campaign from Conservative Michael Mostyn and New Democrat Peter Flaherty.

Despite their opponent's high profile and the fact the riding has been held by the Liberals since the 1960s, both Mostyn and Flaherty believe Dryden – or any Liberal for that matter – is vulnerable given the widespread revulsion at the government's sponsorship scandal and the spillover from Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty's broken promises.

From left, Ken Dryden, Peter Flaherty and Michael Mostyn

Mostyn, a 30-year-old lawyer, is clearly on the offensive, attempting to turn Dryden's star power against him, arguing that he, unlike the Hockey Hall of Famer, actually resides in the riding and has "deep connectedness in the community." As for Dryden's storied hockey career, Mostyn points out that while his opponent played in the NHL, he plays at Chesswood Arena, smack in the middle of the riding.

The riding is 25 per cent Jewish, with sizeable Italian and Hispanic communities as well. It is bounded by Highway 401 to the south, Jane Street and Keele Street to the west and the west branch of the Don River on the east. Since the 2000 election, York Centre has acquired a slice of the Willowdale riding south of Steeles Avenue up to Finch Avenue, running from Bathurst to Yonge streets.

"It's disrespectful of the Liberals to parachute in a candidate," Mostyn argues.

People in the area want change and they want local people to deliver it, he says. They want the "mess" at Downsview Park cleaned up without parts of it sold off, and they back the Tories' tough law and order platform, he says.

Flaherty, a retired teacher and longstanding NDP campaign worker, says he has found "strong disillusionment with the Liberal government" among voters, who are demanding accountability and integrity. He is pushing the NDP's perspective on "the green economy – that you can have clean environment and create jobs" – as well as the party's claim it is "the most likely to stand for a not-for-profit health system."

Flaherty, who was parachuted into York Centre after the riding association could not field a local candidate, castigates the Liberals for breaking their promise to turn Downsview into a park.

For his part, Dryden acknowledges that in campaigning, he is finding no shortage of people eager to "vent. But people's entire feelings aren't captured in a vent, so what else is beneath it?"

He responds to their anger by telling them that "the last 10 years have been good, haven't they?"

Unemployment and interest rates are down and the deficit has been eliminated. After pointing that out, "people agree," he says.

Dryden, not known for the 10-second sound bite, gives as good as he gets when questioning his opponents' qualifications.

"Ask the other candidates, 'Where else have you been? What are your experiences? What has tested you?'"

Although he doesn't live in the riding, Dryden says "if you grow up in Toronto, you have a significant understanding of North York as well as York Centre. It's not a little pocket where the experience is different than elsewhere."

> ***Riding was held by former defence minister Art Eggleton***

Dryden says while researching a book on education, he witnessed firsthand the multicultural face of Toronto schools. Voters should ask themselves "which party best understands that part of Canada?" The Tories, he says, "are less comfortable with that reality of Canada and less excited by it, more ambivalent about it, less proud of it."

Although Eggleton won the riding in 2000 by 20,000 votes, Mostyn is convinced that Jews, who traditionally back the Grits in large numbers, are ready to change their votes.

"There's a quantum shift happening in the Jewish community," he asserts. "Jews feel betrayed" by the government's record on Israel.

"[Foreign Minister] Bill Graham met with [Palestinian Authority President] Yasser Arafat when he was isolated by the whole world," Mostyn notes.

As well, Liberal MP Tony Valeri met with Hezbollah representatives after that organization was declared a terrorist group, and as for MP Carolyn Parrish, just check her website, he says.

Stockwell Day, who could be named foreign minister in a Conservative government, "is a friend of Israel due to its democratic nature," says Mostyn, who attended the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, is a member of the Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue and is active with Toronto Jewish Free Loan Cassa.

Flaherty says he has canvassed Jewish neighbourhoods, but only one person mentioned disappointment with the NDP's policy on Israel. He acknowledges that some voters feel the NDP is too critical of Israel, but that criticism is limited to specific "policies in handling the current crisis." That does not include criticism of Israel as a state within secure borders, he says.

Flaherty, 56, agrees that "there is an absence of a negotiating partner for Israel. Arafat is corrupt and he prevents the emergence of an alternative leadership."

As for Israel's security barrier, Flaherty says, "I have a problem with any wall, but as a least bad solution, it might be necessary.

"I know it's a lot to ask Israel to show restraint when its citizens are being massacred," he adds.

Dryden says the Liberal Party is "not neutral on Israel at all… I think what all of us know deep down is the importance of Israel, the need for there to be a place that is safe, secure and sustainable."

Canada has negotiated a free trade agreement with Israel, and as for the support of UN resolutions critical of the Jewish state, Dryden says, "I know it's an irritant… I know sensitivities are there for a reason. We must be more aware of the irritation that comes with those votes, that the resolutions may be of no formal sanction, but they have some significant psychological effect on people… We have to be more sensitive to that."

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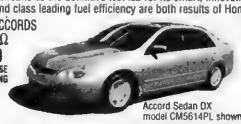
Accord Sedan DX model CM5614PL shown

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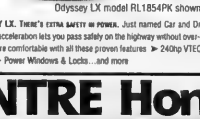
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Federal Election '04

Canada should judge each UN resolution on its merit: Martin

Continued from page 1

CJN: *Do you believe there should be a greater emphasis on persuading Palestinians to end terror as a prerequisite to peace negotiations, and what role do you see Canada's playing in that regard?*

Martin: I certainly think there should be huge effort to dissuade terrorism in Palestine and obviously anywhere, but certainly in Palestine. I continue to support the Road Map [peace plan] and I would really hope that while there are many bumps along the way, that one can bring that about. Do I think there should be a huge effort to dissuade Palestinians from terrorism? The answer is unequivocally "yes."

CJN: *And a public role for Canada?*

Martin: I think we all understand the role the United States plays, and that it has the prime role. I've certainly discussed with both Israelis and Palestinians that Canada would be prepared to play whatever role we possibly could in helping to bring about peace. In fact, I had discussions with the Israelis not long ago on this very issue and said, "Listen, we are prepared to do whatever is required of us."

CJN: *Another major concern to members of our community has been Canada's voting record on Israel at the United Nations.*

'I think the Road Map is right now the best chance we have'

Martin: Let me just say that I've spoken on that. I understand that. I've made it very clear… that we should judge every single instance on its merits. This idea that neutrality can lead to an evening out, I don't buy. I think every individual instance should be judged on its merit.

CJN: But do you think Canada should take a more principled stand on all anti-Israel resolutions at the UN?

Martin: I think Canada should judge each resolution on its merit. I think we understand, at times, the dynamic of the United Nations. I think we should be prepared to say, whether it be the United Nations or whether it be what happened at the [2001 UN World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa], that this is not the way we are going to achieve peace and that certainly would not reflect my views. I just go back to it: The legitimacy of the Jewish State of Israel is an essential part of my concept of what our policy should be toward Israel. And it really all flows from that.

CJN: *In commenting on Israel's assassination of Hamas leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, you said Israelis "have every right and responsibility to protect themselves," yet you asked whether the move was "conducive to the peace process." Do you see a contradiction there?*

Martin: Not at all. I made it very clear that Israel has the right to defend itself. But the question of whether [the assassination] was conducive [to peace] is one that many people have raised. And I didn't answer it, by the way. I simple raised the issue as have many others, including the United States.

Ultimately, the goal has got to be the safety and security of the people living in the region. And that means the Road Map to Peace. But Israel's right to defend itself is an absolute given.

CJN: *In 1990, when you were running for the Liberal leadership, you said you supported a land-for-peace formula. Do you think that's out of date?*

Martin: I think the Road Map, despite problems, is right now the best chance we have. I think the security of Israel's borders is the pre-eminent concern.

CJN: *What will your party do to combat anti-Semitism in Canada and internationally and ensure the protection of Jewish and other vulnerable communities?*

Martin: I spoke out immediately after the bombing of [United Talmud Torahs] school in Montreal. And I will speak out against every instance of that kind. I've met with many Jewish leaders in the country [and] I think everybody agrees that the real answer lies in education and it has to lie in education at the earliest years. When I was minister of finance, I set aside [money] to fund that kind of [anti-racist] education [program]. I'm disappointed that the take-up on it hasn't been nearly as strong as it should be. But I believe that we've simply got to make it so clear how unacceptable it is to engage in anti-Semitism or any other form of racism in this country.

Internationally, I believe we should be consistently speaking out against it, which I have in Europe. I also engaged in bilateral [relations] with a number of the G8 leaders on the issue. I believe we should be, as the G8, speaking with one voice, and that one voice is to not tolerate racism of any kind. And I've got to say, I've been pretty outspoken on this issue. I think Irwin Cotler – and I'm the one who made him minister of justice – has been a tremendous voice for Canada.

CJN: *In 1999, the UN censured Canada with respect to Ontario's policy on funding Catholic schools but not other faith-based schools. How would your government correct the discrimination in Ontario?*

Martin: Well, that's a provincial matter. One thing that I have learned as a federal politician, you comment on provincial jurisdiction at your peril.

CJN: *I ask because it was Canada that was named.*

Martin: Yes, I understand.

CJN: *The Liberals are going into this election with seven consecutive balanced budgets and the strongest economy in the G8, yet are behind in the polls. How do you explain that?*

Martin: First of all, based on the most recent polls, we're neck and neck [with the Conservatives]. I think the economy should be much more front-and-centre than it is. I think we've provided excellent management of the economy and the results are seen in the 100,000 jobs created over the last two months, low inflation and strong confidence in the business community. But there have been examples of waste in government and they've upset people, and they've upset me. That's why I brought in a whole series of measures to deal with them. I think that we've just got to make it very clear to people that we understand that you treat taxpayers' dollars as if they were your own. I think we could have a better job in that area. We're going to do a heck of a lot better job going ahead.

'Our support internationally for Israel cannot flinch'

CJN: *Do you have a parting message for Canada's Jewish community?*

Martin: Well, I've been very close to Canada's Jewish community, as was my father before me. I think we all understand the evolution of anti-Semitism, that we are all very concerned about it. I believe that the answer is that political leaders in this country have got to speak out forcefully on the issue whenever the occasion presents itself. I believe that our education system has to take into account the need to deal with it. And I believe that our support internationally for Israel cannot flinch. We have always supported the legitimacy and security of the Jewish state. And we must continue to do so.

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Federal Election '04

Swastikas found on Conservative election signs

By RON STANG
Special to the CJN

WINDSOR, Ont. – In the second such local incident during the federal election campaign, the Conservative candidate for Windsor West, Jordan Katz, had nine of his election lawn signs defaced with spray-painted swastikas.

Windsor West

Katz, who is Jewish, has decided to leave the signs on the lawns in the south Windsor neighbourhood where they were disovered last week. He has placed a small Canadian flag, as well as a new election sign, beside each one, in order to "demonstrate that Canadians won't stand for this sort of thing."

He said the idea to leave the defaced signs was proposed by the owners of the properties they were found on.

"I would prefer that the signs be left up to demonstrate to everyone that we must always be vigilant against this sort of thing. It's not something that we can ever pretend is going away, ever pretend isn't an issue."

Windsor police are investigating the incidents as a hate crime.

Bernie Farber, executive director of the Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region, said that regardless of whether Katz was targeted as a Jew or a Conservative, "the idea of any Canadian comparing any Canadian political party with the Nazis is outrageous."

Katz, a former manager in the casino industry who is running in his first election, said he wasn't entirely surprised by the vandalism.

"I was expecting some sort of public reaction because I'm Jewish." Yet, he added, "you're always surprised when you're faced with this type of hatred and intolerance."

Earlier in the campaign, Rick Fuschi, the Conservative candidate in the neighbouring riding of Windsor-Tecumseh, who is not Jewish, also had about 50 signs defaced.

"There were a variety of creative things on them, but many of them had swastikas," Fuschi told *The CJN*.

Fuschi also left some of the larger defaced signs up for a couple of days, "just so people could have a look and be aware that it was happening." Police are also investigating, but suspect the vandalism is not hate-inspired. Fuschi, who is running a second time for federal office after losing a 2002 by-election, said the event "did startle me. I wasn't expecting anything of this kind."

Katz received support in his own riding from Liberal candidate Richard Pollock, a federal prosecutor, and incumbent NDP MP Brian Masse, who applauded him for publicizing the issue.

But some callers to a radio talk show suggested Katz was keeping the signs up for political gain. A couple of callers also suggested there were no sinister motives behind the vandalism, just youthful pranksters.

Fuschi said he does not believe the social climate in Windsor has become more intolerant. "The only thing that has changed in Windsor from this election to the last is that the Conservatives are actually in a run for the money," and could be "a threat" to other parties.

The Conservatives are leading handily in an adjacent riding, Essex, home of incumbent Liberal and former cabinet minister Susan Whelan, and Fuschi himself is running neck-and-neck with NDP incumbent Joe Comartin in Windsor-Tecumseh, according to the latest *Windsor Star* poll.

Last month, vandals spray-painted signs on the campaign signs of Liberal house leader Jacques Saada, a Tunisian-born Jew running in the Montreal-area riding of Brossard-La Prairie.

Jewish MP optimistic about re-election in Winnipeg

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Liberal Anita Neville, MP for Winnipeg South Centre, is cautiously optimistic about her chances of recapturing the seat she won for the first time in the 2000 federal election.

"We are just getting rolling," she said when contacted a day after Prime Minister Paul Martin called the election for June 28. "I am always concerned at the beginning of a campaign. You never know what issues will come up. I hope to receive strong support from my Jewish constituents."

Winnipeg South Centre

Neville, the only Jewish candidate running for one of the three major parties in Manitoba, represents the Winnipeg riding with the largest Jewish population. Between 60 and 70 per cent of Winnipeg's Jews live in the affluent riding, which has 55,000 voters out of a total population of almost 78,000.

Neville served for many years as a school trustee for Winnipeg School Division No. 1 before winning the seat previously held by former foreign minister Lloyd Axworthy.

She says she worked hard on a number of issues of concern to the Jewish community during her first term.

"I co-chaired Liberal Parliamentarians for Israel, along with Art Eggleton," she notes. "I also advocated within caucus on concerns the Jewish community had on our relations with Israel, as well as local Jewish concerns."

Neville notes she is also greatly involved in the Jewish community's Grow Winnipeg campaign, which aims to increase the size of the city's Jewish population to 18,000 by 2010. (The Jewish population, estimated at between 14,000 and 15,000, has been augmented in the past couple of years by about 600 new arrivals from Argentina, Israel and the former Soviet Union. In addition to immigration, Grow Winnipeg is also working to attract back former Winnipeggers who have moved elsewhere and to persuade young people to stay.)

Neville's Conservative opponent, Raj Joshi, is equally confident about his prospects. "We think this riding is winnable," he says. "Realignment has brought in some areas with a significant number of Conservative voters."

Although this is his first run for office, Joshi had worked for the former Progressive Conservative Party for a number of years and was president of the PCs at McGill University in the mid-1990s. At the time, he was also actively involved on the "No" side in the Quebec referendum in 1995.

Joshi has a bachelor of engineering from McGill and an MBA from Oxford University. He worked in Melbourne, Australia, and Afghanistan before returning to Winnipeg last year.

Joshi says he stands firmly behind Israel and strongly opposes terrorism noting that his family's homeland, India, also confronts terrorism. He also says he doesn't support the right of the Palestinians to return to what is now Israel.

But, he adds, "I believe in basic human rights," saying, "I think good fences can make for good neighbours. I know most Jews and Israelis feel for the plight of the Palestinians."

Referring to the lenient sentences handed out to the young adults who vandalized the Hebrew Sick Cemetery here five years ago, he is also calling for stronger sentences in hate crime cases to send a real message.

NDP candidate James Allum is running for the second time in the riding. He received 20 per cent of the vote in 2000.

"We did very well last time, and we are building on that momentum," he says. "People have an appetite for change and they know me from the last campaign."

Allum is the City of Winnipeg's Environmental co-ordinator. He also teaches part-time at the University of Winnipeg and chairs the Manitoba Heritage Council.

On the subject of the Middle East, he describes the Arab-Israeli conflict as complex. "I would like to find some way for the Israelis and the Palestinians to live in peace with each other," he says. "Canada has a great tradition of promoting peace and prosperity."

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Coast to Coast

A myth that must be laid to rest

In an interview with Jordan's King Abdullah on June 14, NBC news anchor Tom Brokaw raised the subject of growing anti-Americanism in the Arab world. Abdullah said that only when the "core issue" of the Middle East is solved can other problems be addressed. And what for him is the core issue? The Israeli-Palestinian conflict, of course.

According to Reports
By PAUL MICHAELS

Brokaw then asked: "Can the United States ever get back to a favourable position as long as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict continues at the level it is now?"

Abdullah's answer was breathtaking: "No. And none of us have any hope for a true future in the Middle East, *or the rest of the world for that matter*, if we don't solve this critical core issue of the Middle East." (emphasis added) Brokaw followed up by meekly asking Abdullah about Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's responsibility for the ongoing conflict and about why there isn't more condemnation of suicide bombers by him and other Arab leaders.

What Brokaw failed to question is the underlying assumption espoused as a mantra by virtually all Arab leaders: that solving their internal problems – repressiveness, economic backwardness and often corrupt regimes – depends on a resolution to a conflict that they themselves have spent decades fuelling precisely because they always had a good excuse for not looking their own failures directly in the eye.

To hear Abdullah (who, after all, has a peace agreement with Israel) proclaim that solving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is the key to the future of the world, not only to the Middle East – and to see this go unchallenged by Brokaw – reveals the sad state of thinking that prevails in so much of the world.

That the fate of nearly seven billion people rests on the actions of some five million Jews occupying an infinitesimal fraction of the earth is a stunning, absurd idea that needs to be laid to rest once and for all.

The *Globe and Mail* editorial, "Why delay reforms in the Arab world?" (June 10) took a stab at doing precisely that. It deflated the reigning myth prevalent not only in the Arab/Muslim world, but in much of the West, too – that solving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a precondition for achieving reform in Arab states.

The *Globe* argues that while a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian dispute "would ease tensions in the Arab world," it would not solve them. In the meantime, "[t]here is no earthly reason why Arab leaders cannot carry out the reforms that their people so desperately need. For years they have been using Israel as an excuse for their own failures."

In the Brokaw interview, Abdullah also insisted that "if you want to deal with terrorism, you have to deal with the core issue in the Middle East, which is the Israeli/Palestinian one. That is the main recruiter for terrorism."

Again, the *Globe* had the right response: "It will not wash anymore. It is obvious to the whole world that the Arab world cries out for change. No other region suffers such a deficit of political and economic freedom. That deficit [not Israel] fuels terrorism, because it leaves no outlet for the energies and frustrations of its people, who are often condemned to unemployment and misery because their governments stifle opportunity."

The *Globe* has dealt a blow to the myth that, somehow, if the Arab-Israeli conflict ended, the Arab regimes would embrace democracy and freedom. Perhaps others in the mainstream media will also reject this longstanding Arab line, which has served only to scapegoat Israel and prevent much-needed change.

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

Prominent rabbi retires after 23 years in Ottawa

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — When Rabbi Arnold Fine arrived in Ottawa 23 years ago with his wife, Charlene, and four children, he could not have imagined what lay ahead. As he prepares to retire, he paused to reflect.

"For a kid that never expected to leave Massachusetts, I've come a long way," said Rabbi Fine, spiritual leader of Congregation Agudath Israel, Ottawa's largest Conservative shul.

Rabbi Fine served as spiritual leader of city's largest Conservative synagogue

"I thought I would always be in Massachusetts and would always lead a small congregation. I ended up in Ottawa with a large congregation with all kinds of opportunities, and somehow or other it all worked."

Rabbi Fine has witnessed many changes to both the city itself and Congregation Agudath Israel during his nearly quarter-century tenure.

Ottawa has become "a great deal larger and more sophisticated," he said. As for the synagogue, "I didn't know who I was coming to, but I had a sense of who I was and what I wanted the congregation to be in the future… a congregation that would be open to one and all, a centre for the community, a place that would give people an opportunity to explore who we are in the Conservative movement."

The role of women in the congregation has expanded and is "a reflection of who we are and where we are going. It has been done very carefully and respectfully, and the process is ongoing," he said.

Rabbi Fine has made a name for himself beyond the Jewish community as well. Soon after he arrived in Ottawa, he began meeting with members of the Christian clergy and began a Christian-Jewish dialogue, which has grown and expanded to also include Muslims.

"I have made some very good friends," he said. "We have a very long way to go, but we are going to get there and that, I think, is the important thing."

A retirement dinner for Rabbi Fine was so over-sold that there was a long waiting list of people hoping for the chance to wish him and his family well.

His popularity throughout the city was evidenced by the people from other congregations, as well as other religions, who were anxious to attend and pay tribute to him.

Among those at the dinner in his honour were Rabbi Reuven Bulka of Congregation Machzikei Hadas and Rev. Tom Sherwood, a United Church minister.

As for the future, Rabbi Fine does not plan to be idle.

"Hopefully, I will find some other ways of serving… there is much to be done, and I don't want to stop," he said.

One thing is for certain: the Fines won't be leaving Ottawa, their adopted home.

"I don't have a lot of relatives here, but I have a lot of family. The community has been here for me during difficult situations of personal illness and loss. In many ways, they have been my rabbi as well," he said.

"Our home is here and will remain here and that won't change. This is where we will be, hopefully, forever."

YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

יידיש־ווינקל

רעדאגירט פון: אַלעק סילווער

די שיינע מידה פון צדקה

פון לאה (לילי) קוטנער

איינע פון די שענסטע מידות, מיט וועלכער דאָס יידישע פאָלק האָט זיך אויסגעצייכנט אין לויף פון זיין גאַנצער געשיכטע, איז די מידה פון צדקה. די האַזיקע מידה ציט זיך שוין זינט דער עורשטער יידֿ, אברהם אָבינו, האָט געשטעלט זיינע ערשטע טריט אין לעבן.

אין דער זעלבער צייט, ווען אין דער שכנותדיקער שטאָט סדום איז געווען פֿאַרבאָטן צו העלפן אָרעמע מענטשן און וואָנדערערס, ווערט דערציילט אין מדרש, אַז אברהם אָבינו האָט געעפנט טירן אין אַלע זיימן פון זיין גענצלע און געוופן אָרעמעלייט און וואָנדערערס צו קומען צו אים, בכדי ער זאָל זיי געבן צו עסן און טרינקען, אַ מקום צו שלאָפן און אפילו זיי באַקלייַדט.

די תורה דערציילט אונדז, אַז נאָט האָט אויסגעקליבן אברהם אָבינו צו זיין דער פֿאַטער פון יידישן פֿאָלק, ווייל ער האָט געוווסט, אַז אברהם וועט איינפלאַנצן אין זיינע קינדער און אין די צוקונפטיקע דורות די מידה פון צדקה: „כי ידעתיו למען אשר יצוה את בניו ואת ביתו אחריו . . . לעשות צדקה ומשפט".

אָט די שיינע מידה פון צדקה, וואָס יידן האָבן געוווסט פון זיערע אור־עלטערן, האָבן זיי איינגעפלאַנצט אין די הערצער פון זייערע קינדער און קינדס־קינדער במשך אַלע דורות ביזן היינטיקן טאָג. צו טאָן צדקה ביי יידן מיינט: העלפן אַן אַנדערן יידֿ מיט וואָס ער נאָר דאַרף. און נישט בלויז אין דעם זין, וואָס מיר רופן אין אַמעריקע Charity. דער באַגריף פון צדקה ביי יידן איז מער ווי דאָס. עס איז אַ סך ברייטערע אויסטיטשונג.

צדקה קומט פון וואָרט „צדק" — גערעכטיקייט. דאָס הייסט צו טאָן אַ גערעכטקייט. און יידן פלעגן שטענדיק זאָגן: „מען דאַרף העלפן אַ געפֿאַלענעם". דאָס מיינט מער ווי נעבן עפּעס צו עסן, אַדער אַ פּאָר גראָשן ווי אַ נדבה. פיל מאָל האָט דער ניטבאַדערפֿטיקער גע־דאַרפט אַ סך מער ווי דאָס. מען האָט אַזעלכן געמוטן העלפן ער זאָל נישט פֿאַרלירן זיין געשעפט, זיין פּרעס־טיש, זיין כבוד. דאָס לעצטע איז טייל מאָל געווען מער ניטיק ווי אַלע אַנדערע הילפן.

אָט די מידה פון צדקה, פון העלפן אַ ניטבאַדערפֿ־טיקן איז נישט געווען בלויז פון יידן פון זיך אַליין. קודם כּל האָבן קינדער עס געזען אין הויז ביי זייערע טאַטע־מאַמע. זיי האָבן געזען ווי די עלטערן באַאָרגן אַן אָרעמען שכן מיט די באַדערפענישן אויף שבת אָדער יום־טוב. אויף פּסח האָבן יידן געשאָפן אַ ספּעציעלן פאַנד „מעות חיטים", כדי צו קענען העלפן יידן צו קענען איינאָרדענען אַ סדר פאַר זיך און זייער פאַמיליע.

אין דער אַלטער היים וועט יידישע משפּחות האָבן געגעסן צוזאַמען אין דער סוכּה, האָבן די שכנים געמאַכט זיכער, אַז אַן אָרעמער שכן זאָל נישט פֿאַרשעמט וווערן, ווען עס איז געקומען צום סערווירן אַ מאָלצייט. עס גע־דענקט זיך נאָך, ווען אין דער נאָכט פאַר „כָּל נדרי", זיי־נען מענטשן געוועסן פֿאַרן אויסגאַנג אין שיל, מיט אפענע טעלערס, וווּ די מתפּללים פלעגן אריינוואַרפן אַ פּאָר גראָשן, גרייצערס און אַנדער קליינגעלט פאַר די פֿאַרשיידענע פאַנדז, וואָס מען האָט געוואַמלט צו קענען אַדורכקומען דאָס יאָר.

מען האָט געלערנט דאָס קיינד אין חדר און נאָך עד היום לערנט מען די קליינטשיקע קינדערלעך אין אונ־דזערע לענדער אריינצוווַאַרפן אַ מטבע אין דער צדקה פושקע, אפילו ווען די קינדערלעך פֿאַרשטייען נאָך נישט דעם באַגריף פון צדקה. אַזוי ווערט די מידה פון צדקה איבערגעגעבן פון דור צו דור, און יידן מעגן זיין שטאָלץ מיט אָט דער דאָזיקער מידה, וואָס האָט זיך אַנגענומען פון אברהם אָבינו.

Ottawa community honours three volunteers

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — Three community volunteers were recognized for their efforts earlier this month at the 70th annual general meeting of the Jewish Community Council of Ottawa/Vaad Ha'Ir.

The Freiman Family Young Leadership Award, established in 1988, recognizes a person under age 40 who has rendered exceptional service to the community. This year's recipient was Sarah Beutel who, since arriving from Montreal in 1991, has volunteered extensively, as she did in her hometown.

Beutel was given a similar honour in Montreal prior to her move. She has also been awarded the Lawrence Greenberg Young Leadership Award, established three years ago to enable the winner to attend the General Assembly of United Jewish Communities of North America.

Naomi Lipsky Cracower was the second annual winner of the Shem Tov Community Volunteer Award, which recognizes a volunteer who, through many years of service, has contributed to the enrichment of Jewish life in Ottawa. Lipsky Cracower has been actively involved in Ottawa Jewish communal work for 32 years, since arriving from Montreal. She has also been a supply teacher at Hillel Academy for 24 years, and will be retiring this month.

In presenting the award, Gerald Levitz, chair of the selection committee, said, "If you want some help in getting something done in the Ottawa Jewish community, you call Naomi."

The annual Gilbert Greenberg Distinguished Service Award, initiated in 1980, bears the name of the late past president of the Ottawa Vaad Ha'Ir who exemplified the leadership qualities the award seeks to recognize. This year's award was presented by Robert and Roger Greenberg to Stephen Greenberg. "Steve possesses many of the qualities of the previous generation, and I know that many of those who came before us are looking down tonight with pride," Robert said.

At the June 2 AGM, held at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre, Vaad executive director Mitchell Bellman reviewed the community's achievements of the past year and praised volunteers and professional staff.

"We are the envy of many other religious and ethnic groups," he said. "We have developed a community that cares for one another, is compassionate, creative and generous."

Robert Greenberg, chair of the 2004 UJA campaign, was recognized for his efforts and it was announced he has agreed to serve a second term. Bonnie Merovitz, the 2004 chair of the UJA Women's Campaign, was also thanked for her two terms. She will be replaced for the 2005 campaign by Anna-Lee Chiprout and Suzanne Sassoon.

Disabled Israeli vets visit capital

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — A casual observer may have thought they were just another group of tourists enjoying the sights in the nation's capital, but this group has a story of its own.

The 10 men, in Ottawa on a two-week visit to Canada spent mostly in Toronto, were guests of Beit Halochem, a rehabilitation organization that caters to disabled veterans from the Israeli army, police and border guards, as well as civilians injured in terrorist attacks. It has four rehab centres in Israel, with plans for a fifth, and most of its funding comes from Diaspora Jews.

The vacations to Canada began nearly 30 years ago, but the Ottawa portion of the trip was added 19 years ago, after Ruth Aaron, who had heard about the program, decided to bring the group to Canada's capital. She coordinates this leg of the trip with the assistance of a few other volunteers.

Participants are chosen according to various criteria, including degree of disability (as determined by Israel's Ministry of Defence). This year's group was as varied in age and background as in their disabilities, from kibbutzniks to city dwellers, young to not-so-young.

Mula Salah is a Druze man from the village of Yarka in the Galilee. As a member of the border police, he was shot four times while guarding Israeli settlers and protecting them from terrorists crossing the border. He and other Druze have allied themselves with Israel, often being criticized and called traitors by their Muslim neighbours.

Mekwanent Abate arrived in Israel from Ethiopia with Operation Solomon at the age of 16. He studied hotel management and worked as a concierge at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem. While serving as a paramedic in the Israeli army, Abate was injured by an explosion in Gaza and has lost his hearing in one ear. With the decline in tourism, he has retrained and now works as a computer network technician.

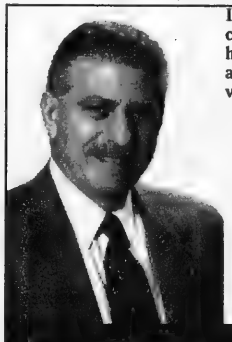
Daniel Ben-Shabat, of Haifa, is studying economics at Haifa University. After serving in the army for 11 years, he was hit by a car while on reserve duty. He spent seven months in hospital, enduring several surgeries, and nearly three years of rehabilitation.

It took 30 years for Aharon Narkiss, from Kibbutz Naan, to be formally recognized as disabled when he was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress syndrome. His unit was ambushed in the Sinai during the Yom Kippur War and Narkiss spent 46 days in captivity. The memories are still with him.

While in Ottawa, the men enjoyed a swim at the Soloway JCC, and they toured Parliament Hill, the Museum of Civilization and took a boat ride on the Ottawa River.

The highlight for many of them was being warmly welcomed at the residence of Israeli Ambassador Haim Divon and his wife Linda.

Beit Halochem Canada's office is in Toronto. For further information or to make a donation, call 416-787-8950.



In the past ten years there have been 113 motions condemning Israel passed in the United Nations. Canada has voted in favour of the condemnation motion 78 times and abstained 35. Is this the Canadian government you voted for? Is this the Canadian government you want?

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Authorized by Barry Cline for the Conservative Party of Canada

ELECT Josh Cooper

It's time to demand better!

I began visiting homes throughout Thornhill many months ago and I was overwhelmed by the growing cynicism about politicians. People do not believe what our elected leaders tell us.

Paul Martin has slashed our health care funding. Our healthcare system has still not recovered from the massive Martin cuts. Across Canada, we have seen hospitals close, services reduced, and waiting lists grow longer. Then, in the heat of this election campaign, he tells us he'll fix it. How can we believe Paul Martin and the Martin team?

Ontario's Liberal Premier Dalton McGuinty, told us in the midst of a campaign, that he would not raise taxes. His first budget raises taxes, reduces our ability to seek chiropractic and eye care and then charges us a fee for this reduced service. We know we can't trust Dalton McGuinty and Paul Martin!

I am discouraged at what career politicians are promising and not delivering. **I am not a career politician.** I am a small business owner living in Thornhill, married with two children and I worry about the quality of their education, their safety to and from school and in class. Don't we all deserve a better future? I hope you feel the same way and that I can count on your vote on June 28th.

Josh Cooper

Demand Better vote Conservative

Authorized by James Bray, financial agent for the Josh Cooper Campaign

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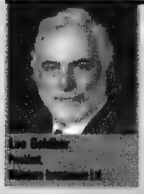


UJA Federation

"The Tomorrow Campaign is the single biggest community development project in Canada and I feel very privileged that Toronto is the beneficiary of this outpouring of generosity and community spirit."

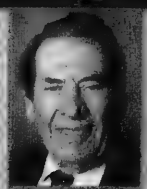
Toronto Mayor David Miller

A Great City Makes History

History is happening in Toronto with last month's launch of the Tomorrow Campaign, a precedent-setting $250 million revitalization initiative, powered by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

Chaired by two of Canada's most respected business leaders, Gerry Schwartz and Larry Tanenbaum, the Tomorrow Campaign will create new centres of health and wellness, education, culture, recreation, celebration and much more in three distinct Toronto areas:

Cabinet (In Formation)



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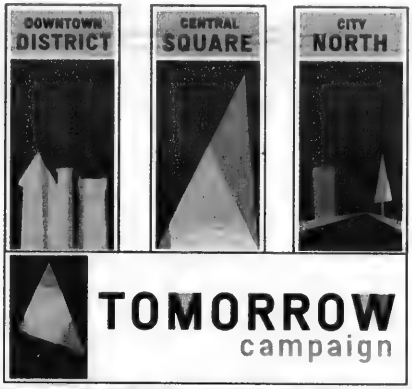

rDowntown District, Central Square (Bathurst & Sheppard) and City North in York region.
Downtown District is anchored by the spacious, new Miles Nadal Jewish Community ntre and the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life, a home away from home for nearly 00 Jewish students at the University of Toronto and the Greater Toronto Area.

ntral Square, surrounded by a magnificent ravine setting, will feature a world-class, te-of-the-art facility, housing eight centres of excellence: the Koffler ntre of the Arts, the Centre for Jewish Knowledge and Learning, the ntre for Collective Memory & Understanding, the Children's Centre, The nior's Centre, the Centre for Health, Wellness & Recreation, the Centre Celebration and The Community Services Centre.

On a vast, 50 acre tract of land in Vaughan, City North will provide a wealth of services to York Region's growing Jewish population of 60,000. The first site to be developed will be the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT), North America's largest Jewish community high school, complemented by elementary schools; a Mt. Sinai Hospital ambulatory clinic; a fitness and recreation facility; a summer camp; special needs housing and a community services complex.

Says Mayor Miller, "the three campuses that will be built through the Tomorrow Campaign are more than mere buildings, beautiful though they will be. They will be places that Torontonians will bring visitors to show off their city. They will foster a sense of community, not just among Toronto's Jewish community, but for everyone in the city."

Toronto Mayor David Miller

Find out how YOU can share in this historic initiative by visiting www.tomorrowcampaign.com or calling us at 416.631.5828.

Peterborough shul to share building with church

By JESSICA HELLEN
CJN Intern

Peterborough's only synagogue has reached a deal to share its building with a local Unitarian congregation.

The Beth Israel Synagogue had been looking for a co-tenant for a number of years and finally found "a really good fit" with the Unitarian Fellowship of Peterborough, said Beth Israel president Larry Gillman.

Both congregations "overwhelmingly" supported the proposal and signed a three-year lease agreement on June 14.

"For both of us, this will be a huge win-win [situation]," Gillman said. "It shows what happens when two communities can get together and talk things through."

The 35-family congregation was founded in the early 20th century and now has egalitarian, conservative-like services. Gillman said it had been seeking a rental partner because it was "running with a slight budget deficit," and was under-utilizing its 200-seat building, which was built in 1964.

Meanwhile, the fellowship, which went from 40 to 100 members over the last decade, had outgrown the Salvation Army church it was using for services and was looking to purchase or rent another facility.

Committees from the synagogue and fellowship discussed a variety of issues, including celebrations and holidays, keeping a kosher kitchen and different faith traditions.

"We sat down and clearly stated what our needs were in both communities," Gillman said.

"As a Jewish community we needed use of the building on the Sabbath and High Holy Days, which can often fall on a Sunday, and we wanted to remain a strictly kosher building."

The issue of keeping a kosher kitchen had the potential of being a "deal breaker," Gillman said.

However, the Unitarians saw it as an opportunity to learn more about Judaism, and they put together a "kitchen committee" that is learning what it means to be kosher and how to maintain a kosher building.

"It's a challenge for us," said Paula Greenwood, chair of the Unitarian Fellowship's board of directors. "We'll have to do our potlucks outside or somewhere else, but people are quite willing to learn."

The communities also had to discuss what will happen when a High Holy Day falls on a Sunday. They decided that the synagogue would use the building and the fellowship would change the time or day of its service.

"They're a very respectful group to our needs," Gillman said. "At no time did I feel like we were in negotiations over anything."

Larry Gillman, president of Beth Israel Synagogue, and Rev. Anne Orafald of the Unitarian Fellowship of Peterborough hug after signing a three-year lease agreement that will see the two congregations share the shul's underused building.
[Elizabeth Bower, *Peterborough Examiner*, photo]

The Unitarian community needed to have a piano and sound system installed in the sanctuary, as well as a bulletin board and a sign outside the building. They also wanted to display their "beautiful quilts made by members," Greenwood said.

"None of these were really issues for us," Gillman said. "They'll turn off the sound system and cover the piano after their services. That way, we've maintained the integrity of the building, but have integrated them and welcomed them."

When discussions first began between the two congregations in January, Gillman and Greenwood said, they could see the similarities between the two religions.

"Their principles are very much aligned with our principles," he said.

A primary Unitarian belief is respect for other human beings. Unitarians also believe in "unity in diversity" and they stress the acceptance of diversity, as well as freedom of belief and teaching children about other religions.

"I think there's more that harmonizes us than causes division," said Greenwood.

Gillman and Greenwood said the partnership between the fellowship and synagogue will bring advantages to both.

"People really saw the benefits of doing this," said Gillman. "We get to increase revenues, fix up the building, act more like a charitable organization [with the new revenue], hire more rabbinical support [the shul brings in a rabbi for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur] and reach out from an interfaith point of view."

The Unitarians will benefit from increased space for children's religious education programs, more parking, an office with privacy for counselling and a sanctuary large enough to accommodate the growing congregation, Greenwood said.

There may be some challenges along the way, but "it's a very friendly and respectful agreement," she added.

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Coast to Coast

Concert for peace unites artists from six faiths

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — For a brief few hours on a recent Sunday evening in Ottawa, it seemed that world had laid down its arms and turned its swords into plowshares.

"One World, One People: A Concert for Peace" was a festive evening of song, dance and poetry performed by representatives of six faith groups to an overflow audience of enthusiastic supporters.

The brainchild of Cantor Daniel Benlolo, the concert was several months in the planning.

While performing for the Queen Elizabeth II a couple of years ago with his Shira Ottawa Choir, Benlolo met members of Interfaith Council. He kept in touch with them and they decided to put on a joint concert.

The Shira Ottawa Choir performed at the Concert for Peace, held recently at Ottawa's Congregation Beth Shalom.

Eventually, Marcia Cantor became co-chair of the project and she and Benlolo arranged to hold the event at Congregation Beth Shalom, where Benlolo is the cantor.

In her welcoming remarks at the concert, Cantor said, "Six distinct faiths have joined together in harmony to produce harmony, not for any profit, but just for peace… friendship is a reciprocal arrangement. To have a friend, you must be a friend."

Representing the Jewish community was the five-year-old Shira Ottawa Choir, which has performed in Canada and at the 19th Zimryia World Assembly of Choirs in Jerusalem. The Ottawa choir's repertoire includes Hebrew, English, Yiddish, Ladino, French and Spanish songs.

A 25-member group, including soloists, from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was featured, as was the Roman Catholic choir, the Schola Cantorum de la Cathédrale Notre-Dame, which performed a Gregorian Chant.

The Muslim community contributed a recitation from the Qu'ran, with an English translation, and a performance of Islamic *nasheed* (songs) in Arabic, English and Urdu by a children's choir.

Two dancers in colourful, exotic costumes from the Hindu community also delighted the audience.

A highlight of the evening was a performance by the composer and pianist Kevork Andonian, representing the Diocese of Armenian Church of Canada. The 26-year-old is pursuing a master's degree in music at the University of Ottawa. His playing brought the audience to its feet for a standing ovation.

In attendance were a number of dignitaries from various faith communities and representatives of several embassies, including Ronen-Gil Or from the Israeli Embassy, former deputy prime minister Herb Gray and MP Mauril Belanger.

The evening ended on a high note, when the performers and the audience of nearly 1,000 joined together to sing Oscar Peterson's *Hymn to Freedom*, concluding with the song lyric, "When every man joins in our song, and together singing harmony, that's when we'll be free."

Benlolo said he felt proud to have worked with the various groups that performed. "During the planning, we built a beautiful relationship. I have come to know these people as people… we have formed friendships and bonds.

"It is expected that this will be just the first of many such events."

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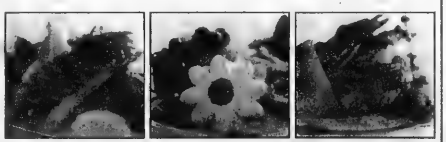

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Mazel Tov to…

Mindy & Jack Cohen and Rochelle & Mark Covant are thrilled to announce the engagement of their children, Lisa & Neal. Brothers and grandparents are delighted.

MAZEL TOV
to
Millie & Al Soren
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Happy birthday and best wishes to Ben Dankner, 6 years old, and Josh Dankner, 2 years old, from the Dankner family.

Mazel tov to Abe & Donna Seidman on celebrating their 45th wedding anniversary. Lots of Love from Sam, Paul, Karen, Ellysa, Daniel and Josh.

Irene & Howard Alpert and Brenda & Frank Weshler are delighted to announce the engagement of their children, Miriam & Jason.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!
Label the back of all photos and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Send all your photos to: The CJN, Family Moments, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, ON, M3B 3K4.

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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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What's New Deadlines: Monday, June 28, is the deadline for the July 8 issue, and Monday, July 5, is the deadline for the July 15 issue. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Thursday, June 24

BOYS TOWN MEETING

Canadian Friends of Boys Town Jerusalem is holding its annual meeting with guest speaker **Ya'akov Brosh**, Israeli consul general, discussing the current situation in the Middle East. 7 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. 416-789-7241.

ALL CANDIDATES MEETING

Shaarei Shomayim Entertainment and Cultural Committee presents an all-candidates meeting for the riding of Eglinton-Lawrence with **Shel Goldstein**, Green Party; **Max Silverman**, NDP; **Bernie Tanz**, Conservative; and **Joe Volpe**, Liberal. 8 p.m. All welcome. 416-789-3213.

JUDGES & UNITED NATIONS

Dr. Rachael Turkienicz and **Prof. Ed Morgan** discuss "The Vision and System in Chaos: The Concubine in Gibeah – The UN Human Rights Commission and the 'right' to be a terrorist." 8 p.m. at Beth Emeth Synagogue. No charge. 416-633-3838.

Friday, June 25

PHAT PHRIDAYS SERVICE

Generation Hutzpa presents "Phat Phridays: Not Yer Average Kabbalat Shabbat" led by **Rabbi Aubrey Glazer**, a blend of Jewish music from Israeli folk and devotional to Latin sounds with fusion musicians **Ernie Tollar**, **Aaron Lightstone** and **Debashish Sinha**. 6 p.m. in the Beth Tzedec Youth Chapel. 416-781-3514, ext. 47.

Sunday June, 27

NCJW GARAGE SALE

National Council of Jewish Women is holding a giant garage sale with new and used items for the whole family. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at Council House, 4700 Bathurst St. Free parking and admission. 416-633-5100.

GARDEN TOUR

Kehillat Shaarei Torah Sisterhood Garden Tour fundraising event tours six gardens in Thornhill and six in the Bayview-York Mills area. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. $18. Call **Rachel** at 416-229-2600 for tickets, brochure and map.

DOING THE RIGHT THING

Dynamic Singles of Adath Israel present "Doing the Right Thing: God's Covenant with Adam, Noah and Abraham," with **David Nitkin**, president of EthicScan, at their Sunday brunch for singles 35+. 11:30 a.m. $10 if reserved by June 24, $15 at the door. Call 416-635-5340 or contact rachel@adathisrael.com.

SEC CENTRE ISLAND TRIP

Sec Toronto invites young adults 22-35 to Julie's Annual Centre Island Trip. Meet at the ferry docks on Queens Quay at 1 p.m. Soccer game will be held at 3 p.m., follow the signs on the island. For information, contact sec_toronto@hotmail.com.

YIDDISHLAND CAFE

The Workmen's Circle presents a Yiddishland Cafe evening, "For A Better Tomorrow: Songs of Freedom and Hope in Yiddish and Other Languages," with singers **Denise Williams** and **Michael Mandel** and musicians **Nina Shapilsky** and **Rodion Boshoer**. 7:30 p.m. 471 Lawrence Ave. W. Tickets $12. For reservations, call Monday to Friday, 416-787-2081.

CRIME STOPPERS

Shaarei Shomayim Entertainment and Cultural Committee presents **Detective Jeff Zammit**, of Crime Stoppers, discussing "Learn How to Protect Yourself." 8 p.m. Members free, guests $2. 416-789-3213.

Monday, June 28

MEDITATION MONDAYS

The Caring Committee of Temple Har Zion presents Meditation Mondays with **Dr. John Fleming**, **Karen Kaufman** and **Rosalind Smith**. This program is intended for the curious, the novice and even those with a well-developed meditation practice. 7:30 p.m. $5 for non-members. 905-889-2252.

Continued on page 33

The Liberal Government
Has Abandoned Israel at The U.N.

During the Chrétien/Martin years, there have been
a staggering 113 U.N. resolutions condemning Israel.
This is how Canada voted:

Against Israel: 78 times
Abstained: 35 times
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Remember this when it comes time to vote.

Continued from page 32

Tuesday, June 29

BUILDING BRIDGES

The Lodzer Centre Holocaust Congregation presents a panel discussion and dialogue between members of the Jewish and Polish communities. Panel includes **Margaret Bonikowska**, cultural editor of *Gazeta*, the Polish daily newspaper; **Witold Liliental**, member of the Polish-Jewish Heritage Foundation; and **Nathan Leipciger**, chair of the Holocaust Remembrance Committee, World Jewish Congress. 12 Heaton St. 7:30 p.m. All welcome. $5 donation requested. For information, contact **Rochelle Michaels** at rochelle_michaels@yahoo.ca. or 905-881-8907.

SAR-EL INFO SESSION

Find out about Sar-El's program for civilian volunteers on Israeli supply/maintenance bases 7:30 p.m. at 788 Marlee Ave. Call 416-781-6089 or visit ww.serve.com/CVI.

Wednesday, June 30

CANADA'S 137TH BIRTHDAY

The Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living celebrates Canada Day from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. with a farmers' market, craft and book sale, musical presentations, magic and comedy show and BBQ lunch. Bring your family and friends. Free. 416-225-2112 ext. 123.

Other news

JEWISH AT FRINGE FESTIVAL

Catch Shprinza Productions' *Barely Surviving My Jewish Family* at The Toronto Fringe Festival, a one-person autobiographical comedy written and performed by **Sari Colt**. Thursday, July 1, 7 p.m.; Monday, July 5, 2 p.m.; Tuesday, July 6, 3:30 p.m.; and Wednesday, July 7, 5 p.m. at the Factory Studio Theatre, 125 Bathurst St. Tickets $8 at the door, call The Fringe Hotline, 416-966-1062.

GREAT LAKES RUN & WALK

Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care and Maccabi Canada present the First Annual Great Lakes Challenge 5-km Run and Walk on Sunday, July 11, at Downsview Park. Families, serious runners, corporate teams and running clubs are welcome. Start time 8:30 a.m. on a 5-km course with two loops. All entrants get free admission to the Toronto Aerospace Museum. For information, call 416-785-2500, ext. 2057 or visit greatlakeschallenge.com.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service Information/registration, call 416-638-7800, ext. 215. Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St.

How To Talk With Your Ex, a 2-session workshop to help individuals learn effective communication and listening skills to deal better with their ex-spouses about issues involving their children. Tuesdays July 6 and 13, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Promenade Mall, Suite 313.

FOR SENIORS

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Dance every Saturday night through July and August; New Casino Niagara, July 22; Cruise and Casino, Wednesday, August 11. 416-395-7881.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the boardroom at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Call 416-630-9444.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. June 24, movie; July 1, bingo; July 8, lecture. Call **Menachem Wallach**, 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla**, 416-630-5771.

Chai Shalom of Beth Emeth Synagogue theatre excursions: *Cats*, Thursday, July 29, and *Oklahoma*, Thursday, August 26. Both shows 2 p.m. at the Orillia Opera Playhouse. $48 per show includes transportation. To reserve with payment, contact **Tema Wasserman**, 905-770-0355 or **Marlene White**, 905-731-2515.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

The Morris "Nafty" Naftolin Komedy Kabaret, an opportunity for amateur comedians and raconteurs to perform. Thursday, June 24, 2:30 p.m. Free. For information call **Ruth Cohen**.

"Nutrition Myths: Fact or Fiction" with Marlene Choleva, Tuesday, June 29, 1 p.m.

"Leadership in Difficult Times: What Makes a Good Leader" with **Prof. Hugh Innis**. Tuesdays, July 6, 13, 20 and 27 between 10 and 11:30 a.m. Members $1.50, non-members $3.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew-speaking seniors meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. June 29, picnic at Earl Bales Park 11 a.m.; July 6, movie. Call **Anna**, ext. 110.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or wwwmilesnadaljcc.ca

Beginner Hebrew: Improve your skill in speaking and reading Hebrew. Tuesdays, 7:30-9:30 p.m. from July 6-August 10. For people who have completed the Hebrew marathon or have a basic knowledge of the Hebrew alphabet. For people with absolutely no previous Hebrew, there will be a special class on June 29. Registration required.

Summer Programs for Children: Bell Raptor Ball, a youth league that provides children ages 5-14 years old the opportunity to enjoy basketball. Begins Thursday, July 8. Registration required.

Mini Me Half Day Camp for 3-5 year olds. Begins Monday, June 28. Call to register.

Preschool programs: Tiny Tumblers, explore the world of gymnastics for 1-3 year olds, Mondays and Wednesdays, 9-11 a.m.; Start with Art, making art for 1-3 year olds, Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30-11 a.m.; Wild and Free, Running, climbing, jumping, games, arts and crafts for 3-4 year olds, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30-2 p.m.; Now You're Two, Fridays 9:30-11 a.m.; pre-nursery program for 2-3 year olds. Call to register.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

The Koffler Gallery presents **Norman T. White**: Norm's Robots, through June 27.

View the documentary *Relentless* and discuss the Middle East peace process with **Doris Epstein**. Thursday, June 24, 1 p.m. -3 p.m. Members $2, non-members $4.

Miles Nadal camp comes to Centre Camp. This summer, a bus stops at the Miles Nadal JCC and drops off at Centre Camp. To enroll your child, call ext. 378 or visit www.centrecamp.ca.

The BJCC and Mount Sinai offer prenatal classes August 8 and 15 from 10-4 p.m. The cost is $136 per couple. To register, call ext. 390.

AVIV BREAKFAST: Dr. Marla Shapiro, family practitioner and host of the television show *Balance*, was the guest speaker at the recent Toronto Hadassah-WIZO Aviv Breakfast in support of Youth Aliyah and Youth Service. Shapiro is seen with the planning committee. From left: Chair Jordana Richmon, Elizabeth Katchen, Shapiro, Sharlene Weisman, vice-chair Jennifer Gotkin, Rabbi Barbi Benjamin Levitt and Roseanne Bresge.

NEW PRESIDENT INSTALLED: Canadian Seaway Branch of Women's League for Conservative Judaism installed Arlene Tennenhouse as their new president at their recent Spring Conference. From left: Bertha Gold, immediate past president, Tennenhouse and Estelle Dobrow, conference presenter. [Mollie Rothman photo]

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 24

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OBITUARIES and Related Notices

To place any other family related notice, please call at least 10 DAYS prior to the issue date

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Lilly Gottfried	Jun 7/04	1101 Steeles Ave W
Gertrude Green	Jun 7/04	55 Skymark Dr
Valeria Konfortl	Jun 7/04	1035 Eglinton Ave W
Norman Fremes	Jun 7/04	76 Heathcote Ave
Dr. Bernard Laski	Jun 7/04	1177 Yonge St
Manny Gold	Jun 8/04	23 Carluke Cres
Bella Crispin	Jun 9/04	284 Bloor St W
Mae Brown	Jun 10/04	429 Walmer Rd
Syma Pusitz	Jun 10/04	2499 Burnford Trail
Mary Rotstein	Jun 11/04	3560 Bathurst St
Marilyn Ellen	Jun 11/04	81 Townsgate Dr
Harry Drue	Jun 12/04	3560 Bathurst St
Karl Waldner	Jun 11/04	455 Sentinel Rd

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Shulman, Evelyne	June 9, 2004	Private
Glazier, Rose	June 10, 2004	481 Davis Dr
Azoulay, Zohra	June 10, 2004	205 Cummer Ave
Miller, Stanley	June 10, 2004	7601 Bathurst St
Miskin, Gertrude	June 10, 2004	718 Sheppard Ave W
Goldberg, Saul	June 11, 2004	123 Spadina Rd
Lacob, Adele	June 12, 2004	28 Joshua Court
Hofstedter, Aranka	June 13, 2004	43 York Downs Dr

HEBREW BASIC

Irving Gordon	June 5/04	10 Seniac Rd

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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
MOLLY MUSCHKIES ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 27th, 11:00 a.m.
Lambton Hills Cemetery
Royal York Rd. between Eglinton & Dundas
Ostrowcer Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
LUDVIG VEIS ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 27th, 11:00 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
986 Wilson Ave.
Row N18; Lot 16;
Young Men Hebrew Association
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SOL WEIDMAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 27th, 11:45 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Canadian Hebrew Benevolent Society
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
JEANETTE BLATT ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 27th, 10:30 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Bathurst St. south of Steeles
Shaarei Shomayim Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
MELWOOD J. STEELE ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 27th, 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Temple Sinai Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
FELA AND ELA MLICZKIEWICZ ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 27th, 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Community Section GGGG
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
JACK PRICE ז"ל
will take place
Friday, June 25th, 10:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Bathurst St. south of Steeles
Linitzer Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the beloved memory of the late
MARY SWEIGMAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 27th, 2:00 p.m.
Mt. Sinai Memorial Park
986 Wilson Avenue
Jewish War Veterans Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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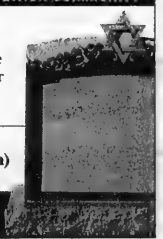

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There will be no issue of The Canadian Jewish News the week of July 22nd, 2004.

For the boys

By SUE EPSTEIN
Special to The CJN

I volunteer at a canteen for Israeli soldiers, called the Pina Chama (warm or cozy corner). It is a small building in Gush Etzion where the soldiers can come in to get cold or hot drinks, a mug of hot soup in the winter, cold watermelon in the summer, and cookies and cake. It was opened to honour the memories of two men from the area who were killed by terrorists.

Sometimes the soldiers race in for a quick drink, grab a cookie or two and race back out. Sometimes they sit around for a short time to relax and chat, play a game of checkers or warm up or cool off, depending on the season. They are mostly young boys in their late teens or early 20s, but often, men as old as 65 who volunteer their time for the army come in. We are grateful to have them in the area guarding us, and they are grateful for the warmth, friendliness, and snacks they receive from us.

The entire operation is funded by donations, some local, but primarily from the United States and Canada. All the cakes and cookies served are baked by volunteers. There is a movie theatre-type popcorn machine, and the popcorn is such a hit that we use 25 kilos of popcorn kernels a week.

These recipes are ones I often make to bring to the Pina Chama and they always vanish almost as soon as they're put out.

PEANUT BUTTER CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

The biggest problem with making these cookies is that once you do, your family will constantly beg you to make more. One soldier asked me for this cookie recipe so his mother could make them for him at home.

2½ cups flour
1½ tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. baking powder
¼ tsp. salt
1 cup butter
1 cup peanut butter, preferably chunky
1 cup firmly packed brown sugar
2 eggs
1⅓ cups granulated sugar (divided)
1 tsp. vanilla
1 cup chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 375. Combine flour, baking soda, baking powder and salt in mixer bowl. Cream together butter, peanut butter, brown sugar and 1 cup of the granulated sugar till light and fluffy.

Beat in eggs and vanilla. Add chocolate chips and mix. Gradually add flour and mix till smooth. Shape into little balls and roll in remaining sugar. Press each ball down with a sugar-coated fork or a sugar-coated glass or cookie stamp. Bake 8 to 10 minutes until golden brown. Cool before transferring to rack. Makes about 36 cookies.

THREE-INGREDIENT PEANUT BUTTER COOKIES

These are the world's quickest, easiest peanut butter cookies. Truthfully, these cookies are not as wonderful as the above recipe, but if you're short on time and looking for quick and tasty, these are it. You could also add a cup of chocolate chips to the recipe.

1 egg
1 cup sugar
1 cup peanut butter, preferably super-chunk

Preheat oven to 350. Mix all together and drop on wax paper-lined cookie sheet. Dip a fork in sugar and press cookie to flatten. Bake at 350 until done, approximately 14-17 minutes (depending on oven).

Cont'd on page 38

What's L'chaim like? Just ask a resident.

"After almost three years I realize that my moving to L'chaim from Winnipeg was the best decision I have ever made. The management and staff are all wonderful and caring. It's a real home." – *Sophie Bendel*

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Finance for Thought

Two Powerful Strategies for Seniors (part 2)

S. Jonathan Kirshblum,
B.A., CFP, FMA, FCSI
Financial Planner
Investment Advisor

A few years ago, one of my clients asked me to consider an investment for his 85-year old mother. She had $500,000 in a T-bill that earned very low interest. She had earmarked these funds for her children and wanted to protect the value of their future inheritance. She wanted to keep control of the money during her lifetime, but did not require access to the capital nor any investment income. The son asked me if there was an investment that would meet all of his mother's objectives but could potentially earn a greater rate of return. I told him there was such an investment.

Strategy 2 – Segregated Funds

Segregated funds are similar to mutual funds and have been offered exclusively by life insurance companies for more than 40 years. Numerous segregated funds are available today and, like mutual funds, many offer access to stock markets around the world. What differentiates segregated funds from mutual funds is that they also provide insurance benefits to investors. Benefits can vary from company to company, but all segregated funds offer the following basic benefits:

Maturity benefit From 75 - 100% of the original investment is guaranteed once at least 10 years have passed from the original purchase date – depending on the segregated fund chosen.

Death benefit From 75 - 100% of the original investment is guaranteed upon death – depending on the segregated fund chosen.

Probate fees Probate fees and associated legal costs may be avoided by naming beneficiaries in a segregated fund contract. Upon death, proceeds are paid directly to named beneficiaries.

No medical required While not considered a benefit, it is important to note that unlike most insurance products, no medical examination is required to purchase segregated funds.

Enhanced Benefits

Through the years, some insurance companies have offered enhanced maturity and/or death benefits to attract more investors. Some segregated funds offer valuable principle guarantees as high as 100% on maturity and/or death, however, it is always advisable to review benefits in detail as some companies may reduce guarantees at higher ages.

Principle guarantees do come at a cost. Like mutual funds, segregated funds express yearly costs to investors in a management expense ratio (MER); the cost of guarantees is embedded in the MER, which explains why a segregated fund MER is typically higher than that of a comparable mutual fund.

Many consider whether investments offering capital guarantees are worth any added expense. In the case of my client's mother, segregated funds proved an invaluable opportunity.

My client's mother decided to forego the nominal rate of interest she was earning on her T-bill in exchange for a chance to participate in the potential upside of the stock market through an equity segregated fund. The 100% principle guarantee on death offered by the insurance company she chose provided her the peace of mind, that, regardless of market conditions, her named beneficiaries would receive at least her invested capital when she died. As well, while her intention was not to liquidate the investment during her lifetime, she was satisfied knowing the investment was still in her name and could be sold anytime at prevailing market prices.

Lock-in Growth

Some insurance companies also introduced a "reset" feature that would allow investors to "lock-in" increases in a fund's value. In essence, an investor could "reset" the amount of the death and/or maturity benefit (in some cases several times each year) to include increasing portfolio gains during market upswings. Upon death, the most recent reset amount would be paid out to named beneficiaries; liquidation at any point before death of the insured would be at then prevailing market prices.

Comforted by a principle death benefit guarantee, my client's mother invested $500,000 in a Canadian equity segregated fund. The portfolio increased in value 15% in each of the first three years and each time she exercised the reset option: this increased the death benefit guarantee to over $760,000. By the time she died, the fund value had decreased to $400,000; despite this subsequent downturn, her named beneficiary still received a cheque for $760,437 (free of probate fees).

Other Family Members can Invest
Investor vs. "Life Insured"

An investor in a segregated fund need not be the "life insured" named in the contract. The life insured is the individual upon whose life the contract is based; upon his or her death, benefits are paid to the named beneficiaries. While the life insured may be the investor, as was the case with my client's mother, other members of the family may also invest in segregated funds naming the same senior as the life insured. My middle-aged client was able to invest his own money in a segregated fund, naming his mother as the life insured. During her lifetime, he was able to enjoy the same principle guarantees and lock-in benefits; when she died, he received the last reset value of the policy.

The suitability of segregated funds, like all other investment strategies, must be judged within the context of an investor's personal situation and goals. Seniors interested in combining the benefits of investing with the merits of estate planning should consult an insurance advisor whether segregated funds should be included in their overall financial plan.

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This column concludes, "Finance for Thought." We at BMO Nesbitt Burns hope you enjoyed reading the 4-part educational series and trust you found the content informative. Questions or feedback regarding any of the strategies reviewed are best directed to the author. All articles in the series as well as other published columns by this author can be viewed at the following website: **www.jkirshblum.com.**

About the Author

Jonathan Kirshblum has been an investment advisor for over 10 years. His expertise in advising individuals on total wealth management is supported by his considerable accomplishments. Mr. Kirshblum is a Certified Financial Planner and Insurance Advisor. He carries the designation Financial Management Advisor and is a Fellow of the Canadian Securities Institute. Currently, he is pursuing the highly focused designation, Certified Hedge Fund Specialist (CHFS). To date, only 56 advisors in Canada have achieved this level of specialization.

Review your Investment Strategy

To arrange a private, complimentary consultation with BMO Nesbitt Burns advisor Jonathan Kirshblum, please contact him at his office at (416) 359-8151, or by e-mail at jonathan.kirshblum@nbpcd.com.

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BMO Nesbitt Burns*
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For the boys

Continued from page 35

Cool 1 minute on cookie sheets, then transfer to wire racks to cool completely. Store in tightly covered container.

MUD CAKE

This is so quick and simple to make everyone loves it. Every time it's put out, it's gone in a flash. This recipe is for a 9x9-inch pan; however, I always double it and make it in a 9x13-inch pan.

1½ cups flour
1 cup sugar
1 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. salt
3 tbsp. cocoa
5 tbsp. oil
1 tbsp. vinegar
1 tsp. vanilla
1 cup water
¼-⅓ cup nuts

Preheat oven to 350. Mix all the ingredients together. Pour into 9x9-in. greased pan and bake for 30 minutes. Cool and frost with peanut butter frosting. Makes 12 servings.

Note: If you double this recipe it will need to bake for about 10 minutes longer.

PEANUT BUTTER FROSTING

Will frost a 9x9-inch cake

3 tbsp. margarine
1 cup peanut butter
1¼ cup powdered sugar

Melt margarine in a saucepan over low heat; add peanut butter and powdered sugar. Stir until melted and spread over cake.

Note: If you accidentally overcook this frosting, it will turn to fudge.

JUMBO FRUITED OATMEAL COOKIES

¼ cup butter or margarine, softened
3 eggs
¾ cup apple juice concentrate
1½ tsp. vanilla
1½ cups flour
1½ cups oats
½ tsp. baking soda
½ tsp. salt
½ tsp. cinnamon
½ tsp.ground allspice
6 oz. dried mixed fruit, chopped
½ cup chopped nuts

Preheat oven to 350. Beat butter or margarine in large bowl until creamy. Blend in eggs, apple juice concentrate and vanilla. Add flour, oats, baking soda, salt, cinnamon and allspice; mix well. Stir in dried fruit and nuts. Drop scant ¼ cupfuls of dough, 3 in. apart, onto lightly greased cookie sheets; flatten slightly. Bake 12-14 minutes, until edges are lightly browned. Makes 18 cookies.

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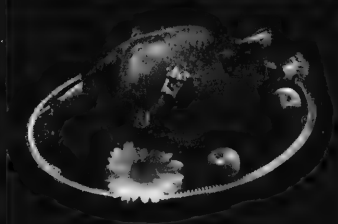

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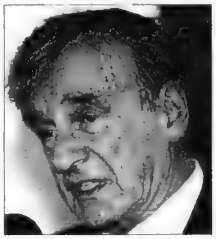
UN discusses anti-Semitism

By RACHEL POMERANCE
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

NEW YORK — The first-ever United Nations conference on anti-Semitism, held Monday, is a serious step forward, Jewish leaders say, because although anti-Semitism is escalating worldwide, the UN has been ignoring it.

The daylong conference for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) came at the request of Shashi Tharoor, the UN undersecretary general for communications and public information.



Elie Wiesel

In his opening address, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said Jews must feel that "the United Nations is their home."

Keynote speaker, author Elie Wiesel, a Nobel laureate and Holocaust survivor, told the seminar he thought anti-Semitism had died at Auschwitz. However, he said, it has turned out that Auschwitz killed Jews but anti-Semitism lives on.

Annan said Monday the UN must help battle anti-Semitism, and called on the members of the UN to pass a resolution against anti-Semitism at September's General Assembly meeting.

"The fight against anti-Semitism must be our fight, and the Jews everywhere must feel that the United Nations is their home," Annan said.

He also called on the human rights organizations affiliated with the UN to "actively explore a way of combating anti-Semitism more effectively in the future.

"We owe it to ourselves, as well as to our Jewish brothers and sisters, to stand firmly against the particular type of hatred that anti-Semitism represents, and that means we must be prepared to examine the nature of today's manifestations of anti-Semitism more closely," Annan said.

Other Jewish leaders who were to address the conference felt the move by the UN to hold the conference was a positive sign, although they felt the real test will be its outcome.

"The very fact that they are having an all-day conference to address this subject at a time when the institution was not willing or able to condemn it is an important message," said Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, who was to speak at the seminar.

Throughout its history, the United Nations has been reluctant to address anti-Semitism in its own right, instead condemning it together with other forms of bigotry.

Last fall, Ireland drafted the first UN resolution to explicitly condemn anti-Semitism but withdrew it due to fierce opposition from Arab and Muslim states.

The UN's one-sided resolutions and discussions critical of Israel not only delegitimize the Jewish state but let "anti-Zionism become a legitimate mask for anti-Semitism," said Felice Gaer, director of the American Jewish Committee's Jacob Blaustein Institute for Human Rights, who was to be a panellist.

"In a way, Annan is trying to restore the credibility of the United Nations as a body that has a universal concern to prevent the promotion of hate bigotry, discrimination, for everybody," said Gaer.

Both Annan and Tharoor are "saying they believe the UN should stand up for what's right, not cower with fear at the bigotry of others who would silence the UN," she added.

While praising the effort, Jewish officials hoped the seminar would result in an action plan.

Others say it's up to Jewish groups to plant those seeds.

For example, Jewish officials have discussed the possibility of securing a UN General Assembly resolution condemning anti-Semitism or the appointment of an official to monitor anti-Semitism.

The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations recently called on the UN General Assembly to adopt a resolution condemning anti-Semitism, similar to one passed at an Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe conference on anti-Semitism held in Berlin in April.

Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice-chair of the presidents conference, said he would reiterate that plea and call for internal monitoring of UN agencies that occasionally fall prey to anti-Semitism. He cited, for example, statements involving Holocaust denial by members of the UN Commission on Human Rights.

At the June 21 seminar, the World Jewish Congress (WJC) hoped to stress consensus points worked out at a meeting of dozens of Jewish NGOs last week.

In his statement, WJC president Edgar Bronfman was to call for a General Assembly resolution condemning anti-Semitism, an annual UN report listing anti-Semitic incidents and plans to combat them, and the appointment by Annan of an assistant to deal with the question of anti-Semitism, said the WJC's executive vice-president, Elan Steinberg.

Bronfman wants to ensure the seminar is not a "one-shot event," Steinberg said.

Eve Epstein, an advisor to the UN's department of public information, which coordinated the event, said she thinks the seminar "signals the UN's willingness to influence the world's NGO's – which have, in large measure, been so unwilling to confront the issue of anti-Semitism, and indeed have sometimes contributed to its resurgence."

Epstein stressed that she was expressing her personal opinion, not that of the public information department.

"This conference is an answer to Durban," she said, referring to the UN's 2001 World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa, which erupted in a frenzy of anti-Semitic rhetoric and activism.

Since assuming his post a few years ago, Tharoor has considered ways to combat rising anti-Semitism, Epstein said. Cutting editorials last winter in the *Wall Street Journal* and *Commentary* magazine, and conversations with Jewish leaders, made him increase his efforts.

"UN Secretary General Kofi Annan – who has occasionally paid lip-service to the problem of anti-Semitism – ignored the requests of both NGOs and the state sponsors of the anti-Semitism resolution to weigh in on the importance of the issue with UN members, or to press the point with the Organization of the Islamic Conference, just as he has never convened a conference or written a report dedicated to anti-Semitism," Canadian Anne Bayefsky, an adjunct professor at Columbia University Law School, wrote in the *Wall Street Journal*.

"The UN is an organization founded on the ashes of the Jewish people and whose core human rights principles were drafted from the lessons of the Holocaust," she wrote. "The inability of the organization to address seriously one of the very evils it was intended to prevent is a scandal of global proportions."

With files from Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

Dry Bones

U.S. sources say Hezbollah sending fighters to Iraq

By NATHAN GUTTMAN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

WASHINGTON — The radical Lebanese Shi'ite organization Hezbollah has been moving fighters to Iraq in recent months to battle American troops, U.S. intelligence sources say.

The transfer has been carried out through Syria, following an Iranian initiative, the sources say. The transit through Syrian territory has been permitted by Damascus along its porous border with Iraq.

The Hezbollah fighters moving to Iraq are part of a broader force of pro-Iranian militants that operates in Iraq to destabilize the country and undermine American forces there.

Analysts believe the movement of the Hezbollah fighters to Iraq serves the interests of both Tehran and Damascus, which favour instability in Iraq for their own reasons.

Iran is eager to see the Hezbollah fighters establish operations in Iraq before a new regime is installed in Baghdad.

Still, there is no sign that Iran and its Lebanese surrogate are abandoning the friction along Lebanon's border with Israel, which is still considered to be Hebollah's primary focus.

In its interim report, the U.S. Congressional bipartisan commission of inquiry into the events of 9/11 states that co-operation between Hezbollah and Al-Qaida is extensive.

U.S. officials said recently that Syria has not seriously responded to American demands to seal its border with Iraq against the transit of "foreign fighters." According to U.S. sources, neither a letter to Syrian President Bashar Assad from U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell nor the subsequent U.S. decision to impose sanctions on Syria had the desired effect on Damascus.

On the other hand, Syria last weekend did extradite a terrorist suspect to France. The man had come into Syrian territory from Iraq and is suspected of being a deputy of Al Qaeda operative Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

Intelligence sources note the involvement of Hezbollah in Iraq is restricted to operations in that country alone and does not include the movement of other radical Islamic elements for operations in southern Lebanon.

Begin museum opens

An interactive museum and informal education facility promoting Menachem Begin's legacy has opened in Jerusalem. The $16 million (US) building honouring the former Israeli prime minister, based on the concept of American presidential libraries, was financed by donations from foundations and private individuals worldwide. The centre faces the walls of Jerusalem's Old City.

From Gush Katif to Etzion?

Israeli officials reportedly have ordered West Bank settlements expanded to house Israelis evacuated from the Gaza Strip. On Tuesday, Israel's daily *Ma'ariv* reported that Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz has drawn up plans for new residential construction in the West Bank's Gush Etzion area. The new homes are to be offered to the nearly 8,000 settlers slated for removal from Gaza, *Ma'ariv* said. Officials were not immediately available for comment on the report. The United States has spoken out against expanding West Bank settlements as part of Israel's plan to disengage from Gaza.

France: No deal with Israel

France has denied Israeli media reports that it is set to sign an arms deal with the Jewish state. *Ha'aretz* reported last week week that France was set to spend $200 million (US) to buy material for unmanned planes from Israel Aeronautics Industries. However, France's defence ministry said no such deal is in the pipeline.

Philadelphi route moat

The Defence Ministry issued a tender for the digging of a ditch along the border of Israel and Egypt south of the Gaza Strip. According to the specifications, the ditch – or moat – will be four kilometers long, 15 to 25 metres deep and 100 to 120 metres wide. Senior officials said the ditch will be dug along the Philadelphi route and will be ready before the withdrawal from Gaza is completed by the end of 2005.

Terror rocket escalation

Palestinians fired a new, advanced type of Qassam rocket at a residential area of Sderot early last Friday morning, Israel Radio reported. The rocket attack constituted an escalation, in that the more sophisticated rocket, called a Nasser 3 rocket, carries more explosive material and has a longer range than the type of Qassam Palestinians usually use in attacks, the report said.

Change in Syrian policy?

The Persian Gulf newspaper *Al-Watan* cited sources in Syria's ruling Ba'ath Party that Damascus is drawing up a new policy whereby it would be willing to recognize the Jewish state if it relinquishes lands conquered in the 1967 Six-Day War.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

Arafat says he accepts Israel's Jewish character

By AKIVA ELDAR and DAVID LANDAU
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat "definitely" understands that Israel must preserve its character as a Jewish state, he told *Ha'aretz* in an interview last week.

This is the first time Arafat has said he recognizes the state's Jewish character – he had previously refrained from doing so, to avoid offending Israel's Arab citizens.

In the interview at his office in Ramallah last Tuesday, Arafat pointed out that the PLO had adopted the Arab Summit resolution of April 2002. This resolution, based on a Saudi initiative, called for a just and agreed solution to the Palestinian refugee problem based on UN General Assembly Resolution 194.

However, he declined to say how many refugees he would insist Israel absorb as a condition for any peace agreement. He stressed that he had to solve the problem of some 200,000 refugees who live in very difficult conditions in Lebanon, and he asked "why the Christians from Russia have the right to come and the Palestinian Christian has not the right to come?"

Amos Malka, the former head of Israeli Military Intelligence, told *Ha'aretz* in an interview published June 11 that Arafat would be willing to compromise on the return of only 20,000 to 30,000 refugees to Israel.

Regarding borders, Arafat essentially confirmed Malka's assessment – that he would be willing to sign an agreement under which Israel would withdraw from 97 to 98 per cent of the West Bank and give the Palestinians territory equivalent in size and quality to the 2 to 3 per cent that would be annexed to Israel. He also said that under any agreement, Israel would retain sovereignty over the Western Wall and the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City, and Israelis would be granted freedom of access to holy sites under Palestinian control. The Palestinians would require sovereignty over the rest of east Jerusalem, including the Temple Mount.

Yasser Arafat

Arafat said that he was puzzled that the Israeli government does not view him as a partner for peace, pointing out that even Prime Minister Ariel Sharon had sent numerous messages to Arafat via the prime minister's son, Omri. Sharon also accepted various diplomatic and security initiatives – including the internationally sponsored "road map" peace plan – that were formulated in consultation with Arafat.

Arafat pledged that once the Israel Defence Forces withdraw from Gaza, the PA would take control of the area and fight not only Hamas members, but also Fatah members who seek to break the law.

He noted that British intelligence, which is monitoring the security situation in the territories on behalf of the Quartet – Russia, the United Nations, the European Union and the United States – recently published a positive report on the Palestinian security services' efforts to foil suicide bombings in Israel.

In one case, Palestinian police arrested a 17-year-old Bedouin girl who had planned to blow herself up in Israel. The arrest took place in a part of the territories that is under full Israeli security control.

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Israeli and Canadian charged in plot to ship night goggles to Hezbollah

By YOSSI MELMAN and SHLOMO SHAMIR
Ha'aretz Daily Newspapers Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The head of a Canadian shipping company and an Israeli were indicted last week for planning to ship state-of the-art night-vision equipment to Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Naji Antoine Abi Khalil, 39, chairman and general manager of New Line Services, a shipping company based in Montreal, and Tomer Grinberg, 30, an Israeli living in New York, were named in the indictment filed in Manhattan federal court.

Khalil, who has dual citizenship in Canada and Lebanon, is charged with attempting to supply material support and resources to a terrorist organization and attempting to supply goods to a terrorist.

He and Grinberg are both charged with conspiring to export sensitive military night-vision equipment without U.S. government licences.

If convicted, Khalil faces a maximum combined penalty of 30 years in jail and a $750,000 fine. Grinberg faces a maximum five years' imprisonment and a $250,000 fine.

The indictment replaces a complaint on lesser charges filed against Khalil last month. Prosecutors accuse Khalil of agreeing to send night-vision goggles, infrared aiming devices and other equipment to Hezbollah, which the indictment describes as a terrorist group.

The charges allege that on May 17 and 18, Khalil met an undercover FBI agent at a hotel in New York's Times Square area to discuss a shipment of stolen electronics that needed to be exported. The agent told Khalil he had a customer who wanted to ship night-vision goggles to Hezbollah in Athens, Greece. Khalil allegedly said it wasn't a problem and he had "friends."

The charges state that during another meeting, the agent introduced Khalil to another undercover FBI agent who was posing as the customer. He gave Khalil the address of individuals who would receive the shipment and Khalil agreed to create a fictitious bill of lading so the items and the identity of the shipper would not be revealed.

On May 19, Khalil and Grinberg met the undercover agent at a Manhattan storage facility to pick up the night-vision equipment, the indictment said. The agent showed the defendants a crate filled with 14 pieces of Generation 3 night-vision equipment, the highest level of night-vision technology, which may not be exported from the United States without a license.

Khalil and Grinberg loaded the equipment into a minivan and Khalil accepted a $2,500 down payment from the agent for the shipment to Greece.

As of last week, the American authorities have not contacted the Israeli consulate in New York about Grinberg's arrest.

Diplomatic sources in Israel said last week they are trying to contact the New York Police Department and the FBI to be brought up to date on the case.

"At this stage there has been no request from Grinberg, his family or his attorney," a source in the Israeli consulate in New York said.

Museum project brings Arab and Jewish youngsters together

By YONIT BAT MOSHE
Israel Press Service

JERUSALEM — The Bible Lands Museum has, for the past six years, operated the Image of Abraham project.

With the participation of Jerusalem's Paula Ben-Gurion and Ramat Moriah schools, as well as the Al-Ukhwah school in Jabel Mukaber, the program this year brought together Arab and Jewish fourth-graders and their parents to learn about the role of Abraham as Patriarch in Judaism and Islam.

Inspired by the Bible Lands Museum's artifacts, which trace the history of the Ancient Near East and highlight the common elements in both the Arab and Jewish heritage, the project aims to build a foundation for understanding and mutual respect, based on participants learning about similarities as well as differences in Judaism and Islam.

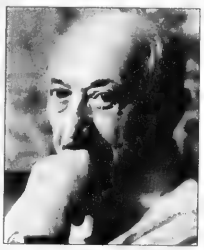
A series of models created by the students this year can be seen at the museum. The exhibit, Abraham's Journey, represents the regions traversed by Abraham on his journey from Ur to Canaan.

Hand in hand, Arab and Jewish youngsters build a foundation for understanding and mutual respect by participating in the Image of Abraham project, in which they learn about the similarities and differences in Judaism and Islam.
[IPS photos courtesy of the Bible Lands museum]

Wiesenthal awarded a British knighthood

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

VIENNA — Britain has awarded an honorary knighthood to Nazi-hunter Simon Wiesenthal in recognition of a "lifetime of service to humanity."



Simon Wiesenthal

Wiesenthal, 95, survived incarceration in Nazi prison camps in eastern Europe during World War II and has since dedicated his life to bringing those Germans and others responsible for the Holocaust to justice.

He is perhaps best-known for his role in tracking down Adolf Eichmann, the one-time SS leader who organized the extermination of the Jews. Eichmann was found in Argentina, abducted by Israeli agents in 1960, tried and hung for crimes committed against the Jews.

The British Foreign Office said John Macgregor, Britain's ambassador to Austria, gave Wiesenthal the award June 18 during a ceremony in the Nazi-hunter's home.

The knighthood also recognized the work of the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center, which was founded in 1977 to promote remembrance of the Holocaust and the defence of human rights.

When he first announced the honorary knighthood in February, British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said Wiesenthal "has been untiring in his service to the Jewish communities in the UK and elsewhere by helping to right at least some of the awful wrongs of the Holocaust."

"If there is one name which symbolizes this vital coming to terms with the past, it is Simon Wiesenthal's," Straw said.

Because he is not a British citizen, Wiesenthal can't use "Sir" in front of his name, but he can put the letters "KBE" after it. The initials stand for Knight Commander of the British Empire.

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On synagogue's 100th birthday, Rome's Jews remember liberation

By RUTH ELLEN GRUBER
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

ROME — Rabbi Vittorio Della Rocca was only 11 years old at the time, but he will never forget a historic Shabbat at Rome's Great Synagogue 60 years ago.

June 9, 1944 – just five days after Allied troops had liberated the city from the Nazis – was the first Friday night of freedom. An American Jewish chaplain led 4,000 Jews in the *Shehechiyanu* prayer.

"It was an incredible scene of joy and euphoria," Rabbi Della Rocca says. "There was a black spot, though, as everyone among us started counting to see if they could find all their loved ones."

The Rome congregation was the first large synagogue in Europe to be liberated.

The American chaplain was Lt. Morris Kertzer, a young rabbi from Iowa City, Iowa. Attached to the U.S. Fifth Army, he had landed with thousands of other U.S. troops at Anzio and witnessed the Allied liberation of Rome on June 4.

Rabbi Kertzer died two decades ago.

But this month, almost 60 years to the day after that historic Shabbat service, the Rome Jewish community presented a hand-lettered scroll of appreciation to his son, David.

A professor at Brown University, David Kertzer has gained renown in recent years for his books on Italian Jewish history, including *The Popes Against the Jews: The Vatican's Role in the Rise of Anti-Semitism* and *The Kidnapping of Edgardo Mortara*, which recounts the story of the abduction by the Church and forced conversion of a young Jewish boy in Bologna in 1858.

"For my father and for all Jewish American soldiers, to participate in the liberation of Europe was an extraordinary experience," Kertzer said.

"My father's experiences here had a big impact on me, and it's not really a coincidence that I chose the field of study that I did," he said.

During World War II, deportations of Italian Jews began only after the Nazis occupied Italy in September 1943.

Many Jews in Rome found refuge in the homes of Christian friends or in Catholic institutions, but methodical round-ups and searches led to the deportation of more than 2,000 Roman Jews to Auschwitz. About 8,000 Italian Jews in all were deported.

The Rome community's award this month, presented by the city's chief rabbi, Riccardo Di Segni, and the president of the Jewish community, Leone Paserman, came during an international conference June 16 and 17, held to honour the synagogue's 100th anniversary.

"During their 10 months of occupation, the Nazis had sealed the synagogue but didn't desecrate it," Paserman said. "On that first Friday night after the liberation, Jews from all over the city emerged from hiding and made their way to the temple.

"It's important to remember that the war was still going on elsewhere, and there would still be 11 months before peace was declared," he said.

The Great Synagogue in Rome

Rabbi Kertzer himself wrote vividly about his experiences in Rome in a book of memoirs published in 1947.

Accompanied by another Jewish chaplain, Rabbi Aaron Paperman, he wrote, he entered Rome in "a jeep sandwiched between a tank and a truck" as part of an impromptu military parade, cheered on by a million Italians. The two rabbis immediately sought out the local Jewish community.

"We were probably the first tourists since 1939 to ask, '*Dove la sinagoga, per favore?*'" Rabbi Kertzer wrote.

"The following Friday, on the ninth day of June, the first large synagogue in liberated Europe opened its doors," he wrote. "Four thousand men, women, and children streamed into the high-domed house of worship. Vast though the temple is, every inch of space was occupied."

In a brief, English-language sermon, Rabbi Kertzer told the Jews of Rome that the Allied soldiers shared their burdens, and he stressed the sense of unity that bound Jews worldwide.

"We Americans, from all walks of life, wearing the uniform of America, have flocked to the house of God. And we saw Jewish soldiers from England and Canada, Jewish soldiers wearing the insignia of Eretz Yisrael, proudly enter your beautiful synagogue to join in prayer," he told them.

Rabbi Kertzer shared the bimah with Rabbi Israel Zolli, the elderly and controversial chief rabbi of Rome, and at least two other rabbis. Rabbi Zolli, however, is almost never mentioned by Italian Jews, and his role in the liberation celebration was not brought up when Kertzer was honoured.

The reason is painful, embarrassing and bitterly ironic. After the liberation, Jewish community leaders accused Rabbi Zolli of having abandoned his post and his congregation during the Nazi occupation and fired him as chief rabbi. The Allies reinstated him, but the conflict split the community.

In February 1945, just six months after the joyful liberation Shabbat, Rabbi Zolli effectively ended the dispute by announcing his conversion to Roman Catholicism.

U.S. and Europe disagree over how to fight hate

By PHILIP CARMEL
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

PARIS — Americans and Europeans agree on the need to combat anti-Semitism and racism on the Internet.

They just disagree over how it should be done.

At a two-day conference in Paris last week organized by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), U.S. and European delegates differed sharply, and publicly, over how to maintain the boundaries between the preservation of freedom of speech and governments' fight against cyber-haters.

In a keynote speech at the conference, Robert Badinter, one of Europe's leading human rights jurists and a former French justice minister, expressed the widespread European view that democracies have the right to curb freedom of expression when it comes to anti-Semitism and racism.

"We are no longer living at the time of Thomas Jefferson," Badinter said. "We must adapt our necessary freedoms to an age where people are trying to threaten those freedoms."

Badinter's viewpoint was received positively by most of the OSCE's 55 member states. OSCE chair, Bulgarian Foreign Minister Salomon Passy, said that "freedom does not include the unrestricted right to spread hatred."

However, the United States strongly opposed calls by delegates to censor those who spread racism and anti-Semitism over the Internet. U.S. Assistant Attorney General Dan Bryant said the U.S. government opposes attempts that might suppress or censor Internet sites.

"The Internet is not an enemy of tolerance and human dignity," Bryant said, referring to the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. While there is "a threat to be feared," Bryant said the United States prefers to rely on "the marketplace of ideas." He said there is a certain "social value" in allowing those with unpleasant opinions to express their views.

Badinter said, "Imagine what would have happened if Dr. Goebbels had the Internet," a reference to the notorious Nazi propaganda chief. "We're not dealing anymore with someone printing 4,000 copies of *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* at the end of the 19th century," he said. "These sites reach millions of people."

At the Budapest Convention of 2001, which took aim at Internet crime, countries agreed to collaborate on such matters as confidentiality, child pornography and intellectual property. But the treaty so far has been ratified by only six out of some 40 signatories.

The United States, which signed the Budapest Convention, strongly opposed another treaty, in Strasbourg, France, in 2003, which called for the criminalization of racist and xenophobic material as well as threats and racist insults pronounced in public, and the diffusion of works that deny the Holocaust. The United States says it violates the First Amendment's right to free speech.

Brian Marcus, director of Internet monitoring for the U.S.-based Anti-Defamation League, said the difference in attitudes toward Internet hate speech can be a plus.

"We can work together. If people use hate material in Holland, Dutch organizations can bring prosecutions, while we in the U.S. can instruct the providers to remove the information from their servers," Marcus said.

In that respect, the U.S. providers are "choosing to be good citizens" by defining clear rules of service, he said.

While the U.S. Constitution protects the right to free speech, there is still a gamut of potential legal channels to crack down on hate speech, noted Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the U.S.-based Simon Wiesenthal Center.

He cited the example of a racist site that had downloaded Microsoft's logo for its own use, changing "business solution" to "final solution." The logo alteration was opposed by a lawsuit that steered clear of First Amendment issues.

Bryant said the U.S. Department of Justice can take legal action against Internet hate sites without compromising the right to free expression.

He cited the example of a 1996 case in the United States in which threatening and racist e-mails were sent to Asian students at the University of California. In that case, the sender ran afoul of federal civil rights laws that prohibit "interference by force or threat of force based on race or national origin with a person's attendance at a public university."

The offender ultimately received a one-year prison sentence.

But Badinter noted that the vast majority of hateful Web sites are hosted in the United States.

Suzette Brockhorst, secretary general of the International Network Against Cyber Hate, said many hate sites today go "jurisdiction shopping. A lot wind up in the U.S., where everything is protected by the First Amendment."

She said appeals to service providers to remove the Web sites are not sufficient because "it's Internet users who should be responsible for their actions."

She also noted that there are cases in which U.S. officials seem not as concerned about free-speech rights, particularly when it comes to dealing with child pornography.

"If it's done in child pornography, why can't it be done with hate speech?" she asked.

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Foundation promotes graphology in field of mental health

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Graphology, or handwriting analysis, is being introduced as a serious assessment tool for mental health professionals in North America, says an expert on the subject.

Torontonian Annette Poizner, who recently completed her PhD in counselling psychology at OISE at the University of Toronto on the use of graphology in psychotherapy, says graphology is underused in clinical practice.

While Poizner was training in Israel a decade ago, graphology was being used more frequently there than any other personality test, including by moshavim when admitting new residents, by companies looking for new employees and by Israeli clinical psychologists.

"When used alongside other projective assessment measures, graphology can reveal the underlying and often obscured personal issues that drive a range of mental health problems, including tenacious conditions that involve obsessive compulsive symptoms – conditions that are often only minimally responsive to traditional psychotherapy," says Poizner, who is also a graduate of the Columbia University School of Social Work.

"Projective assessment" includes the analysis of handwriting and drawings, as well as the interpretation of early memories. When symptoms have been resistant to treatment, projective assessment tends to show that, though the symptoms may be problematic, they are not the root problem, Poizner says.

Annette Poizner

"Most symptoms are seemingly imposed by the unconscious mind to manage another problem that has evaded conscious awareness. The root problem needs to be identified and managed."

She says when this occurs, symptoms will often improve quickly and dramatically.

Poizner is a director of the Milton H. Erickson Institute of Toronto, which trains therapists in the use of hypnosis and other applications of Ericksonian psychotherapy. The Milton E. Erickson Foundation is an international consortium that promotes the use of techniques developed by the famous psychiatrist, who did not believe in drawn-out therapy.

In her dissertation, Poizner wrote that several clients and therapists were surprised by the accuracy of handwriting analysis.

"There is an excitement and trend in psychotherapy to get results quickly by using strategic short-term approaches. The people who come for Brief Therapy [a counselling method influenced by Erickson's work] are usually people who have tried conventional therapy without success.

"I am trying to bring graphology and projective testing to the attention of colleagues, so they can see how it expedites Brief Therapy."

Poizner founded and currently chairs the Jewish Health Alliance, a grassroots network for health-care practitioners with an interest in the relationship between Jewish thought and healing.

Poizner will be speaking at Israel's: The Judaica Centre, 870A Eglinton Ave. W. on Thursday, July 8 at 8 p.m. about "Handwriting and Personality." The cost is $10.

Terrorist attack survivor lauds Shaare Zedek

On Jan. 22, 2002, Shayna Gould, a 19-year-old American student in her second year of study at Neve Yerushalayim seminary in Jerusalem, was pronounced clinically dead after a terrorist affiliated with the Fatah Tanzim's Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade opened fire on Jaffa Road.

Two women were killed and 42 others were injured. When Gould arrived at Shaare Zedek Medical Center with her left lung punctured and no pulse or blood pressure, the cardiothoracic surgeon, an Israeli Arab, and his team, which included a Palestinian doctor, massaged her heart back to life and removed her lung. The doctors believed that her chance for a full recovery was one in a million.

Shayna Gould
[Sandler Photography]

Gould now lives in Chicago. She was in Toronto recently to speak of her "outstanding" treatment at Shaare Zedek Hospital and her "miraculous recovery," at a Canadian Shaare Zedek Hospital Foundation fundraising dinner hosted by Warren and Debbie Kimel.

In an interview, Gould spoke of the immediate response by the Magen David Adom after the shooting. "The ambulance driver was there in moments and saw me get shot. His intercom with the hospital was not working. He called his wife, who is a nurse at the hospital, on his cell, and the surgical team was ready for me."

The hospital arranged for her parents, sister and brother-in-law to arrive in Israel within 24 hours. After several weeks in hospital and further care during a supervised stay in a hotel, she returned to Chicago and began physiotherapy, because she could not move her left arm as a result of back muscle surgery to close her incision.

"Shaare Zedek saved my life," she said. "I now have full dexterity and I work part time.

"Shaare Zedek is not just a hospital. It is so much more. They were so loving and gave of themselves to a degree that I have never seen anywhere else."

Gould said everything happens for a reason. "Things happen in your life – good and bad – and you are supposed to view everything as the will of God."

She adds that "even though what happened to me was terrible, it doesn't change my love for Israel and I look forward to returning to Israel in the near future."

At the Canadian Shaare Zedek Hospital Foundation dinner, chaired by Michael Bregman, the honorees were Kurt and Edith Rothschild, community leaders who have been affiliated with Shaare Zedek for more than three decades.

The funds raised at the dinner will go towards Shaare Zedek's new 32,300-square-foot emergency department, scheduled to be opened in August 2004. The facility will be three times larger than the existing department. Because of its central location, Shaare Zedek receives many of the victims when terrorism strikes in the area. — C.G.

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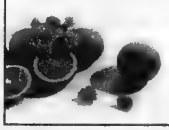

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Josh Freed just wants a little shut-eye

By JOSEPH SERGE
Arts Editor

Having trouble sleeping? Consider yourself in good company. Among history's famous insomniacs are Leonardo da Vinci, Napoleon, Vincent van Gogh and Catherine the Great.

In fact, about a third of us have trouble sleeping.

Josh Freed, an award-winning filmmaker and columnist for the Montreal *Gazette*, is one of them. His latest film *In Search of Sleep: An Insomniac's Journey* (on CBC Television's *Witness* June 23, 8 p.m. EDT) takes us on his quest to explore his insomnia and to find a cure.

As Freed says, "I haven't slept like a baby since I was a baby."

He tries everything, from elaborate sleep aid gizmos to a custom-made NASA space bed. He tries a sleep clinic and New Age techniques.

Unfortunately, at the end of his quest, he has to admit, "Insomnia is hard to cure, and my problem may never go away."

So, if you can't find a cure, is there someone or something to blame?

Freed suggests blaming Thomas Edison, who changed the way we sleep with his invention of the light bulb. Prior to this innovation, humans averaged nine hours of sleep each night. Now, we average only seven, and many of us try to make do with less.

Freed's quest ends in Seville, Spain, where the afternoon siesta is still very popular. A one-hour power nap in the middle of the day is more than enough to allow people to get by on a few hours of sleep at night.

But in North America and many other countries, a midday snooze is hard to come by. Even in Spain and other Mediterranean countries, the siesta is going the way of the dinosaur.

However, one innovative company in Spain offers its employees a one-hour massage/nap time. If only we could convince our bosses that this is a good idea. After all, research shows that a midday snooze does increase afternoon productivity.

Lacking hard-hitting scientific facts and solutions, Freed takes a typically whimsical, and lighthearted approach to a serious topic.

Maybe CBC ought to run this documentary again at 3 a.m. for those of us who, like Freed, find ourselves wide awake.

The Cultural Guide To Jewish Europe *is comprehensive yet concise*

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

The Cultural Guide To Jewish Europe, distributed in Canada by Raincoast Books, comes out at a peculiar time.

On the one hand, Europe is beset by a new wave of anti-Semitism, aggravated by the Arab-Israeli conflict.

On the other hand, there is a renewed interest on the part of non-Jews in Europe's Jewish past, which brings us back to this lavishly-illustrated 613-page compendium.

Compiled by an army of contributors, this guide covers Europe like the early morning dew. Comprehensive yet concise, it is underpinned by a firm grasp of and an appreciation for history.

Did you know, for example, that mid-18th century Amsterdam had the largest Jewish community in Europe, and that Holland was the first European nation to accept Jews in parliament?

Perusing the chapter on Germany, I learned something else. The Weissensee cemetery in Berlin, which contains the tombstones of famous persons running the gamut from the theologian Leo Baeck to the philosopher Hermann Cohen, is one of the largest Jewish cemeteries in Europe.

Moving on to Portugal, I discovered that in the early 19th century, some 500 years after their expulsion during the Inquisition, Jews were permitted to live openly and freely there. But in the town of Belmonte, amazingly enough, there is still a crypto-Jewish community.

Flipping through the section on Italy, I found out that Jews have lived in Rome for the past 2,000 years and that their monuments, from the Jewish catacombs to the Ostia Antica synagogue, trace their long presence in the Eternal City.

Reading about the capital of eastern Slovakia, Kosice, I learned that a once-vibrant Jewish community has been reduced to a rump of some 800 inhabitants.

Prague's charming old Jewish quarter, which I had the pleasure of visiting almost 30 years ago, is described in detail. A footnote on the Charles Bridge is intriguing. It informs readers that the third statue on the right contains a golden inscription in Hebrew.

There is an abundance of material about Poland, which was home to 3.3 million Jews before the Holocaust. My attention was particularly drawn to a former Jewish neighbourhood in Krakow, Kazimierz, where several scenes of *Schindler's List* were filmed, and to Lesko, where a 17th century fortified synagogue still stands.

Turning to page 469, where the chapter on continental Greece starts, I read that Jews returned to Athens in the 19th century after many centuries.

Although 54 percent of Gomel's population was Jewish in 1897, Jews in that Belarussian city have virtually vanished. As a result, a synagogue with colonnades has been supplanted by a pedestrian movie theatre, and a cemetery has fallen into ruins.

In Brody, a city in Ukraine where Jews comprised 80 percent of the population a century ago, the walls of a 17th-century shul remain intact and Jewish-style courtyards can still be seen.

The last entry is on the Finnish city of Trondheim. Here you will find the world's northernmost synagogue, which, for a year, served as a train station.

Such curiosities, large and small, fill the pages of *The Cultural Guide To Jewish Europe*, an eye-opener of a book.

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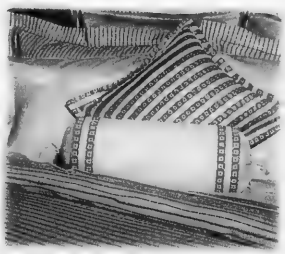

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Actress makes a splash in bathroom comedy

By BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
Special to The CJN

"When a little girl is given as many lines as I have, there's still hope for dreams," says Little Sally, the small, hyperactive character in *Urinetown*. The statement can also apply to Jennifer Waiser, the Montreal-born actress who plays Little Sally.

Waiser, 26, has done more in her short career than many have done in a lifetime. She has appeared in more than 13 productions, including *Evita* and *Fiddler on the Roof*, and a few weeks ago, began a four-month run in *Urinetown*.

Pictured are Jennifer Waiser as Little Sally and David Keeley as Officer Lockstock. [Bruce Zinger photo]

Waiser's love of theatre lights began with an Ottawa theatre company when she was in high school there. "They did community theatre," she says, "and that sparked my interest. It wasn't just a hobby, I really wanted to do this."

When she was in Grade 12, Waiser transferred to Canterbury Arts High School, to focus on her acting.

During her final year in high school she got a part in a Mirvish production and moved to Toronto where her career took off.

Despite her success, Waiser had been trying to land the role of Little Sally for more than three years. "I went down to New York and I knew an agent there. A week later, there was a call for *Urinetown*."

Waiser made it to the final audition, where she and one other actress were left, but she didn't get the role. Six months later, she was called to audition for Little Sally as part of the National Touring Company and was again passed over in the final callbacks.

It was only a matter of time until *Urinetown* came to Toronto. "I was working at a different theatre company at the time when I found out *Urinetown* was coming here. The team from Broadway was coming to Toronto, and I thought, 'That's great, but will they remember me?'"

Waiser had in fact made an impression on the Broadway casting agents, who told her just to come to the final callback. The morning after her audition, she heard she got the part.

Urinetown is a quirky comedy revolving around a small town where residents have to pay to use the bathroom. Most citizens are forced to live in poverty because a money-hungry CEO controls bathroom prices and has his hand in the politicians' pockets. It doesn't take long before the citizens plan a revolt, with Little Sally emerging as one of the play's narrators, talking to the audience between scenes.

The musical, originally at the New York International Fringe Festival, became a Broadway hit, but the play didn't lose its fringe qualities in transition.

"It's very witty and really comedic," says Waiser, who admits that acting in this production has been very different from her past theatre experiences. "You have to have really good timing," she says. "It's really quirky. I haven't done a role like this before, but it's something I've wanted to try for a long time."

The Toronto production's creative team, including John Rando, the Tony Award-winning director, have all worked on the Broadway production of the play.

Waiser says her experience working with Rando was invaluable. "It was great. A lot of directors are not actor-directors. They say something and you don't know what they want. [Rando] knows exactly what to say, and if you did something he didn't like, you wouldn't even know it cause he's so confident in the play."

Waiser is getting positive reviews for her role as the bouncy child whose relationship with the police helps her find out information that other characters don't have. But Little Sally isn't Waiser's first role where she's received rave reviews. She was a Dora Award nominee for best performance by a female in *Boy Jones*.

She did not win, but she says she was pleased by the nomination. "I thought it was a joke. The agency called me, and I said, 'Don't joke about that.' That's something you aspire to when you're 50. It was really an honour."

Urinetown is playing at the St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts and is scheduled to run until Labour Day.

Tickets are available in person at the CanStage Customer Service Centres, 26 Berkeley St. or 27 Front St. E., by telephone at CanStage 416-368-3110, or at Ticketmaster 416-872-1111 or online at www.canstage.com.

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

MICHAEL RUBINOFF PRODUCTIONS BRINGS NEW YORK'S *GAME SHOW* TO ST. LAWRENCE CENTRE

Toronto theatrical entrepreneur **Michael Rubinoff**, in association with Jeffrey Finn Productions, presents the Toronto premiere of *Game Show*, a theatrical comedy that the *New York Times* described as "a cross between a quiz program and *Survivor* with more plot twists than you'll see in a year of soaps."

Set during a simulated live broadcast of a fictional, long-running TV game show, *Game Show* places the theatre audience in the role of TV studio audience. Volunteers are selected from the audience to play the trivia-based game and win actual prizes.

In addition to watching and playing, the audience also witnesses all the back-stabbing antics behind the scenes during commercial breaks. The production converts the entire theatre into a television studio equipped with applause signs, contestant podiums and operational television cameras.

Previews begin Thursday, June 24, opens July 7, 8 p.m. Jane Mallett Theatre, St. Lawrence Centre. 27 Front St. E. $40. 416-366-7723. www.stlc.com.

* * *

Yiddishland Café: Denise Williams, Michael Mandel, Nina Shapilsky and **Rodion Boshoer** present "For A Better Tomorrow," songs of freedom and hope in Yiddish and other languages. $12. Workmen's Circle, 471 Lawrence Ave. W. Sunday, June 27, 7:30 p.m. Tickets and reservations, 416-787-2081.

* * *

What's Doing at Israel's: Holistic practitioner and singer **Debra Joy Eklove** presents "Chanting for Personal Empowerment," a safe, playful program that attempts to "empower you and increase your awareness and conscious choices." 870 Eglinton Ave. W. (west of Bathurst, north side). Refreshments, free admission. Tuesday, June 29, 7:30 p.m. 416-256-2858, ext. 22.

* * *

Israeli Films in Ottawa: The Canadian Film Institute, the Embassy of Israel and the Israeli Cultural Forum are joint sponsors of the Israeli Film Festival 2004 in Ottawa. Two films were screened on June 20 and two more are scheduled for June 27 – *Trumpet in the Wadi* at 7 p.m. and *Wisdom of the Pretzel* at 9 p.m. The reception in between is courtesy of the Canada Israel Cultural Foundation and the Ottawa Va'ad Ha'ir. Purchase tickets prior to the screening at the National Library/Archives of Canada, 395 Wellington St. Non-members $9, members $6.

* * *

Fringe Festival Offerings: The 16th annual Fringe Festival presents productions by about 130 independent theatre companies from across Canada and around the world, performing more than 900 shows in 10 venues from roughly June 30 to July 11. Tickets are usually $8 to $10. Several productions are described below. For more information, contact the Fringe hotline, 416-966-1062.

• Shprinza Productions presents *Barely Surviving My Jewish Family*, a one-person, autobiographical show in which **Sari Colt** shares her outrageous tales of growing up in an offbeat Jewish family. Factory Studio Theatre, 125 Bathurst St.

• Australian comic **Jonno Katz** presents *Cactus*, an absurd, anarchic solo show in which three characters walk through a desert encountering their dreams, flashbacks and fantasies. Robert Gill Theatre, 214 College St. www.epicworlds.com.

• *Fable: Based on a True Story* is directed by **Jen Johnson** and written and performed by **Adam Lazarus**. This piece of "Bouffon" comic theatre is presented by Schmigeggy. Tarragon Extra Space.

• *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Decorum* is a new, one-man comedy show by **Jeff Wener**, a former North York box-office worker who "has probably sold more tickets than anyone in Canadian theatre." Royal St. George Theatre, 120 Howland Ave., 416-423-2540.

• *Magda's Beauty Secrets*, a play by **Diane Forrest** starring **Corinne Conley**, tells the story of a Polish girl who is kidnapped to work as a slave labourer in Hitler's Germany. Tarragon Extra Space.

• Applications for the Fringe's 6th annual 24-Hour Playwriting Contest are now being accepted with the contest fee of $25. On Wednesday, June 30, at 7 p.m., 60 contestants will be given four objects, locations or situations to incorporate into their plays, which must be written within 24 hours. Top three prizes are $500, $300 and $150. 416-966-1062, e-mail fringe@fringetoronto. com.

* * *

Arts in Brief

• Friends of Yiddish presents *Mame-loshn, Kinder-loshn*, a film about a small group of Yiddish lovers who are trying to revive Yiddish language and culture in Israel. Subtitles. Members free, guests $7. Refreshments. B'nai Brith Building, 15 Hove St. Tuesday, June 22, 7:30 p.m.

• The rock-jazz group **Lighthouse** and the blues group **Bradley and The Bouncers** perform and the CanStage cast of *Urinetown* presents scenes from the musical comedy at Mel Lastman Square, 8 to 10:30 p.m. on Canada Day, July 1.

• The Art Gallery of Ontario presents a special showing of 50 Group of Seven works to showcase its 85-year relationship with the famous Toronto-based painting group from the first historic show in 1920 to the present. Opens July 1.

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Billy Crystal's new book was inspired by his grandchild

By SORIYA DANIELS
Special to The CJN

The recent birth of his first grandchild has been Billy Crystal's greatest source of joy and inspiration.

So much so that the award-winning actor, director, comedian and Oscar host decided to create a picture book that children, parents and grandparents could enjoy together, while celebrating the continuity of their lineage.

Crystal's book, *I Already Know I Love You* (HarperCollins) is more than a tale of unconditional love. In a heart-warming way, it imparts some of the Jewish values that have been passed on from Crystal's own parents and grandparents.

"I want to teach you about our family with pictures from long ago," wrote Crystal in his children's book.

Crystal is up to date on his Jewish heritage, as Janice, his wife of more than 30 years, recently hired New York-based genealogist Rafael Gruber to explore his ancestry.

That inspired Crystal and his wife to produce a permanent exhibit,"Finding Our Families, Finding Ourselves," at the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles.

For Crystal, the continuation of the Jewish people is a priority. "You're the new twig on our tree and I can't wait to watch you grow," he wrote to his granddaughter, Ella, in his book, long before he knew his grandchild would be a girl.

"I wrote that I don't know if I'm buying ballet shoes or hockey skates," he says. "I think that line summed it up."

News of impending grandfatherhood came on the first anniversary of his mother's death, which had been a traumatic loss for the Crystal clan. The good news of a grandchild on the way helped propel Crystal out of the sadness over his mother's death.

"The baby has filled up a great place for me that had been sad for a couple of years now because of the loss of my mom," he says. "When you see how life works – someone has to leave to make room for the new – it changes your whole point of view about life. I've been smiling ever since."

Billy Crystal imparts Jewish values to his grandchildren.

To Crystal, having a grandchild reaffirms the continuity of his own family. And not surprisingly, his daughter, Jenny, and son-in-law, Mike, named their daughter Ella Ryan, after Crystal's mother, Helen Eleanor.

The quintessential Jewish comedian, Crystal was close to his grandparents as a child growing up in Brooklyn and then Long Beach, N.Y. He believes that the older generation has a lot to offer children.

"It's important to understand that grandparents were here first and someone was here before them," he says. "I grew up in a house where a grandfather would greet you every day with 'whatta ya gonna do with your life?'"

Crystal has certainly done a lot with his life and he gives credit to his Jewish upbringing on Long Island, and in particular, to his own grandfather, who was a Yiddish actor. "If it wasn't for the laughs and love of my relatives and friends when I was a little kid, I don't think I would have ended up being a comedian."

With the publication of his new children's book, Crystal's career has suddenly taken another direction. "I'm just incredibly moved about this whole new period of my life," says the star of *City Slickers* and *When Harry Met Sally*, with an air of comfort associated with his current stage of life.

In his new role as a grandfather, Crystal has been examining his own values. He stresses the importance of honesty.

"I want to show you that lying is never as good as true," he wrote in his book.

Crystal also emphasizes the importance of being actively involved in bringing up children. He foresees helping his granddaughter study for tests and showing her how to fly a kite, and just doing the simple things that make a child happy. "The most important thing is to be with your kids, listen to them, and love them."

Sound like a typical Jewish parent?

CORRECTIONS

The Party Planner (*CJN*, June 10, Section B) contained the following errors:

• Wisteria Floral Design (905-763-1700) was left out of the list of advertising florists in the story, "Beautiful flowers create simplistic elegance" (page B12).

In the same story, Joanne Winkelaar's name (of Stemz, 416-471-4945) was incorrectly spelled. A statement was also wrongly attributed to her, suggesting that 10 per cent of the party budget should be spent on flowers. She meant 10 per cent of the table budget (including linens, cutlery, etc.).

• The name of Peter Eliopoulos (of By Peter & Pauls, 905-326-2000) was incorrectly spelled in the story, "What's the key to choosing a venue?"(page B13).

• The phone number of S.T. Spa (416-789-9835) was listed incorrectly in the story, "Look your best on your special day" (Page B31).

• Party Outfitters should have been listed in the "Other Advertisers" section of the One Stop Party Shop story (page B8), not of the story on Party Favours (page B6).The phone number of Party Outfitters (905-482-9285) was incorrectly listed.

The CJN regrets the errors.

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Resort shows off its magnificence

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

Sometimes, as they say in the art world, less is more.

That's the case with the 64-room Vitalis Spa, adjacent to the Herods Palace Hotel and the Herods Forum Convention Center in Eilat, Israel.

Guests at the Vitalis Spa are offered a healthy, relaxed atmosphere with "no smoking, no telephones and no children," according to builder and co-owner Yoav Igra.

"It's a quiet spa environment," said Igra, who was part of a delegation from the Herods Complex to visit Toronto recently. "It's very hard for Israeli people not to have their telephone ringing, but we overcome it."

But the Vitalis, which at 3,500 sq. metres is billed as the largest spa in Israel, also offers a constellation of features that place it among the best spas in the world.

While telephones are available for those who can't part from them, all guests have access to a superbly equipped fitness centre, dry and wet saunas, outdoor aerobic deck, hydromassage treatment pool and other state-of-the-art spa facilities, all against a backdrop of the sea and the mountains.

As with the rest of the complex, the design highlights the region's history with artistic themes and emblems borrowed from the Greeks, Romans, Nabateans and Egyptians.

Guests can enjoy the state-of-the-art spa facilities. [IGTO photo]

"Most hotels create boxes that look like office buildings," Igra said. "We wanted to create a different effect."

Situated along Eilat's beach-front promenade, the Herods Palace complex has received international accolades since opening several years ago. The *Jerusalem Post* called it "a sprawling expanse of artfully crafted turquoise and white buildings, pools, pergolas, gazebos, bridges, domes and amphitheaters."

While the Vitalis Spa is for adults only, the adjacent Herods Palace welcomes family members of all ages.

Moshe Sand, general manager of Herods Palace Hotel, was part of the delegation to show off the three-part resort to dozens of tourism professionals at Toronto's Sheraton Centre Hotel in late May. The promotional event featured a lavish kosher spread, live band and audiovisual presentation.

"Why is it that Greece has 20 million tourists each year and Israel only gets two or three million?" said Sand. "This bothers me. Israel has so much to offer. It's the cradle of civilization.

"One day there will be peace – or at least quiet," he continued. "And it will attract many millions of tourists to Israel."

For more information on the Herods Sheraton Resort, phone 972-8-638-0000 or visit the website www.sheraton.com.

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Books & Authors

Book describes poet's journey into her family's past

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

Despite its title, *How to Tell Your Children about the Holocaust* (McGilligan Books), Ruth Mandel's work is not a how-to manual about Holocaust education nor an easy-to-read children's genocide tale.

It is a book of poetry, divided into three parts, that describes Mandel's 12-year journey into her family's past through her father's Holocaust experience.

Ruth Mandel

"It is a sampler that deals with the many different issues that come up around the Holocaust," Mandel says in an interview.

Mandel, who recently won the Isaac Frischwasser Memorial Award for Holocaust Literature at the Canadian Jewish Book Awards, began her exploration after she asked her father "what happened to you in the Holocaust?" and was met with a wall of silence.

It's not that she didn't know about Hitler's Final Solution and the European Jewish experience. In fact, the primary part of her Jewish identity revolved around the Holocaust and formed the lens through which she viewed everything around her.

And so she writes, "The Shoah is the bottle in which we are held."

But her father's determination not to discuss his own personal experiences led Ruth to question the boundaries through which identities are formed, and to investigate what it means when people are so "wounded by prejudice" that past abuses inform their present so completely.

"By labelling himself a survivor, my dad let the Holocaust define himself in a way that kept injuring him over and over again," Mandel says.

Mandel believes her father's experience is written into people every time they are wounded, and she emphasizes that genocide and war crimes are not singular experiences limited to the Jewish people.

"My writing is about trying not to devalue the fight against any form of prejudice and, of course, the obvious obligation of anyone who has suffered so, not to recreate that for somebody else," Mandel says.

"Who could know better than we not to devalue lives, not to be prejudiced? Who could be more compelled toward empathy and compassion and who would want security and levity for all?" she queries.

Mandel suggests her parents coped with their experiences by separating themselves from the "religiosity of Jewishness." The family grew up in the Yonge-Eglinton area of Toronto and Ruth really didn't know many other Jews, besides "our neighbour and relatives.

"Having the Holocaust form the primary part of my identity as a Jew was a very lonely kind of a way to be Jewish," she admits.

As she grew up, she began to wonder "where the fun part was? Where is the part that I can take for my own?"

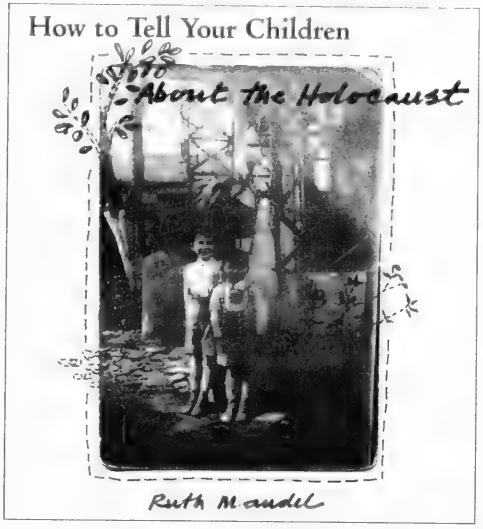
Initially, she joined the Jewish Feminist anti-Fascist League, a group of very young, political, community active, diverse, Jewish women. In 1994, they organized "Carrying our Memories Forward – an Evening of Resistance and Survival in commemoration of the 51st anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising".

"My first Jewish friends were in that group," Ruth says.

Mandel recalls she also took classes with Rabbi Elysse Goldstein. "Learning with her allowed me to study in a context where someone else had done the scholarship, the deconstruction, the interpretation and I could just absorb."

Now, Mandel writes Passover Haggadahs for her children – Ziva, 8, and Tai'o, 2, – that change every few years to include popular melodies her children relate to. Last year's seder incorporated tunes by Britney Spears and The Spice Girls.

"We do matzah bakes on the street and include all our neighbours," says Mandel, who now lives in the Bathurst-Bloor neighbourhood, just down the street from where her mother grew up. Mandel's daughter goes to the same Palmerston Avenue public school her mother attended.



While she intends to set up an after-school Jewish program for her kids, Mandel says she is also committed to diversity and mixing.

"I'm adverse to isolation and exclusion," she says.

Mandel, who describes herself as a poet and textile artist, has a degree in communications from Concordia University and has worked in the feature and documentary film industry in various positions, including researcher, production co-ordinator and location manager.

Over the past 10 years, her poetry has been included in various literary journals and anthologies, including *Never Again, A History of the Holocaust*, by Sir Martin Gilbert.

In the introduction of *How To Tell Your Children About The Holocaust*, Gilbert, an Oxford professor and the official biographer of Winston Churchill, recalls that he lived with Mandel's maternal grandparents as a wartime child evacuee from Britain.

Gilbert notes that Mandel represents that "articulate voice of the 'second generation' – the children of survivors."

It is a voice that attempts to integrate a devastating family past into her current reality by disclosing and engaging with the implications of the Holocaust on her own life.

As Mandel writes in "How To Tell your Children About the Holocaust," the title poem for which the book is named, "Personal history arrives of its own volition, no consent no map no help no tricks.

"You are merely here to explain it."

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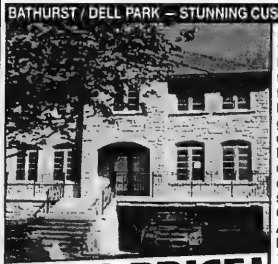

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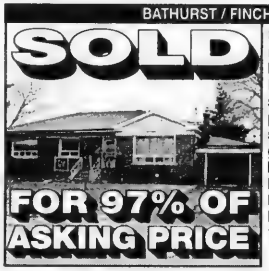

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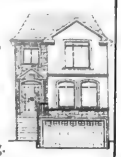

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Israel & the Jewish World

OLD TROOPERS RETEST THEIR WINGS: Paratrooper Battalion 202 held a 40th anniversary reunion last week in Israel. Here, we see two veterans getting ready to jump once again. [Israel Sun Photo]

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Maple Downs to celebrate 50th anniversary in July

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Maple Downs officials participate in the official ribbon-cutting ceremony to open the expanded premises. Seen here, from left: David Greaves, Ian Roher, Allan Baker, Marilyn Levenstein and Harvey Capp.

In 1954, religious discrimination in Toronto was still very much a reality. Private institutions, including golf clubs, were restricted. The message was clear, if not explicit: Jews need not apply.

For those who wanted to enjoy the golf experience, options were limited. Oakdale was already in existence, but even then the club imposed membership fees that were far too rich for the average golfer.

Faced with limited options, a group of entrepreneurial-minded friends decided to create their own alternative: Why not create a new Jewish club, the second in the city?

That year, Maple Downs Golf and Country Club opened for business on what used to be a remote patch of scrub bush on Dufferin Street north of Major Mackenzie in the town of Maple. Next month, it will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a dinner and dance for current and past members. The recently renovated clubhouse will serve as the showcase for the club's rich past. Inside, a continuous loop slide show of archival photos, as well as a display of historic pictures and gatherings of old and new members, will recall the club's storied past.

David Greaves, Maple Downs' general manager, said the club is hoping the anniversary will facilitate the transmission of the club's rich heritage to a new generation of golfers.

Country club atmosphere, but with a Jewish flavour

Mickey Firestone, 86, is one of the remaining original members who is able to recount the club's challenging early days. Back in 1954, he recalled, the late Murray Ehrlich and Normy Bornstein became aware that a 156-acre piece of land was for sale. At $105,000, the price was right. An eight-man committee assembled to explore the possibility of purchasing it, and when news spread about the venture, the committee grew to 30 or more – "99 per cent weren't even golfers" – Firestone said.

The group called a public meeting at the Engineers Club on Spadina, north of College to invite potential members to invest in the club. "Murray made the pitch and spoke like we knew what we were talking about," Firestone recalled.

Sold on the idea of an affordable Jewish golf club, participants forked over 168 cheques for $500 each. The Mitchell Brothers were hired as the course architects, and $10,000 was spent on seedlings, which were planted by kids. When they started, "it was the most barren piece of land you could imagine," Firestone said.

When the course opened, there were only 12 holes, a pro shop, and nothing else, he added.

In 1955, Hurricane Hazel ripped up most of the club's top soil, but Maple Downs persevered. The club hired a pro, George Clifton, and he in turn signed Irv Lightstone as an assistant. Lightstone, an accomplished golfer who would go on to play for a short time on the PGA Tour, served as assistant for about seven years before taking over the reins as head man.

Under Lightstone's influence, the club made tremendous strides in making itself a popular and highly sought-after destination. In the late 1980s, the club hosted a unique event that was sponsored by IMASCO as a pre-Canadian Open fun day. PGA tour players showed off their skills, including Greg Norman, Jack Nicklaus, Nick Price, Lee Trevino, Curtis Strange, Craig Stadler and Peter Jacobsen.

As the club continued to develop, it expanded to a 6,700-yard, 18 hole course that featured a forested layout and difficult holes with few flat lies. In 1996, the course was recognized by the golf experts at *Score Magazine*, Canada's golfing bible, as the 32nd best in the country.

Maple Downs was never an easy course to play, Firestone recalled. Golfers with handicaps of six or eight strokes "thought themselves lucky to get 85 or 90."

The club did produce one top player about 30 years ago, Norm Mogil, who won the Canadian junior championship.

Today, the club maintains a junior program for kids under 16, but no one has come close to duplicating Mogil's success. Instead, Maple Downs stresses the recreational and social aspects of golf and is striving to maintain a membership number that will make the club a going concern for years to come.

Today, there are slightly fewer than 300 male "senior" members and a further 185 female members. Juniors add another 100 players.

Maple Downs continues to attract young families who enjoy golf and the atmosphere created by a Jewish club, said Greaves. New members pony up an initiation fee of $55,000, spread over six or seven years, while weekend memberships go for $30,000. Annual dues run at $5,700 per year with a $1,000 food minimum per family.

Maple Downs offers a country club atmosphere, but with a Jewish flavour, Baker said. Every Friday night, a traditional dinner is served in the clubhouse, and with the recent renovation and addition, creating an 18,000-square foot facility, members have a very comfortable club to enjoy, he added.

The club maintains a close association with State of Israel Bonds and has raised money for Bonds for 20 years. As well, each August, the club hosts guests from the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care, who are treated to lunch and entertainment. The club also opens its doors to participants in Baycrest's annual bikeathon, providing a stop en route for lunch.

Each Sunday is the club's fun family day, with a barbecue and buffet, kids swimming or playing on the club's four tennis courts and practice available on the club's four-acre area devoted to the short game.

For more information, visit www.mapledowns.com.

Correction

In our story last week on gymnast Marci Bernholtz ("Gymnast has high hopes to make Athens Olympics"), we inadvertantly misnamed Bernholtz's coach. The coach's name is Paula Johnson. *The CJN* regrets the error.

The challenge of finding kosher products

It has been six months since I koshered my kitchen, and I am finally a kosher guru. However, it didn't start out that way.

My first experience shopping for kosher food was a full-day, traumatic event. I took little breaks in between walking down the food aisles because I was so confused. I used to be in and out of the grocery store in half an hour. I knew what products were vegetarian, which were organic and what my favourites were.

But when I became kosher, the dairy section made me dizzy. I couldn't find the hechsher on my favourite yogurt and had to purchase a new brand. There was no hard kosher cheddar cheese anywhere. I was almost in tears after going to three different stores trying to find kosher milk. After drinking black coffee for days, I learned from my rabbi that unless I was cholov Yisrael observant, milk didn't need a hechsher.

Next I became convinced in the cereal aisle that corn flakes are not kosher. I thought, "I should tell my Orthodox friends to stop eating it." Before I made a total fool of myself, I found the small COR on the box. It had an almost-hidden hechsher! Why was it so small? The manufacturer should make it bigger. I am sure sales would go up.

If I lived in a religious neighbourhood, it would have been easier to purchase kosher products. But I am always up for a challenge and I don't have a car, so I decided to continue scouting out my local stores for kosher food.

To my complete disappointment, there was no kosher bread within walking distance. Despite the latest health fad, I still eat carbohydrates. I did find kosher bagels at the local Dominion, and kosher pita is available. Pita is fun for awhile, but then it gets boring – and it is very difficult to toast.

Sometimes, I plan a field trip and take the bus to the big Dominion at Bathurst Street and Lawrence Avenue, which has an abundance of kosher products. This Dominion also has a great selection of cheese and a full aisle of kosher food. Subsequently, I go to a nearby coffeeshop for a coffee and a great tasting kosher muffin. The staff always serves me with a smile and it is a great place to schmooze.

By far my most entertaining grocery shopping experience was at Sobey's in Thornhill the weekend before Passover. (Also the most expensive.) In every aisle, there was someone I knew from various aspects of my life – shul acquaintances, work colleagues, guys I have been on dates with and friends I have not seen in years. The coffee section was confusing, so I asked a young religious couple which brands were kosher for Passover. We became friends and they invited me over for a future Shabbat meal. It was a big kosher grocery party! I could have spent all day there, but my frozen food was melting.

I have since graduated and am no longer the naïve kosher shopper. After receiving e-mail support and encouraging advice from readers, I realized I was not alone.

I read *Is It Kosher?* by E. Eidlitz and found it to be very helpful. The Kashruth Council of Canada has an informative website, whether you are just getting started or want to research a particular food item. I learned if you are a patient grocery shopper, sooner or later, you will find the small hidden hechsher. And if you don't, there are plenty of other kosher products to choose from.

Miriam Porter can be reached at Miriam@jtvproductions.net

DARK CHOCOLATE OATMEAL COOKIES

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- 3/4 cups unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 3/4 tsp. salt
- 1 stick unsalted butter, room temperature
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 2 tblsp. rolled oats (not instant)
- 3/4 cup semisweet chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 350°F. Butter large rimmed baking sheet. Sift first 4 ingredients into medium bowl. Using electric mixer, beat butter in large bowl until fluffy. Add sugar and vanilla; beat until blended. Add flour mixture and beat until moist clumps form. Mix in oats with spatula until evenly distributed (dough will be very firm). Add chocolate chips and knead gently to blend.

Using moistened palms, shape 1 generous tablespoon dough into ball. Place on prepared sheet; flatten to 2-inch round. Repeat with remaining dough, spacing rounds about 2 inches apart.

Bake cookies until centre is slightly firm and top is cracked, about 14 minutes. Cool on sheet.

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Epi on Education

In the federal election campaign currently underway, there are, of course, issues that directly or indirectly affect Jewish voters. I will not use this column to offer any opinions as to which party would be best for Jews. In fact, there are facets of each party platform that jibe with one Jewish value or another, and my strength has never been in politics.

There is, however, something common to all the party leaders that should speak to us as Jews. I was singularly impressed by the ability of all four politicians in question to speak a second language, indeed to debate forcefully in a language other than their native tongue. For the average European politician, this would not be so rare, but even in Europe, many political leaders are limited to one language of fluency. To our immediate south in the United States, it is very rare to find politicians who can flip back and forth linguistically (and as a consequence, culturally).

The advantages of such flexibility are obvious but overlooked when Jews consider their own cultural heritage.

Knowing Hebrew doesn't link us only to another language, but to the full richness of our classical texts and values of the past. It also provides a live connection to the current culture of the modern Israeli state.

This is why our schools put so much stress on Hebrew language and literature. To truly know the beauty of our past and, more importantly, to be a creative partner in the building of our future, we must be able to read, speak and sing from right to left. Even the letters of the Hebrew alphabet (itself a Hebrew word that we lent to others!) have poetry hidden in their curves that slowly reveals itself to the avid student.

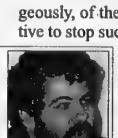
Our ancestors in places as distant from each other as Poland and North Africa would put honey on Hebrew play objects so that infants would learn the sweetness of their heritage. Perhaps we need to give our children Hebrew-English keyboards on their first computers so that they learn early to be comfortable with a language that empowers them to link our glorious past with a flourishing Jewish future.

Epi (Seymour Epstein) is the vice-president of Jewish Education at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

The trouble with 'never again'

I think something is missing in Holocaust education.

One of the fundamental teachings in Holocaust education is the message of "never again" – the idea that Jews will not be silent or inactive when genocide is perpetrated in the world, knowing the terror we experienced at the hands of the Nazis.



We produce feature films, books and lecture series on every aspect of the Holocaust, reminding ourselves that we were demonized as worms and insects and that our parents were forced to kick the streets of Europe. We teach the concept of "never again" to our teenagers by showing them the remains of hair belonging to Jews, within the barbed fences of Auschwitz and other embodiments of evil.

The Toronto Jewish community, with the rest of the Jewish world, has spent millions of dollars on museum exhibitions showing actual cattle cars and yellow stars worn by our daughters who were forced by the Nazis to prostitute themselves.

Over and over, survivors remind us, so courageously, of their humiliation and the imperative to stop such barbarism from reoccurring. Never again.

"Never again" is repeated on Yom Hashoah, as we march along the train tracks of concentration camps, draped in Israeli flags, and when we celebrate the courage of the Elie Wiesels and Simon Wiesenthals.

These are all commanding reminders of the Holocaust, constructed, in part, to encourage brave responses to humankind should it transmute into a physical wretch void of soul. "Never again" is a code that lies deeply within the Jewish mind.

Despite our thorough education, however, a disconnect occurs in many Jews when they are actually faced with the prospect of "never again" – such as in Cambodia, Rwanda, or today, Sudan. So often this phrase flails at our feet like a fish gasping for life. How is this?

What indeed is the intellectual, emotional and spiritual progression that happens within us as we heed the testimony of people like Roméo Dallaire, the Canadian general responsible for UN peace-keeping forces in Rwanda in 1994, who refused to leave the country despite a command to do so and the utter indifference of the world?

We listen intently, sigh and celebrate his valour and commitment to "never again," but know in our hearts that the Jewish world, for the most part, stood by during the Rwandan genocide, as our non-Jewish counterparts did during the Holocaust. We could have collectively, and fiercely demanded action from our government and the world. We have the ability to do so. But we didn't. Why?

Today, it is clear the Sudanese people are being enslaved, murdered and ethnically cleansed. Two million are affected. Two million! Some Jews are responding – for example, a local doctor, Norman Epstein, and his committee – but most of us are not.

What then are we thinking when we listen to another Holocaust lecturer, as she bangs her fist on the lectern and shouts, "Never again." What are we processing?

I do not ask this painful question to condemn us for not caring – I know better of our people – but rather to encourage careful consideration of this serious disconnect: an aspect of Holocaust education demands our commitment to act, yet we are silent when genocides stare at us.

How do we ensure that "never again" will be a shofar-like awakening to arouse the brave, rescue God's creation and set a valiant example to the deafening disinterest of the world who watched while six million of our people were slaughtered?

We need to figure this one out. This is one of the troubles of Judaism today. Never again!

To discuss this article e-mail avrum@veahavta.org.

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This Week

National

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Remembering Theodor Herzl on his 100th yahrzeit

By RABBI SHLOMO JAKOBOVITS

The foremost event in modern Jewish history was the establishment of the State of Israel, Friday, May 14, 1948. The scene depicting the proclamation is familiar to every Jew, and very prominent is the image of Theodor Herzl, towering over the proceedings from his impressive portrait high on the wall.

Herzl, whose 100th yahrzeit falls this year on the 20th of Tammuz (July 9), was not the first to espouse Zionism. Several writers, including Yehuda Alkalai in 1839 and Leo Pinsker in 1882, promulgated ideas that would later be identified as Zionist. And the Chovevei Tzion movement began establishing agricultural settlements in Palestine 12 years before Herzl adopted Zionism. But none before Herzl came anywhere close to creating the machinery that would lead to statehood.

Herzl was born in Budapest in 1860, and his family moved to Vienna when he was 18. He and his family were assimilated to the extent that Judaism played only a minor role in their lives, as was then typical among the non-observant affluent families in the larger cities of Central Europe.

Continued on page 32

Theodor Herzl

Ignited the souls of so many others

Editorial

Theodor Herzl's deeply set, dark brown eyes were said by a biographer to have "shone with an inner light of their own and to have exercised a strange fascination over those upon whom they fell."

That description, undoubtedly, owed as much to a biographer's zeal as it did to historical truth. But no one could deny the force of the fixed, penetrating gaze that emanated from Herzl's eyes like a harder-than-rock bit of diamond drilling through stone. Those eyes – and the determined, dreamy, courageous personality they bespoke – became the defining feature of the man who, by dint of sheer personal will and strength of character, altered the course of modern Jewish – and one might add, world – history.

Next week, on the 20th day of Tammuz, (July 9), we will commemorate Theodor Herzl's 100th yahrzeit.

Like all great men of history, Herzl was an imperfect man who judged and misjudged events and people with straining human fallibility.

But like all other great men of history, he would not be moved, despite the odds, from the single-minded cause that had ignited his soul and by which, in turn, he ignited the souls of so many others – the urgent founding of a modern state for the Jewish people.

Theodor Herzl was the father of the modern Zionist movement. He, more than any other, gathered up, shaped and channelled millennial, messianic, theological yearnings of Return to Zion into a modern political movement.

Continued on page 8

Parsha: Balak
Candlelighting: 8:44
Havdallah: 9:49

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Canada

New Mayor Jewish

WINNIPEG — Businessman Sam Katz became Winnipeg's first-ever Jewish mayor last week, trouncing a crowded field of candidates for the job vacated by federal Liberal candidate Glen Murray. Katz, 53, won 42 per cent of votes cast, 43,000 more than his nearest rival, former city councillor and boxer Dan Vandal. Katz is a concert promoter and owner of the Winnipeg Goldeyes minor league baseball team.

Veteran Journalist Dies

TORONTO — Former *Toronto Sun* journalist Jerry Gladman died last week of Lou Gehrig's disease at age 61. The columnist and feature writer was diagnosed with the debilitating neurological ailment, also called amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS, in late 2003. In his more than 40-year career, he also worked at the defunct *Toronto Telegram* and as a journalism instructor at Ryerson Polytechnic University. He leaves his wife, three children and four grandchildren. Last fall, he wrote about life with ALS in an award-winning four-part series in the *Sun*.

Mizrachi Scholarships

TORONTO — Mizrachi Canada announced it has awarded more than $42,000 in scholarships, ranging from $250 to $2,500, to Toronto high- school graduates to help them finance a year of study at yeshivot and midrashot in Israel. Mizarachi said its Montreal office will hand out more awards there later this month. Mizrachi received more than 70 aid requests and gave grants to students from the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, Yeshivat Or Chaim, Ulpanat Orot, Tiferes Bais Yaakov, Bnos Bais Yaakov, Ner Israel Yeshiva and a number of public high schools.

World

No Christian Reference

BRUSSELS — The European Union Constitution will not contain a reference to Christianity. EU leaders meeting June 18 left untouched the draft preamble of the constitution, which recognizes Europe's "cultural, religious and humanist heritage," despite calls from some countries to include a reference to Christianity. The move was strongly criticized by Pope John Paul II.

Lineups For the Rebbe

NEW YORK — Thousands gathered last week to mark the 10th anniversary of the Lubavitcher rebbe's death. Some waited for hours to enter the Queens cemetery where Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson is buried. He is credited with turning Chabad-Lubavitch into one of the most prominent public faces of Judaism.

Zionists Blamed

RIYADH — Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah blamed Israel for the recent execution in Saudi Arabia of U.S. defence contractor Paul Johnson. "Zionism is behind it," Abdullah told Saudi TV. "It is not 100 per cent, but 95 per cent that the Zionist hands are behind what happened." Johnson was beheaded by Islamic terrorists.

Buildings Attacked

LONDON — A London Jewish communal building was firebombed less than 24 hours after a separate attack on a London synagogue. The offices of the outreach organization Aish HaTorah were gutted by fire the evening of June 18 and two Torah scrolls in the centre's synagogue were torn and desecrated. Jewish security and police sources say no one has claimed responsibility for the attack, which is not believed to be connected to an arson attack the day before at London's South Tottenham Synagogue.

Jewish Artifacts Found

WARSAW — Archeologists unearthed a trove of Jewish ritual objects buried since the Holocaust near the former Auschwitz death camp. The items, including candlesticks and chanukiyot, were found during an excavation of the foundations of the destroyed Great Synagogue in Oswiecim, the town near the camp. The shul was burned to the ground in 1939 after the Nazis invaded Poland. Funded by Polish and Israeli sources and the Claims Conference, and filmed for Israeli TV, the dig started May 31. The only clue where to dig came from an elderly Holocaust survivor who saw the shul caretaker bury a large box near the building shortly after the Nazis invaded Poland in 1939.

Métis Leader Apologizes For Hitler Comments

WINNIPEG — Manitoba Métis Federation president David Chartrand apologized last week for comparing Conservative party campaign manager and University of Calgary political science professor Tom Flanagan to Adolf Hitler.

The comments came at a news conference where Chartrand and Dennis White Bird, grand chief of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, announced their support for the Liberals.

Chartrand accused the Tories of having a hidden agenda on aboriginal rights and pointed to Flanagan, who wrote a book four years ago called *First Nations? Second Thoughts*, in which he argued there is a need "to minimize the damage caused by the thoughtless elevation of the Métis to the status of a distinct 'aboriginal' people."

Chartrand said that "when people talk about Hitler, they see such hatred, that a man could be so cruel. You look at Thomas Flanagan writing about us, saying that we shouldn't even exist, that we're not even a people." Asked if he was comparing Flanagan to Hitler, Chartrand replied: "If Flanagan had his way, if he had an army behind him, yes I would."

Speaking a day later to CBC, he said he wanted "to apologize to all those who were affected by Hitler," but added he he would "fight to protect my people."

Assembly of First Nations national chief Phil Fontaine said although Flanagan's writings are "racist," Chartrand's comments were "extreme and beyond the pale" and "offensive to the Jewish community… and all Canadians."

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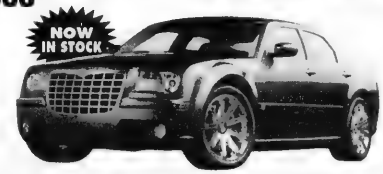

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Senator sees breakthrough on anti-Semitism at UN

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Two years ago, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), a 55-member group representing much of the developed world, issued a clear and ringing denunciation of anti-Semitism. At its conference in Berlin, OSCE member states pledged to combat the hatred of Jews, enact legislation to punish it and educate its citizens about it.

Senator Jerry Grafstein, OSCE treasurer and head of the organization's liberal, democratic/reform group, believes the OSCE declaration is bearing fruit.

In what Grafstein describes as a "breakthrough" and "a major victory at the United Nations," UN Secretary General Kofi Annan has condemned anti-Semitism while acknowledging the OSCE led the way in addressing the issue.

"In effect, a junior organization… has influenced the UN," Grafstein said. "The OSCE has deeply influenced the UN to take on anti-Semitism."

Annan's remarks were delivered in an opening statement at a one-day UN seminar on anti-Semitism held in New York last week.

"The rise of anti-Semitism anywhere is a threat to people everywhere. Thus, in fighting anti-Semitism we fight for the future of all humanity," the secretary general said.

Pointing to the 1975 UN resolution equating Zionism with racism, Annan said "the UN's record on anti-Semitism has at times fallen short of our ideals."

Furthermore, he said, "when we seek justice for the Palestinian – as we must – let us firmly disavow anyone who tries to use that cause to incite hatred against Jews, in Israel or elsewhere."

Annan went on to commend the OSCE's view that "international developments on political issues, including those in Israel or elsewhere in the Middle East, never justify anti-Semitism."

Grafstein said the OSCE will continue its aggressive offensive against anti-Semitism at its next meeting in Edinburgh from July 5 to July 10. A new resolution, presented by U.S. delegate Christopher Smith and seconded by Grafstein, will build on the Berlin Declaration and develop a concrete plan of action

The resolution, in part, calls on member states to gather information on anti-Semitic hate crimes; hold hearings to ensure each country's commitment to the Berlin principles are implemented; and create mechanisms to educate and train educators, military forces, law enforcement and judicial officers about anti-Semitism, intolerance and the Holocaust.

Grafstein said he convinced, with some difficulty, the Senate to study anti-Semitism in Canada. The Senate's standing committee on human rights began its investigation on April 19, but no parallel inquiry has been scheduled by the House of Commons, he said.

At the UN, meanwhile, the international organization came under fire from law professor Anne Bayefsky last week for not only failing to address anti-Semitism, but for becoming "the leading global purveyor of anti-Semitism – intolerance and inequality against the Jewish people and its state."

In remarks reprinted in *The Wall Street Journal*, Bayefsky blasted the UN for "demonizing" Israel and for failing to craft a specific resolution or a single report on anti-Semitism, "in contrast to annual resolutions and reports focusing on the defamation of Islam and discrimination against Muslims and Arabs. Instead there was Durban, the 2001 UN World Conference 'Against Racism' which was a breeding ground and global soapbox for anti-Semites."

Bayefsky noted that Annan condemned Israel's "extrajudicial killing" of Hamas terrorist Abdel Aziz Rantisi, but remained silent when the UN special rapporteur detailed the murder of more than 3,000 Brazilian civilians. "That's discrimination," she said.

Bayefsky said if the UN was serious about eradicating anti-Semitism, it should "start putting a name to the terrorists that kill Jews because they are Jews. Start condemning human rights violators where they dwell, even if they live in Riyadh or Damascus. Stop condemning the Jewish people for fighting back against their killers… Only then will the message be heard from these chambers that the UN will not tolerate anti-Semitism or its consequences against Jews and the Jewish people, whether its victims live in Tehran, Paris or Jerusalem."

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When theatre beckons and dreams come true

Two aspiring actors, Jordan Kanner and Jonathan Gould, are performing, for the first time, at the Stratford Festival this summer. For both, it's a dream come true. And when young people actually live their dreams, it is always a worthwhile story.

* * *

Jordan Kanner was born in Montreal some 27 years ago but grew up in Toronto, where his family moved when he was very young.

In an interview last week, Jordan said he took his first drama steps on the stage of North York's Leah Posluns Theatre, where he played acting games when he was five or six years old. As a youngster, his parents enrolled him in various acting and improvisation programs at the Koffler Centre. The sheer fun of those experiences stayed with him and would subsequently steer his career to where it is today.

From the editor's desk

One year ago, Jordan graduated from the fine arts program at Ryerson University. Today, he is performing in two plays at the Stratford Festival, Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo* and William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

"It's simply amazing to be here," he said. "I am ecstatic. You never stop learning here. It's great to have this opportunity."

Even though he is only at the beginning of his professional career, he has already played a number of demanding roles. During his graduating year at Ryerson, he performed the role of the emcee in *Cabaret*.

Some eight months later, he played the role of Neil Rosenbloom in *Hate*, an episode of the CBC program *True Crime 72 Hours*. Rosenbloom was a young Toronto rabbinical student who was murdered some years ago in Pittsburgh.

It's very difficult not to notice Jordan. He stands three inches taller than six feet. Jordan loves what he is doing but acknowledges "it is a tough business."

"Especially when you are starting out, you have to close your ears from the things you hear people saying." He quickly adds, however, that from his parents, who are members of the Adath Israel Congregation in Toronto, he heard supporting words of encouragement. And that helped him all along the way. They were the boosters for his career as an actor, which he has now fully launched.

The advice he offers young people trying to follow their own creative dreams is, "If it's what you want to do, then, do it."

* * *

Jonathan Gould, 25, actor, musician and songwriter, was born to the theatre. "It was something that just came naturally," he said in an interview.

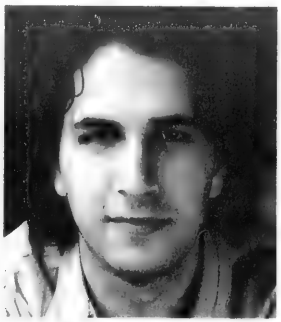
And it is no wonder. His parents established an ambience in their home in Ottawa, a short walk from their shul, Congregation Machzikei Hadas, that nurtured self-confidence and inspired creativity in him and his siblings, and planted acting, singing and dancing within their souls.

"I was three years old and performing," Jonathan said in his deep, baritone voice.

His two older sisters, Jennifer and Adrienne, are accomplished, professional actors in their own right. Indeed, Adrienne is performing at Stratford this season and will join younger brother Jonathan, in the cast of *The Count of Monte Cristo*.

His affection and respect for his sisters is palpable. "There was never, nor is there today, any competition with my sisters or sibling rivalry," he said.

Jonathan's path to a life in theatre has been quite focused. He left Ottawa after graduating from Canterbury High School for the Performing Arts, to study fine arts at the University of North Carolina. Then, with his degree in hand, he moved to New York for a year of additional training.



Jordan Kanner

Jonathan Gould

"Theatre school was a battle," he said. "You are constantly being scrutinized and judged."

To help him through some of the tougher "battles," he would call home. "My mom was always great when I needed sensitivity and understanding." But he quickly added, "My dad was great, too, but when I needed pragmatic advice."

The combination of his parents' encouragement and advice, his sisters' examples and his own talent and determination have clearly landed Jonathan where he loves being. "I am so grateful that this is what I do for a living. When I wake up each day, I am so happy to say that acting is my thing. I feel rewarded each day I am here," he said.

In addition to a role in *The Count of Monte Cristo*, Jonathan is part of the cast of the festival's *The Triumph of Love*.

His advice to youngsters looking for their own career paths was an unrehearsed echo of that of his fellow Stratford apprentice. "Do what's true to you. Try to do what you know you have innate ability to do."

It helps, of course, to grow up in a home that is supportive and nurturing of those abilities while they are still in the growing stage. That, of course, is one of the key messages for parents from the stories of these two young but very talented Stratford apprentices. —*MBD*

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BUILDING TOGETHER: Members of Holy Blossom Temple's young adult group Generation Aleph joined participants from last week's Central Conference of American Rabbis convention and more than 40 others from Holy Blossom and the Canadian Council of Reform Judaism to help build a house in Scarborough with Habitat for Humanity, an organization that erects homes for families who need affordable housing.

Reform rabbis address issues at convention

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

For Rabbi Daniel Komito Gottlieb of Temple Kol Ami in Thornhill, the Central Conference of American Rabbis' (CCAR) 115th annual convention last week was an opportunity for learning, fellowship and the exchange of ideas.

Rabbi Gottlieb and about 15 colleagues from Canada were among 450 Reform rabbis who took part in a wide-ranging program at Toronto's Westin Harbour Castle.

Although the vast majority were American, with a handful of Europeans and about a dozen Israelis, Rabbi Michael Stroh of Thornhill's Temple Har Zion said they dealt mainly with "universal rabbinic issues," rather than geographically specific ones.

Both rabbis cited a major session on the Zohar, the central text in Kabbalah, as a highlight. The session featured Daniel Matt and Arthur Green, authors of a new translation of the work. A focus on Kabbalah at a Reform Jewish event is no longer unusual, said Rabbi Stroh.

Among the other major sessions were a panel on the Reform movement in Israel and a wrap-up address by Lutheran theologian Martin Marty, who said there are three main demands in religion: experience, identity and authority.

Liberal religion "has to be more concerned with what is identity and what is experience, and what kind of authority you have when you don't want a legalistic kind of authority along the way," said Marty.

Rabbis Michael Stroh and Sharon Sobel were among 450 Reform rabbis at last week's Central Conference of American Rabbis. [Frances Kraft photo]

More than 60 workshops were offered, ranging from terrorism to transgender issues and from Kabbalah to synagogue transformation.

A session on adolescent congregational programs, with Sara Lee, director of the Rhea Hirsch School of Education at Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles, was one of the top two sessions for which participants signed up.

"We have to think in radically new ways," said Lee, who cited, among other items, a need for teens themselves to make important decisions in the process of creating an "adolescent community." She proposed a theoretical model that would be relevant and "would provide...a Jewish 'second family,' where [teens] will find comfort and support, will grapple with values, and deal with decisions in an environment of learning and resources."

Representatives of the 1,800-member organization, the largest denominational group of its kind, adopted a resolution on Iraq supporting U.S. President George W. Bush's commitment to assisting in rebuilding a stable country but condemning the Bush administration for "false claims" of weapons of mass destruction to justify the war in Iraq and for failure to implement a plan to end "chaos" in the country.

The rabbis also resolved to oppose any proposed federal or state constitutional amendment that would limit full civil marriage for same-sex couples.

In the four years that the CCAR has recognized the legitimacy of same-sex unions, rabbis say they "have grown in our knowledge and experience of same-gender couples establishing Jewish homes and raising Jewish children."

CCAR president Rabbi Janet Marder expressed pride in the Reform rabbinate for "this courageous stand."

The rabbis also called on Israel to end "discriminatory" demolition of Palestinian homes and to place "limits" on the construction of Israel's security barrier, and passed a resolution supporting dialogue with Arabs and Muslims.

A resolution opposing physician-assisted suicide as public policy was tabled by a vote of 68 to 62.

With files from Ron Csillag

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Greater Toronto Area

Judge quashes Zundel's subpoena

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

A Federal Court judge last week quashed an attempt by Nazi apologist Ernst Zundel to compel officials of Canadian Jewish Congress and B'nai Brith Canada to testify at his security hearing.

Judge Pierre Blais ruled Zundel failed to show that either Keith Landy, former national president of Congress, or Frank Dimant, executive vice-president of B'nai Brith, provided government ministers with any information beyond their public statements urging that Zundel be removed from Canada.

Judge Blais also quashed subpoenas issued against journalist and author Andrew Mitrovica, who wrote a book about the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) and Zundel, and Ontario Court Judge Lauren Marshall, who served as legal counsel for Zundel almost 20 years ago.

Congress' and B'nai Brith's efforts were public and "lobbying ministers is a legitimate exercise in an open and democratic society such as Canada. Anyone has the opportunity to lobby any minister at any time and make his or her views known," Judge Blais wrote in an 18-page judgement released last week.

"The CJC and B'nai Brith have been rather vocal about this matter, so there is little to be gained from Mr. Landy's or Mr. Dimant's testimony in this regard. They would not be able to testify as to the true influence the CJC or B'nai Brith may have had on the government, since only the decision-makers… know how the decision was made."

Zundel, one of the world's foremost publishers of neo-Nazi and Holocaust-denial material, has been in jail since he was expelled to Canada from the United States in February 2003. Zundel had left Toronto two years before to join his wife in Tennessee. He was deported to Canada when his U.S. visitor's visa expired.

Federal officials issued a security certificate declaring Zundel a threat to Canada. They are attempting to remove him to his native Germany, where he faces charges of inciting racial hate against Jews. For his part, Zundel has made a refugee claim, though hearings on that are on hold pending a determination of the validity of the security certificate.

Bernie Farber, executive director of Congress' Ontario region, said court dates have already been booked for October and November. "There is no end in sight," he said. "There is motion after motion and appeal after appeal."

Landy said Zundel's attempt to subpoena Jewish leaders is an attempt to show "Jews exercise extraordinary power on elected representatives… The unofficial reason is he wanted to delay and protract the proceedings and to try to create theatre, as has been his wont in the past."

Landy and Farber said that if Zundel had returned to Germany last year, he would probably be a free man today, even if he had to serve a short time in jail.

"I believe he wants to be a martyr for his cause," Farber said. "It seems he has a Christ complex, a messianic martyr's complex where he wants to be seen as a martyr for his movement."

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TABLECLOTH OF HOPE: KitchenAid Cook for the Cure, a national grassroots program in which Canadians help raise funds for Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation research by hosting cooking get-togethers for family and friends, recently launched the national tour of the Tablecloth of Hope to recognize people who have participated in the program. KitchenAid invited hosts of Cook for the Cure parties to sign pink or white napkins, which were sewn together into a 12x12-foot tablecloth that will tour the country. Seen at the launch at Queen's Park are, from left, Arlene Caplan, brand manager, KitchenAid Canada; breast cancer survivor Sarah Ray; party host Judy Urowitz; and Carol Seidman, CEO, Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation. For information about the program, visit: KitchenAid-cookforthecure.ca.

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Teen charged with arson in yacht club fire

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

A 13-year-old boy turned himself into police last week in connection with the fire that destroyed the clubhouse of the Island Yacht Club (IYC) on Father's Day, June 20.

The youth, who cannot be identified under young offender legislation, was investigated by police at 52 Division and subsequently released. He faces charges of arson – damage to property; mischief endangering life; mischief interfering with property; and mischief over $5,000. He is to appear in court July 30.

Shortly after the blaze was extinguished, the fire marshall's office declared the area a crime scene. Bruce Bussin, commodore of the 52-year-old club, said the IYC's members had speculated an arrest was imminent.

"There was some level of anticipation that would happen. A lot of rumours were circulating the night of the fire that a number of boys were behind the clubhouse and may have been responsible for setting the fire.

"We feel disappointment, sadness. Some are feeling anger," he said.

"I find it too beyond the realm of reality to ever think a 13-year-old boy would intend to cause a risk to members," he said. "I would think the parents of the boy or boys involved would be enormously upset."

The fire has thrown the club's summer plans into disarray, but Bussin said sailing will continue and members will be accommodated at the club's accessory buildings and other facilities, which were not damaged in the fire.

The site has been visited by an insurance adjuster and Bussin said there is no reason to believe the club will not be covered even if a member's son is convicted of setting the fire.

He said the IYC has received tremendous moral support from boaters and other yacht clubs in the Toronto area.

ASSOCIATED STUDENT PLACES FIRST: Associated Hebrew Schools student Josh Satok, bottom row fourth from right, recently placed first in Canada in the Hebrew division for Grade 7 at the National Chidon Hatanach Contest. Elizabeth Friedman, top row fourth from left, placed third in Canada for Grade 8. This year, 22 Associated students advanced from the regional competition to the national contest. Pictured with the teachers who helped them prepare are, top row from left, Chaim Lax, Yonatan Lipsitz, Shirlee Solomon, Elizabeth Friedman, Daniel Hershkop, Raphael Zipori and Gideon Berger; and bottom row, from left, teacher Rabbi Saar Rozen, Ari Cuperfain, Neil Newman, Ari Feinberg, Danielle Ripsman, Josh Satok, Ari Satok, Talia Sudai and teacher Lily Zorer.

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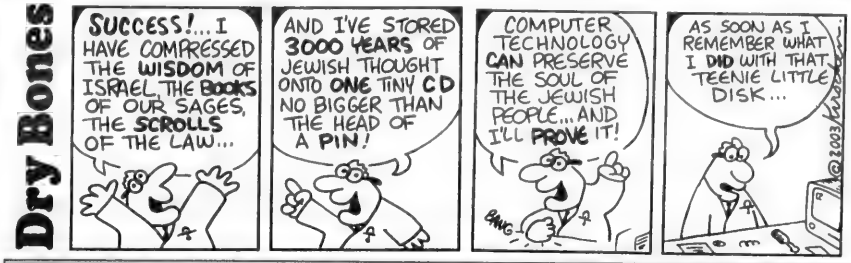
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Herzl's dream

Continued from page 1

As Prof. Eugene Orenstein of Mcgill University has noted: "What Herzl succeeded in doing was to take Zionism beyond the domain of the traditional rabbis and the fledgling Jewish nationalist intellectuals who debated Zionism on the pages of tiny Hebrew periodicals read by small numbers of eastern European Jews, and place it in the arena of international politics."

One hundred years after his death, the movement Herzl founded is as vital an enterprise and as noble a cause as the day he addressed the very first Zionist Congress in Basel, Switzerland, in 1897. "Zionism... is a moral, lawful, humanitarian movement, directed toward the long yearned for goal of our people," Herzl thundered to the delegates and guests in Basel. Of all the revolutionary political movements and national ideologies that appeared on the horizon a century ago, the movement that Herzl founded is the only one that flourishes today. Zionism's triumph, the ingathering of vast numbers of Jewish exiles from the four corners of the earth, is still a work-in-progress, and the political embodiment of that enterprise, the modern State of Israel, is evolving.

That Israel is less utopian than its dreamers dreamed is not an indictment of that dream or of Israel. It is, rather, a testament to the simple humanity of its people. That Israel is a vibrant, hectic, technologically advanced democracy, governed by the rule of law, defended by a standing citizen's army, is also a testament to its people – that they will never let go of that original utopian dream. That Israel has not yet been able to find a way of living in peace with the Palestinians is also not an indictment of Zionism or of Israel. It is, rather, melancholy proof of the persistence of the unwillingness of Palestinian and other Arab leaders to accept in their midst the sovereign realization of "the long yearned for goal of the Jewish people."

But that Israel still strives to find a way to make peace, despite the ongoing Arab hatred for the Jewish state, is eloquent proof of the justice of the Zionist cause and its concern for the value of all human life.

Theodor Herzl's 100th yahrzeit is a fitting occasion to recall the core purposes, principles and values of the Zionist movement he was so instrumental in founding. For more than three decades now, Israel's enemies have perversely painted the Jewish state and Zionism as a portrait in dark, distorted colours. But Israel – and the Zionist dream at its centre – is an exceptionally beautiful canvas of many colours, many languages, many backgrounds and one everlasting hope from which all peoples could draw benefit, if only it were given the opportunity to live in peace with all of its neighbours.

Herzl concluded his remarks in Basel with the following exhortation. The words were also intended for us to hear today.

"Our Congress shall live forever; not only until the redemption from age-long suffering is effected, but afterwards as well... let our Congress be earnest and high-minded, a source of welfare to the unhappy... of honour to all Jewry. Let it be worthy of our past, the renown of which, though remote, is eternal."

Obsession with Israel

What is the reason for the juvenile and myopic focus of the press on the Mideast? Two answers come to mind – the first is that journalism is allowed in Israel, unlike in most Arab countries and other areas of conflict. The second is that journalists live in relative safety in Israel and can to go back to their comfortable hotel at the end of a hard day's work. For a journalist to go to Somalia or Chechnya is a risk to his or her life, just as when a Reuters crew were forced, upon pain of death, to hand over their film to terrorists in Ramallah two years ago.

The above does not justify the unbalanced coverage of the tiny country of Israel. Journalists hide behind the safety and sanctity of the Jewish state, and then peek out to throw stones at the very protectorate they condemn.

Jonathan Mansoor
Toronto

* * *

Kudos to synagogue

Kudos to the Pride of Israel Synagogue, which recently installed a central bimah at floor level in its main sanctuary, enabling people with disabilities to be honoured with aliyot to the Torah. This, in addition to its existing outside ramp, makes the synagogue a rare breed in the GTA, providing for those unable to negotiate stairs.

Most of the other synagogues equipped with outside ramps, many funded by the government, have so far failed to recognize the needs of the disabled inside the sanctuary.

The dignity of all congregants should be top priority, and how comforting it would be if all other synagogues would follow the example of the Pride of Israel.

Cantor David Nemtzov
Toronto

* * *

Writer a lapsed Protestant

I was surprised to see myself described as a lapsed Catholic who had written a novel about Jews and Protestants in your article on the Jewish book awards ("'Lapsed Catholic' wins Jewish Book prize," *CJN*, June 3).

It's the reverse. As I mentioned when I accepted the Martin and Beatrice Fischer fiction prize for *Mme Proust and the Kosher Kitchen*, I am a lapsed Protestant, and the characters are all Jews and Catholics, starting with the French novelist Marcel Proust, whose mother was Jewish and father Catholic. My point was that writing fiction involves imagining what it's like to be somebody else.

Kate Taylor
Toronto

* * *

Women have a key role

It seems Sara Horowitz's discontent ("Women and Judaism in the True North," *CJN*, June 10) with the seemingly limited range of options for women's engagement in Jewish spiritual life in Toronto is based on the mistaken premise that the primary locus of spiritual expression in Judaism is the synagogue. Yet, the home has been, and continues to be, the holiest and most important place for the practice of Judaism.

For instance, three important hallmarks of Jewish life are the observance of kashrut, Shabbat and taharat hamishpachah (family purity). All three are primarily practised in the home.

Furthermore, one must make a distinction between revolutions that promote Halachah and those that are counter to Halachah.

Horowitz states that she respects the boundaries of Halachah. Yet, she advocates for women to read the Torah, lead a congregation in song and lead the prayer service – clearly activities prohibited by Halachah when done in a congregation consisting of both men and women. On the other hand, the Bais Yaakov movement mentioned by Horowitz was by no means revolutionary in a halachic sense. One of its main goals, in addition to educating Jewish girls in the texts of Tanach, was, and continues to be, to foster a love and respect for adherence to the many mitzvot that girls are uniquely responsible for.

So-called egalitarianism in Judaism often implies giving women roles that are traditionally masculine. There is rarely, if ever, any notion of giving men roles that are traditionally feminine. Do those who promote an "egalitarian quorum" also demand that men be equally required to light Shabbat candles and separate challah?

If Jewish women would only learn and practise all the beautiful mitzvot that are their endowment, they would be too busy reaping their spiritual fulfilment to be concerned with men's obligations.

Hannah Levine
Toronto

* * *

A place that counts women

In response to Sara Horowitz ("Women and Judaism in the True North," *CJN*, June 10), Holy Blossom Temple has a daily minyan that includes women in the necessary 10, and women participate fully in all aspects of Jewish ritual and synagogue life.

E. Fred Saunders
Toronto

* * *

Ad was fact, interview was fiction

In last week's *CJN*, the interview with Liberal leader Paul Martin started on page 1 with the headline, "Always Defended Legitimacy of Israel." The rest of the interview continued on page 23. On page 9, there was a full page ad, presumably paid for by the Liberal Party of Canada, picturing six Liberal candidates who say they support Israel and a just peace for all in the Middle East.

For the actual truth, one had to turn to page 32 for a half-page ad supported by concerned Canadian citizens. It stated that during the Chrétien-Martin years, when there were a staggering 113 UN resolutions condemning Israel, Canada voted against Israel 78 times and abstained 35 times. Not once did Canada vote in support of Israel.

One can only hope your readers will be influenced by fact rather than fiction.

Bert Raphael
Toronto

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Theodor Herzl: a prophet in his own time

DER

JUDENSTAAT.

VERSUCH

EINER

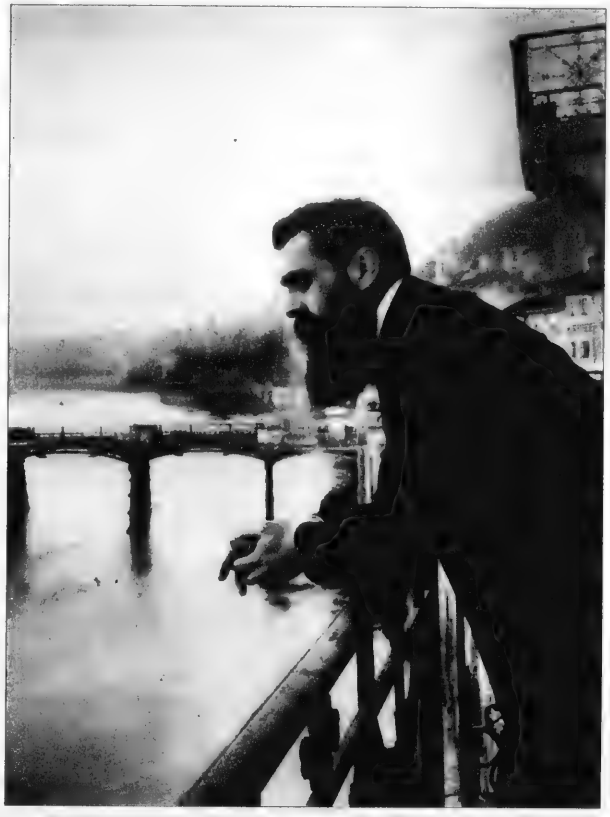
MODERNEN LÖSUNG DER JUDENFRAGE

VON

THEODOR HERZL

SNAPSHOTS OF THEODOR HERZL:

Clockwise from top left, the cover page of Herzl's epoch-changing work *Der Judenstaat* (*The Jewish State*) in its original German-language edition; Herzl at his desk in his study; a portrait of Herzl, one of many that were eventually painted by an inspired Jewish world, that depicts him as a lionized hero; the famous photograph of Herzl on the balcony of his hotel in Basel during the first World Zionist Congress in 1897; an article by Herzl calling for the establishment of an independent Jewish state that appeared in English translation in the *Jewish Chronicle of London*; and Herzl, centre, standing with unidentified colleagues in Jerusalem in 1898. July 3 is the 100th anniversary of Herzl's death.



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A "SOLUTION OF THE JEWISH QUESTION."

BY DR. THEODOR HERZL.

But we can do nothing without the enthusiasm of our own nation. The idea must make its way into the most distant miserable holes where our people dwell. They will awaken from gloomy brooding, for into their lives will come a new significance. Let each of them but think of himself, and what vast proportions the movement must assume! And what glory awaits those who fight unselfishly for the cause! A wondrous generation of Jews will spring into existence. The Maccabæans will rise again.

And so it will be: it is the poor and the simple who do not know what power man already exercises over the forces of nature, it is just these who will have firmest faith in the new message. For these have never lost the hope of the Promised Land.

Interfaith or interreligious?

Sarah Bernstein is an Israeli doing graduate work in forgiveness and reconciliation at a British university. In a recent essay, she follows up on the seminal distinction between two modes of religious dialogue: interfaith and interreligious.

Rabbi Dow Marmur in Toronto

Interfaith dialogue, she writes, "focuses on theology and its aim is to influence the belief system of the other religion." She cites as an illustration the efforts by the Catholic Church to modify its views of Jews and Judaism as a result of encounters with exponents of Judaism.

We could also point to "Dabru Emet," a document written by four distinguished Jewish scholars (including Prof. David Novak of the University of Toronto) and signed by hundreds of Jewish religious leaders in North America. It urges Jews to adopt a more positive attitude to Christians in the light of our encounters with them.

Interreligious dialogue, by contrast, "is a dialogue between people of different religions whose aim is to build relationships in order to improve inter-communal relations and work together for social change and justice." My previous column about the Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition (ISARC) dealt with such dialogue.

Whereas interfaith dialogue takes place "between high-level leadership groups, examining the truth claims of the different religions," interreligious dialogue "takes place mainly at a grassroots level."

Though both are important, I have always been wary of the "high-level" variety. Though it makes for impressive statements and offers photo opportunities for participants, it rarely trickles down to ordinary worshippers. That is why, for example, despite the passionate pleas by the current Pope to purge Catholics of anti-Semitism, the grassroots effect seems to be limited, especially in his native Poland. That is also why "Dabru Emet" has had virtually no impact in the Jewish community.

By contrast, interreligious dialogue affects each of us as we encounter the other and recognize that, despite doctrinal differences, we have a lot in common, and, because we are people of faith, we can work together for a better society. Though it is a slow and painstaking process, the long-term effects are lasting and discernible. The work of Christian-Jewish Dialogue in Toronto and elsewhere is a good example.

The Bernstein essay I quoted from examines specifically the role of dialogue in peacemaking and peace-building and is especially relevant to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Bernstein works in that field in Israel and can point to instances of closer ties between Jews and Palestinians as a result of interreligious dialogue.

The task ahead is to involve more individuals in bringing their own religious tradition to bear on the issues of the day – in Canada, no less than in Israel – not to seek to convert the other, but to make common cause.

Random thoughts on the path to inner peace

Laundry. Dry-cleaning. Deadlines. Did I lock the door this morning?

I wonder how many calories are in a caramel macchiato.

These were some of the thoughts swirling in my head while I was supposed to be "contemplating the nature of my mind" at a three-day meditation retreat in Calgary that I attended several weeks ago.

Barbara Balfour in Calgary

While I was told by the rapturous believers in the merits of meditation to watch the thoughts float in and out of my head without passing judgment, I found the cacophony of voices struggling for space quite amusing.

What follows are some pet peeves, joyous moments and, all in all, completely random and irrelevant musings that surfaced while I was trying to find that elusive sensation of inner peace.

1) There seems to be no consequences to false advertising. When I walked into my neighbourhood deli recently and ordered a "freshly-squeezed orange juice" off the menu, I was told to help myself to one from the fridge. When I questioned whether refrigerated juice could truly be freshly squeezed, I was told not to worry – they squeeze the juice out the day before and refrigerate it overnight. Well, it's not really freshly squeezed then, is it? "We have really high volumes of people here, so we can't make a fresh one for you," said the girl in the overwhelmingly empty store.

2) People who stare blankly at you when they don't have the answer and then make no effort to go find out the answer really irk me. This conversation actually happened one day: "I don't have a clue," a sales assistant replied when I asked her something relatively simple. "Well, could you refer me to someone who does?" I asked. "Oh, there's no one like that around here."

Evidently not.

3) There's a real double standard that exists for men and women when it comes to attractiveness. It takes a lot for a man to be considered ugly, and features such as baldness or a huge nose are sometimes seen as endearing – think Patrick Stewart or Adrien Brody. Not so for women, who spend zillions of hours and thousands of dollars to make themselves feel worthy. Would you like to see Barbra Streisand without any hair? I didn't think so.

4) I hate that guilt-induced obligation to keep an absolutely ghastly gift around the house because a friend gave it to you. I first experienced this peculiar sensation at age 12 when my best friend gave me a sculpture of kittens crawling all over a toilet. When the friendship ended several years later, the sound of that pseudo-toilet crashing onto the floor in a million pieces was like a sigh of relief. Now I have this designer lunch box that an ex-boyfriend gave to me. He and I are on good terms, so I'd feel bad getting rid of it. I'm sure some people would think it's very cool – it's got some kohl-rimmed Hindu priestess with multiple legs, arms and tongues on it. But I like to display vases and *InStyle* magazine on my coffee table, not tin boxes with tongues all over them.

5) The things that make me happy in life are those that don't cost any money – or are relatively inexpensive. So why do I keep pushing myself so hard to make more of it? Some of the things that make me happy: dandelions when they're gray and fuzzy; the feeling of the sun on my bare arms and legs; the downtime you experience after scrambling to finish a huge project; dreaming about old friends you haven't seen in a while; changing into a comfy t-shirt and Capri pants after getting off work; getting real mail with stamps on it that aren't bills or special offers from dating agencies or funeral homes; sitting by a rushing fountain; freshly picked cherries from the Okanagan; and brightly colored toenails.

After a day of meditating, resting, sitting in silence, and meditating some more, the only thing that has become apparent to me is that my mind is still as busy as ever.

Clearly, I have a long way to go to reach spiritual enlightenment.

Babara Balfour can be reached at bbalfour@ucalgary.ca.

A summer in Israel, free from LSATs

Immediately after I finish writing this column, I will be putting the last items in my suitcase before heading to the airport for my flight to Tel Aviv. I am brimming with excitement for another summer in Jerusalem, but since I have no exciting Israel stories yet to tell, I'd like to write about the one significant thing I've been grappling with since my last column went to press: the Law School Admission Test, or as it's more commonly known, the LSAT.

Joanna Grossman in Halifax

For the past month, I have done little else besides study the ways of the standardized testing powers that be, in the hope of successfully conquering the LSAT. I am always amazed by those people – especially many of my friends, – who write the test after practising for no more than a few hours and emerge from the experience with disgustingly high scores, as if it was no big deal.

I have never been a fan of multiple choice tests – feeling the answers are never "good enough" for someone as particular as I am – so the LSAT became the ultimate barrier to overcome as I struggled to learn to think the way "they" wanted me to.

When about 10 people, all of whom have written the LSAT, make comments along the lines of, "I have never seen anyone study as much for the LSAT as you," it's probably fair to say significant effort has been expended. For me, this meant doing every practice drill and test I could get my hands on, and a spring that consisted of little more than logic games, analytical arguments and reading comprehension tests.

Now I stand in limbo. My thumbprints have been taken and my bubble sheet has been filled in, and the results of my labour rest in the hands of the good souls who slip my test through a computer to come up with the all-important final score. There is nothing left for me to do but wait.

> ***'The real fun will begin this fall when I start to fill out law school applications.'***

That said, I am not without opinions about the LSAT experience. Frankly, it was a cruel individual who devised this mode of assessment. I appreciate the benefits of a standardized measure of academic and intellectual ability and recognize the need for it, given the diversity of schools and experiences among law school applicants.

At the same time, though, I can't help but see the LSAT as a huge, and very painful, hoop-jumping exercise (as well as a test of bladder-control, being forced to sit for three hours without a break). The LSAT may very well be an effective measure of potential success in law school, but to me, having written the silly thing, it seems more than anything else like an effective measure of how well I could learn to take the test.

Perhaps this will benefit me in the long run, should I end up in law school. And I will not reject the possibility that my hours spent playing logic games will somehow serve me well in the career of my choosing, though I highly doubt it.

Thankfully, the ordeal is over, and, hopefully, I will never have to write the LSAT again. And the real fun will begin this fall when I start to fill out law school applications. At least that is a good two months away.

For now, it's off to the airport – first Pearson and then Ben Gurion. It will be a summer free from LSATs, though one engaged in legal theory, as I will be working for an international lawyer in Israel. Perhaps it will offer a taste of the future that the LSAT is supposed to bring. Perhaps it won't.

Either way, I will be in Israel, so what does it matter?

The Kirshner File

Theodor Herzl was an unlikely Zionist

The odyssey of Theodor Herzl, the indefatigable and irrepressible founder of modern political Zionism, is the stuff of amazement and incredulity.

That this Viennese proponent of assimilation transformed himself into the leading advocate and symbol of Jewish self-determination, all within the space of one tumultuous decade, is a cause of wonderment. That he methodically created, against all odds, a global movement that laid the intellectual and bureaucratic foundation for the State of Israel surely constitutes one of the most astonishing chapters in history.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Exactly a century after his death, Herzl remains a compellingly curious figure. Here was a man who toyed with the idea of the mass conversion of Jews to resolve the ageless blight of anti-Semitism, but who beat a hasty retreat from this position of despair and self-loathing when he adopted Zionism – a term coined by Nathan Birnbaum in 1890 – as the answer to that gnawing malady.

Drawn to Zionism to resolve a personal crisis regarding his own Jewish identity, Herzl was an unlikely convert to the cause. Born in Budapest – a shining star in the constellation of the Austro-Hungarian empire – he was brought up in the spirit of 19th century liberalism. In accordance with this buoyant philosophy, he believed that assimilation offered Jews the best hope of shedding their distinctiveness and blending into European society.

But the yawning, unbridgeable gap between theory and practice disabused him of his unbridled optimism. While studying law at the University of Vienna, Herzl joined a students' society, but resigned in disillusionment after facing anti-Semitism.

By the 1880s, Austro-Hungarian Jews had attained civic equality and had achieved a measure of social integration. But these gains were offset by the emergence of political anti-Semitism – a variation on an old, familiar theme – and this toxic phenomenon had a lasting impact on Herzl.

Briefly a lawyer, Herzl drifted into journalism as an essayist, and then turned his talents to writing plays. In one of his works, *The Ghetto*, he rejected assimilation as a panacea to anti-Semitism.

In 1891, Herzl was appointed the Paris correspondent for the *Neue Freie Presse*, a distinguished, Jewish-owned Viennese daily. The assignment that changed his life was the 1894 trial of Alfred Dreyfus, a Jewish officer in the French army who had been unjustly accused of treason on behalf of Germany.

The guilty verdict, as well as the chant by mobs of "Death to the Jews," left an indelible impression on Herzl: the emancipation of Jews in European societies was merely skin deep.

Now convinced that anti-Semitism was an immutable factor that could not be erased with a stroke of the pen, Herzl, a secular Jew far removed from the strictures of Orthodoxy, wrote *The Jewish State*, in which he called for the restoration of Jewish sovereignty and described Jews as "a people." It was published in 1896.

"We have sincerely tried everywhere to merge with the national communities in which we live, seeking only to preserve the faith of our fathers," he wrote plaintively. "It is not permitted to us. In vain we are loyal patriots."

Herzl acknowledged that his plan might be construed as the folly of a madman. "But if many Jews simultaneously agree on it, it is entirely reasonable, and its achievement presents no difficulties worth mentioning," he observed in a typical flight of fancy. "It depends on the Jews themselves whether this political document remains for the present a political romance."

Theodor Herzl

In 1902, Herzl fleshed out his conception of Jewish statehood in a novel, *Old New Land*, in which he envisaged a future Jewish state as a socialist, progressive utopia underpinned by science and technology and supported by such big powers as Britain, France, Germany and Russia.

Herzl's proposal, of course, was not original. As the historian Walter Laqueur has pointed out, the origins of political Zionism – which posits a belief in the existence of a common past and a common future for the Jewish people in one state – go back much further.

The forerunners of Herzlian Zionism were, among others, Moses Hess, Zvi Hirsch Kalischer and Leo Pinsker. In *Rome and Jerusalem*, Hess gloomily concluded that Jews would always remain "strangers among the nations," and espoused Jewish sovereignty in Palestine. In *Seeking Zion*, Kalischer reached strikingly similar conclusions. Hard on the heels of the outbreak of widespread pogroms in the Russian empire, Pinsker wrote *Autoemancipation*, in which he wrote of the need for a Jewish national centre.

In response to the pogroms in eastern Europe, idealistic Jewish high school and university students founded associations to promote Jewish immigration to Palestine. Within a few years, Jewish agricultural settlements – Mishmar Hayarden and Hadera, to name but two – were sprouting in Palestine, a Turkish Ottoman domain since 1517.

Although Herzl considered Palestine "our unforgettable homeland," he was prepared to compromise. After meeting Baron Maurice de Hirsch, the famous Jewish philanthropist who had financed Jewish colonies in South America, Herzl, in his diary, admitted that Argentina "would have a lot in its favour…"

Herzl's promotion of a Jewish state invariably fell on deaf ears. Wealthy Jewish businessmen, whose funds he solicited, hardly had the time of day for him, while Orthodox Jews considered the notion of an independent Jewish state as blasphemous.

Only in eastern Europe, where the oppression of traditional anti-Semitism bore down heavily on the Jewish masses, was Herzl hailed and were his assumptions embraced without equivocation. But even here, in Jewish national circles, Herzl was something of an unknown quantity.

In August 1897, he convened the first Zionist Congress at the Stadt Casino in Basel, Switzerland, and presided over the establishment of the World Zionist Organization. The meeting closed with the adoption of the Basel program, which called for "a home for the Jewish people in Palestine secured under public law." Writing with remarkable prescience, Herzl noted, " In Basel, I founded the Jewish state… Maybe in five years, certainly in 50, everyone will realize it."

Having officially launched the Zionist movement, Herzl – a superb organizer with a penchant for secret diplomacy – travelled far and wide to gain international legitimacy for a Jewish state in Palestine.

On his first and only trip to Palestine in 1898, Herzl lobbied the kaiser of Germany, Wilhelm II, who expressed a benevolent interest in the project but stopped short of officially endorsing it.

Ironically, Herzl was not overwhelmed by Palestine, a backwater the American novelist Mark Twain had dismissed as "a hopeless, dreary, heartbroken land." Herzl was repelled by the filth, the heat and the poverty, but he was singularly impressed by the cavalcade of Jewish horsemen, singing Hebrew songs, who welcomed him in Rehovot. Averse to creating a "linguistic ghetto" in Palestine, Herzl was skeptical of reviving Hebrew as a national language.

By the turn of the century, upwards of 50,000 Jews and 10 times as many Arabs lived in Palestine in a form of uneasy coexistence. Like some Zionists, Herzl did not foresee the tragic clash with the Palestinian Arabs looming in the distance. Perhaps he subscribed to Lord Shaftesbury's naive but oft-repeated slogan: "A land without a people for a people without a land."

It seems clear that Herzl and his followers were myopic. They do not appear to have regarded the Palestinian majority with sufficient gravity. But to give Herzl his due, the Palestinian national movement was still in its infancy in the late 1890s.

Herzl's inability to win an endorsement for Jewish statehood from Germany was part of a pattern of failure on the diplomatic front. The Ottoman sultan, who twice granted audiences to Herzl, was not receptive to Zionism either. (The Ottomans had banned the immigration of Russsian Jews to Palestine in 1893). Similarly, Herzl had no luck in persuading Britain to grant Jews permission to build settlements in Cyprus and El Arish in the Sinai Peninsula.

At the sixth Zionist Congress in 1903, Herzl proposed Uganda as a temporary refuge for Jews. But the scheme, which split the Zionist rank and file, was summarily shot down by the British.

Despite these setbacks, Herzl succeeded in transforming the inchoate yearning for Zion into a formidable movement that culminated with the birth of Israel in 1948. Amazingly enough, he never lost faith in his messianic mission."If you will, it is no dream," was his stirring motto.

When Herzl died on July 3, 1904, at the age of 44, he was already a historic figure of legendary proportions. He realized his dream, and the Middle East would never be the same again.

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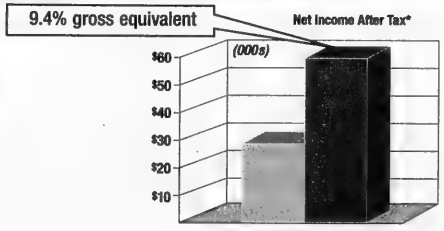

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Jewish Life

The secret Jews of Iran

By ZE'EV GLICENSTEIN

In 1839, an unfounded rumour spread among the Shi'ite Muslims of the town of Meshed in northeastern Iran that a Jewish woman had committed an act of disrespect toward Islam.

According to a period account preserved in the Central Zionist Archives in Jerusalem, an angry mob "attacked the Jewish quarter, broke into the Jewish houses, and robbed and looted everything they could lay their hands on. They beat the Jews cruelly, killed 36 Jewish men, and abducted many beautiful Jewish maidens taking them into the houses of Muslims."

Following this traumatic pogrom, the roughly 400 Jewish families in Meshed were forced to convert to Islam, an event that became known locally as the Allahdad. The word means "God's gift" in Arabic, but the Jews interpreted it as "God's punishment." Thereafter, they were known as the Jadid al-Islam or "new Muslims."

Outwardly, the Jews of Meshed practised Islam – they prayed in mosques, performed wedding ceremonies and buried their dead in accordance with Muslim rituals, even made the required pilgrimages to Mecca and Medina. Inwardly, however, they remained Jewish. As Raphael Patai writes in his 1997 book, *Jadid Al-Islam: The Jewish "New Muslims" of Meshed* (Wayne State University Press), nothing could have prevented them "from reciting the Jewish prayers in the privacy of their homes and maintaining the consciousness of being Jews and not Muslims."

The Jadidim kept a separate cemetery, fasted in secret on Yom Kippur, and kept up many Jewish rituals away from the prying eyes of their Shi'ite neighbours. These crypto-Jews of Meshed thus maintained a complex dual life filled with a parallel assortment of difficulties and perils that the Conversos must have faced in Inquisition-era Spain.

Gotthard Deutsch and Elkan N. Adler, writing in the Jewish Encyclopedia about a century ago, numbered the colony of secret Jews in Meshed at about 2,000 and noted they had been forcibly converted in the previous century "under the cruel reign of Shah Nur al-Din's father." They also noted that some had migrated to "transcaspian territory" and were practising Judaism in Merv, Ashcabad, Bokhara and Samarcand.

Patai began his research in the 1940s by conducting extensive interviews with elders of the Meshed Jadidim community who had arrived in Jerusalem. He wrote some articles at the time, then let his knowledge grow and mature for half a century. His book on the Meshed Jews was one of his last. The prolific scholar died in 1996 at the age of 85, leaving this significant work to be published posthumously.

Through a masterful examination of many sources, the book traces the history of Jewish life in Meshed before, during and after the Allahdad. One chapter describes the "decade of blood libels" that began in 1892. Another focuses on the lure of early Zionism, which brought many members of the endangered community to Eretz Yisrael. Yet another is devoted to the many folktales and legends that sprang up among this singular subtribe. Patai also discusses birth customs, Jewish names and origins, Hebrew education, marriage and burial customs, and provides a glossary of Judeo-Persian vocabulary.

The book offers a fascinating account of a little-known branch of the Jewish family tree whose roots date back 2,500 years to ancient Persia at the time of the first exile.

(The Jewish Encyclopedia mentioned above was published between 1901 and 1906 and contains more than 15,000 articles and illustrations that are now in the public domain. Both scanned and text versions of this work are freely available at the internet site www. jewishencyclopedia.com. Makes for great browsing!)

You can never really go back

By RABBI YEHIEL BEN AYON

Among the different types of love the Talmud lists is the love for place – the affinity one has for the place he calls home or the place of his birth. True to this, I have always been a keen and passionate student of the history and culture of the Jews of North Africa. After an absence of 35 years, I was recently able to visit the place of my birth, Morocco.

As I prepared for this trip, I wondered what its effect would be on me, both emotionally and spiritually. What would it be like to stand again in the streets of my childhood, to see through the eyes of an adult what a child experienced? How different would the reality be from the romantic fantasies we all build for ourselves in our minds?

What was most remarkable to me was the total lack of emotional impact the trip had on me.

True, I marvelled at the architecture, the decorative intricacies of the plasterwork, and the vibrant colours of the mosaics and pottery. Certainly, I was bemused at the way of life that continues seemingly untouched by time and progress. But I felt more like a tourist visiting an exotic land than someone on a homecoming. There was a definite detachment.

I then recalled how so often, in my work with bereaved families, I am called on to say the last words of tribute about individuals whose lives began in pre-war Europe. They are people who were born in places of distinction and great importance to our people, communities such as Lodz, Munkatch, Radin, Stashiv and the like. These locales, whose importance to Jewish history is far greater than their size, were destroyed and are truly no more. While geographically they can be found on a map, they long ago ceased to exist from a Jewish point of view.

Yet, their existence continues in a different way today, all over the world, in the people who once lived there, and in their families.

And so it is with the cities of North Africa, where half a million Jews once had homes, families and communities. They are gone, but their legacy has spread around the globe to every place where they and their descendants now live.

So for me, there really was nothing to go back to. These great centres – Marakesh, Meknes, Fez – that are now bereft of Jews are comparable to cemeteries. One goes to a cemetery in the hope of making a connection, but one soon finds that is impossible.

The connection with our past is not to be found on the stops of our long journey in the Diaspora. Our connection with our past is within ourselves and the lives we lead.

That's how we can cement the bridge connecting past and future, and ensure the strength of the next generation.

Jewish Life

A history of Jews in America

Books
Bernard Baskin

***American Judaism: A History* by Jonathan D. Sarna, Yale Press, $53**

This year marks the 350th anniversary of Jewish settlement in North America.

In 1654, 23 Spanish and Portuguese Jews arrived in Dutch New Amsterdam from Recife, Brazil, fleeing the Inquisition. Although not the first Jews to set foot in North America, they were the first who intended to settle there.

Try as he might, Peter Stuyvesant was unable to keep "these hateful enemies and blasphemers of the name of Christ" out of the colony. Economic considerations won out over religious scruples.

In time, these indomitable settlers built homes and synagogues and forged a new way of life in a colonial wilderness.

Successive waves of Jewish immigrants from central and eastern Europe made their way – not without pain and privation – to a New World of hope and opportunity. They overcame manifold obstacles, struggled and prospered, and contributed to all aspects of American life and culture.

Over and over again, American Jews rose to meet the challenges both internal and external that threatened their continuity. "Casting aside old paradigms, they transformed their faith, reinventing American Judaism in an attempt to make it more appealing, more meaningful, more sensitive to the concerns of the day," Jonathan Sarna writes in *American Judaism: A History.*

At the same time, it comes as no surprise that Jews should feel bewildered and uncertain. Sarna writes: "Should they focus on quality to enhance Judaism or focus on quantity to increase the number of Jews? Embrace intermarriage as an opportunity for outreach or condemn it as a disaster for offspring? Build religious bridges or fortify religious boundaries? Strengthen religious authority or promote religious autonomy? Harmonize Judaism with contemporary culture or uphold Jewish tradition against contemporary culture? Compromise for the sake of Jewish unity or stand firm for cherished Jewish principles?"

Sarna is especially helpful in describing the beginnings, development and changes in the Orthodox, Conservative, Reform and Reconstructionist movements, against an environment shaped by American Protestantism, capitalism, the ideals of freedom and the reality of diversity. "What is distinctive in American Judaism," maintains the author, "is largely a result of these factors."

In a chapter entitled *Anxious Subculture*, Sarna discusses the unresolved question of whether American Jewry could have done more to rescue the Jews who fell under Nazi rule during the 1930s and early '40s? "Many conclude that anti-immigrant sentiment, persistent isolationism, burgeoning anti-Semitism (in 1938, according to one poll, ⅓ of all Americans wanted to "drive Jews out of the United States"), and the politics of expediency, coupled later with the president's insistence that the best way to save Jews was to win the war, would have rendered even the most zealous Jewish rescue campaigns largely futile," he writes.

Sarna is a pre-eminent scholar of American Jewish history and this magisterial work is authoritative and filled with basic information. It also portrays colourful personalities and reveals telling anecdotes and little-known events. Most of all, the book is a pleasure to read.

Positive in outlook, Sarna concludes "that today, like so often before, American Jews will find creative ways to maintain and revitalize American Judaism. With the help of visionary leaders, committed followers and generous philanthropists, it may still be possible for the current 'vanishing' generation of American Jews to be succeeded by another 'vanishing' generation, and then still another."

To which we can only add, "Amen."

Readers' best of the web

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Every week, I troll the Internet to find the best Jewish and Israeli websites. But on the web, there are always new sites I haven't seen. Thankfully, there are readers who want me to know about them.

This week and next, I once again turn this column over to readers who have recommended sites that have caught their eye – or that they may have created themselves.

Are you a devotee of the South Beach Diet and looking for kosher assistance? Do you know how to create the texture and shape of the perfect challah? Where can you get a cheap but delicious meal in Jerusalem? Those are some of the recent questions that have been swirling at Yahoo's Jewish-food group list.

Just imagine being able to talk about Jewish food with a couple thousand of your closest friends and you'll get an idea of what you'll find here. Once you register – at no charge – you'll be able to ask your own questions and scour the archives, which already hold more than 40,000 messages.

Thanks to food maven Norene Gilletz for telling me about this amazing resource. **[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/jewish-food/]**

Stephen Epstein wrote to tell me about some of his impressive projects. In addition to being a photographer, Epstein is interested in "lost Jews." They may be lost because they descended from exiles from the northern kingdom of Israel in the eighth century BCE. Or they could have become lost due to the forced conversions to Christianity in Spain and Portugal in the 15th century.

The "Kulanu" (All of Us) website documents efforts to find "lost and dispersed remnants of the Jewish people." What I particularly like about this site is the index of places where you never dreamed there were Jews or descendants of Jews, as well as the first-person essays about the efforts to find them and establish their lineage. **[www.kulanu.org]**

I received a note telling me about Milingua, an online introductory Hebrew course. If you want to boost your Hebrew vocabulary, you can subscribe to the free "Learn One Hebrew Word a Day." Every day a word will be delivered to your e-mail box. The free online beginners' course uses audio and drag-and-drop tools to teach the basics of Hebrew syntax. By the time you're done, you should know a few hundred words, as well as the present tense. **[www.milingua.com]**

Jordy Cummings considers himself a "leftist." Along with a couple of friends, a "centrist" and one who's "right wing," they've created the Pure Polemics blog. The three also consider themselves Zionists, although it would probably take some debate for them to reach a common definition of that word.

What's great about this site is that it never lets you get complacent in your beliefs. But on the other hand, sooner or later you're bound to come across a point of view you agree with. In the often belligerent world of Israel on the Internet, Pure Polemics can be a thoughtful island. **[http://purepolemics.blog drive.com/]**

What is the role of the rebbitzin in the 21st century? That's one of the issues addressed in the online periodical *Women in Judaism: A Multidisciplinary Journal.* Editor Dina Eylon wrote me to tell me abut the journal, which addresses such topics as "Negotiating Passover: Women, Food and Power" and "Hidden Worship: The Religious Rituals of Orthodox Jewish Women."

In the "rebbitzin" article, wives of rabbis talk about congregational expectations, whether they feel they can have friends among congregants and how their roles are changing. Also, check out the site's fiction and artwork. **[www.utoronto.ca/wjudaism/]**

Jen "Jenny Lynn" Sonstein Maidenberg is a genuine Jewish cowgirl and has the website to prove it. Jen is half of "2 Jewish Cowgirls," transplanted northeasterners living in Tucson, Ariz. **[http://2jewishcowgirls.com/]** The site includes helpful hints for distinguishing born 'n' bred cowgirls from those who have only recently discovered their "inner Jewish cowgirl." At the site's general store, you can outfit yourself with a shirt that says, "Kosher Cowgirl," a bib proclaiming the bearer as a "Kosher Cowboy" or my favourite, a T-shirt emblazoned with that immortal Jewish cowboy phrase, "Yippee-Chai-Yay."

Do you have a favourite Jewish or Israeli website? If you've created a site you're proud of or find yourself visiting one over and over again, tell me about it at the address below.

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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The Canadian Jewish news

Tale of Hana's suitcase continues to resonate

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

George Brady still shakes his head at the coincidences that have marked his life and that have made his late sister's name, Hana, known around the world.

Four years ago, when he first walked into the offices of *The CJN* and hesitantly suggested that perhaps there was a story in Hana's life in Theresienstadt and in the suitcase she took with her to Auschwitz, he had no idea he would touch as many hearts as he has.

Our front-page story spawned a children's book, *Hana's Suitcase* (Second Story Press), by Karen Levine, which would go on to win numerous awards, including the Canadian Library Association's Book of the Year for 2003.

Translated into more than 20 languages and read in more than 27 countries, the book has sold an estimated 500,000 copies. What's more, it has allowed Brady to fulfil the self-imposed obligation to tell Hana's story, to remember her and to recount the young life cut short during the Holocaust.

Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon read *Hana's Suitcase* several months before the ill-fated shuttle disaster and was inspired by it. He took into space with him a drawing by Petr Ginz, one of the children who was with George and Hana at Theresienstadt. The drawing, *Moon Landscape*, depicted an imagined view of the the moon. Ramon mistakenly believed Ginz was on the same transport to Auschwitz as Hana.

In fact, said Brady, Ginz and another friend were on the same train as he was. When they arrived at the death camp, "I went one way, the two other boys went the other way."

Even before the *CJN* article was written and the book published, an amazing coincidence brought the suitcase to the fore. In Japan, Fumiko Ishioka, co-ordinator of the Tokyo Holocaust Centre, had requested the Auschwitz Museum send her an artifact that could be used in the centre's education programs.

Fumiko Ishioka, George Brady and the suitcase.

The suitcase proved tremendously popular, and on a trip to Theresienstadt, she met with the curator of the Terezin (Theresienstadt) Ghetto Museum to learn more about Hana. They noticed George Brady's name on a camp roster and the curator said she would call someone in Prague to see if he might know George.

Incredibly, the man in Prague, Kurt Kotouc, was Brady's bunkmate in Theresienstadt and had kept in touch with him after he moved to Toronto.

Brady's connection with Ishioka and with Hana's suitcase was made.

In another incident, one of Brady's schoolmates from his youth who now lives in Oakville, told the story of the suitcase to his sister in Prague. That sister, it turned out, immediately recognized Hana's name. In fact, she said, she was Hana's best friend in the camp and recalled many details about Hana that were in the book, including her favourite song about a centipede.

"It can't be a coincidence," Brady said. "I'm a logical guy, not religious, but..."

One of the countries particularly interested in the story is the Czech Republic, the successor state to Czechoslovakia, where George and Hana grew up. On a trip to Theresienstadt in the spring, Brady was interviewed for Czech TV by reporter Michal Kubal.

A few days later, Kubal was in Iraq, where he and three other journalists were kidnapped by insurgents. Following his release a few days later, Kubal "thanked me that my knowledge of survival in Auschwitz helped him in captivity." Brady said that Kubal credited his zest for life for inspiring him to survive the ordeal.

"It's strange all these things happened to me," he said.

Ishioka, who received an honorary doctor of laws degree from York University during a recent one-week visit here, said the suitcase continues to be the centre's most popular item. With it, she has travelled to more than 100 locations in Japan, from schools to libraries to parents' homes.

Children are fascinated by it, she said.

"Hana's story has everything. It's the story of brother and sister, of a mother's love. It doesn't only talk about the horrors of Auschwitz, but it has the story of two little kids being [refused] to go to school, to movie theatres," she said.

In Japan, the story is particularly relevant. "They learn that there are people of different religions, cultures and beliefs. They learn that human beings are equal. They see foreigners, but have no chance to become friends with foreigners. It's so different than Toronto."

Quoting Levine, Ishioka said "no matter their background, they have something to connect to."

That, no doubt, explains why the story continues to resonate, even after the Auschwitz Museum acknowledged the suitcase is a replica of the original, which had been destroyed in a fire set by neo-Nazis during the 1980s while in a display in Germany.

Educators have told him that doesn't change the suitcase's importance and value, Brady said.

In past years, Brady has been racking up flight points travelling around the world to tell the story. Brady addressed 1,200 students in Victoria, while in other locations, usually 500 to 600 youngsters at a time hear his talk about Hana and their lives.

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There's no excuse for lack of context in TV news

Television news about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict serves only to confuse viewers, according to a recent study of BBC and ITV coverage conducted at Glasgow University.

A June 22 BBC online report on the study, "Mid-East coverage baffles Britons," by John Read says the study found "many viewers think Israeli territory is occupied by Palestinians, not the other way round."

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

"And despite extensive media coverage of the conflict on television, some Britons believe Palestinians are refugees from Afghanistan."

Some Israeli media analysts are wary of other findings in the Glasgow study. For example, the study said Israelis were quoted more than twice as often as Palestinians in news reports.

Anyone even moderately familiar with the BBC's coverage of Israel over the past several years knows that Palestinian spokespeople, such as Hanan Ashrawi and Saeb Erekat, receive substantially more air time than Israeli representatives.

Jim Lederman, senior Israeli correspondent for Oxford Analytica remarked: "The BBC story toned down the criticism in the Glasgow report, that the BBC was insufficiently critical of Israel, and, in effect, put the blame on the viewers for their stupidity." He said both charges are false.

However, the study's main result comes as no surprise: When the university's Media Group asked a sample of "300 young people" what they knew about the conflict, Read said, "the response was quite shocking. Although many of those surveyed had a clear impression of the violence and tragedy involved, most had little understanding of the reasons for the conflict or its historic origins."

In other words, there was no context – a shortcoming endemic (but not exclusive) to television news, a problem that has been discussed in previous columns. While television is superb at capturing emotion-laden, sensational images, it too often fails to provide the background to what the viewer is seeing.

Read quotes the report's author, Greg Philo, who said there are two main reasons why viewers do not get the context they need.

"First thing is that there is a focus on violence and eye-catching images. And the second thing is that it's all so controversial.

"Journalists say to us that they are nervous of raising these kinds of arguments, because they get so much abuse," Philo said.

"They get hate mail, they get all kinds of people attacking them for being Nazis or anti-Semitic or whatever else."

Philo's last comment is patently contradictory. If a reporter provides an accurate account of why Israel carried out an operation in Gaza, for example, why would he or she be attacked as a "Nazi or anti-Semitic?" Indeed, it is the very absence of Israeli context that occasions complaints about bias against Israel.

Read's story includes comments from John Simpson, the BBC's world affairs editor and a veteran reporter on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict (unfortunately, from Israel's perspective, much of his reporting has been negative).

Simpson acknowledged that "we should be going back over the causes more, and we should be presenting things," but he added: "I don't think that's in a daily news context – I think that's much more in a sort of background reporting, or background documentaries." (A good example of the latter would be *Impact of Terror* on CBC's *Witness*, June 16. It both describes and explains in great detail how average Israelis have suffered from terrorism.)

All excuses aside, it is possible to provide context in TV news reports. It may be difficult, but that is no reason to avoid the challenge in favour of the easy, sensational image. If viewers are often baffled by events, journalists and editors need to ask themselves if they are adding to the audience's confusion by overplaying graphic images at the expense of meaning.

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

Reform movement grows in Israel

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

Reform Judaism is gaining a solid following in Israel, though its continued success may be hampered by the precarious security and economic situations there.

That was the message of three Israeli Reform rabbis, gathered in Toronto for a recent panel discussion.

"Our movement does well when Israel feels secure," said Rabbi Levi Weiman-Kelman, founder of Jerusalem's Congregation Kol Haneshama.

"We have to struggle much harder when Israelis feel insecure."

Rabbis Weiman-Kelman, David Forman and Kinneret Shiryon spoke about the Reform movement in Israel, as part of the the Central Conference of American Rabbis' (CCAR) recent annual convention.

Rabbi Shiryon, Israel's first female rabbi, sounded the most optimistic of the three, citing figures that attest to the momentum of the Reform movement there.

"Last year, Reform rabbis married over 1,000 couples and [led services at] over 1,000 bar/bat mitzvahs," she said. "There's a real movement taking hold in Israel."

Rabbi Shiryon, spiritual leader of a Reform congregation in Modi'in, presented a film featuring Israelis and North American visitors taking part in activities organized by Israeli Reform organizations.

The New York-born rabbi noted she will be involved in starting a Reform elementary school this fall, in co-operation with a Leo Baeck school in Haifa.

But the growth Rabbi Shiryon described is occurring in the face of several challenges.

"The success of my congregation feels linked with security and a yearning for peace," said Rabbi Weiman-Kelman, who, like the other two speakers, was raised in the United States.

"But the overwhelming challenge is actually economics."

The rabbi noted 20 per cent of his congregants are unemployed.

All three rabbis are involved in fighting for social justice in Israel and the Jewish world.

Rabbi Forman is the founder of Rabbis For Human Rights and has championed interfaith co-operation across the globe. Rabbi Weiman-Kelman is past co-chair of Rabbis for Human Rights and is engaged in interfaith and charitable work.

Rabbi Shiryon is active in women's rights circles and was chair of Israel's Council of Progressive Rabbis.

Their liberal views and social activism have drawn a mix of scorn and praise from Israelis.

"On a daily basis, we're verbally abused by both the Orthodox and the secular," said Rabbi Weiman-Kelman. "But I want to make it clear I wouldn't trade places with anyone in the world."

He said he views his congregation as somewhat of a haven for Israelis caught up in the protracted Middle East conflict.

"I'm aiming to create a community that can bring some relief from the suffering.

"For me, the congregation is my source of strength that allows me… to confront the enormous challenges of modern-day Israel."

The CCAR represents 1,800 Reform rabbis. Its four-day convention included a series of seminars and lectures, as well as votes on resolutions of political and social issues.

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Mideast crisis seen hampering medical, scientific co-operation

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

The current intifadah and the Israeli military response to it are severely hampering efforts by the Canadian International Scientific Exchange Program (CISEPO) to effect medical and scientific co-operation between Jews and Arabs in the Middle East, according to Canadian, Palestinian, Jordanian and Israeli speakers at a recent CISEPO program.

The program, sponsored by Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University, was held at Mount Sinai Hospital. It featured Hani Abdeen, dean of medicine at Al Quds University; Hillel Bercovier, vice-president of research and development at Hebrew University; and Wajih Owais, president, Jordan University of Science and Technology.

The moderator was Catherine Chalin, professor, department of public health sciences, faculty of medicine, University of Toronto.

Otolaryngologist Arnold Noyek of Toronto's Mount Sinai Hospital, and CISEPO's chair, said the organization was invited in 1995 by the late King Hussein of Jordan to "build bridges across the border and between peoples, which would lead to academics and institutions working together in a non-political way."

Noyek said they recognized that "we can't make peace, but we can get [the process] off the ground."

The common ground chosen for research was genetic ear disorders, a widespread condition in the Middle East.

CISEPO has reached out to various institutions, Noyek said, including Tel Aviv University and the University of Bethlehem, with everyone on all sides strongly committed to the process.

Abdeen said Al Quds University, with campuses in the old city of Jerusalem and Abu Dis, boasts the first Palestinian medical school, which now graduates 40 physicians a year.

Because the school is new, and because both financial and human resources are limited, the university decided to ask for help from "our neighbour Israel and our brothers the Jordanians," to help build the infrastructure.

Surprisingly, Abdeen said, the students were resoundingly in favour of such co-operation, unlike the staff, who held widely divergent opinions because of the political situation.

The students won the day, he said, and Al Quds students were able to go to various medical schools in Israel as clinical clerks and to study specialties.

When the second intifadah started three years ago, things changed. "Military checkpoints prevented travel back and forth across the border, and the security wall is only making things more complicated," Abdeen said.

Lack of accessibility for students from Gaza is a reality, he said, as is the fact that students have been stranded for three months in Nablus.

During the question period, he noted that staff are unable to get past the checkpoints and the security wall.

"Last year, we had 2,000 applicants for 30 places at the Al Quds medical school." Palestinians, he said, see medicine as a stable profession.

It is difficult, Abdeen said wryly, to get people in the Middle East to sit down and talk together. CISEPO, he said, has acted as a mediator and a facilitator, as has the Middle East Hearing Association."

He said he hopes that a maternal and child health program will be the next area CISEPO tackles.

Teleconferencing and e-learning are helping to bridge the gaps in medical and continuing medical education, he said.

Hebrew University sees regional co-operation as a priority, Bercovier said. "If colleagues from Jordan, Egypt, Palestine and Israel will all be at the same level, the region will be a much better place."

Common problems such as bacteria, mosquitoes, pollution and the distribution of water are no respecter of political boundaries, he said, particularly considering the "ridiculous distances" between Israel, Palestine and Jordan.

Owais said that it was "nice" for academics to co-operate and learn from each other. However, he warned, "if it doesn't filter down to the grassroots, it won't lead to anything."

It is all a question of trust, he said. "We don't trust each other because we don't see each other as human beings."

That can only change through education, communication and dialogue, he said. "We must stop denying the rights and not respecting the points of view of the other side."

If schools can teach math, chemistry and physics, Owais asked, why can't they teach how to live together in peace with respect?

Baycrest Challenge gets new name, new venue

By CARA EDELL
CJN Intern

Get ready to lace up your shoes and join thousands of participants July 11 in the new and improved Baycrest Great Lakes Challenge.

Partnered with Maccabi Canada, the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care will offer runners and walkers the chance to race for a good cause on a five-kilometre track.

The 23-year-old event, which used to be called the Baycrest Challenge and was traditionally held on Mother's Day, will be run this year at Downsview Park. Proceeds will go to research into Alzheimer's disease and other cognitive disorders.

"We're really excited about our new venue and our new date," said Rob Eisen, chairman of the event committee.

He said the goal this year is to attract more people from the running community, and to his excitement, people from across Ontario and as far as Vancouver and Florida have already registered.

Aside from hosting a short-distance run and power-walking competition, organizers will also introduce team challenges to the event.

The morning's action will include a Protectors Championship, in which firefighters, armed forces personnel, police officers and members of other security and medical services can compete for medals and merchandise.

"We're really hoping this will take off and grow into a large part of our event," Eisen said.

The event will also feature a Masters Championship for runners over 40, a Corporate Team Challenge for businesses and a Running Club Challenge, he said.

Championship clocking will make judging the races more accurate, with tiny chips attached to runners' shoes automatically timing all participants, Eisen said.

The Great Lakes Challenge will begin at 8:30 a.m. and an award ceremony will follow at 9:30 a.m. Cash prizes for top finishers and draw prizes for all runners and walkers will be presented.

A baggage check, snacks and massages for participants are some of the services that will be provided.

As a bonus, Eisen said, anyone admitted into the site will receive a free pass to the park's Aerospace Museum.

To register for the event or to inquire about sponsorship opportunities, call 416-785-2500.

SUPPORTING VICTIMS OF TERROR: **Beth Tzedec Congregation recently presented "Nishmat Tzedec, A Righteous Soul," a program in support of Israel and victims of terror. A number of native Torontonians have been killed by terrorism in Israel, among them Chezi Goldberg, who was honoured during the evening. Members of Goldberg's family in attendance included his mother, Ruth, his brother Ronn and his sister and brother-in-law, Marla and Shmuel Figdor. The evening included a video presentation and photographs of scenes of terrorist bombings by photographer Eric Lawton, accompanied by music written by Beth Tzedec's Cantor Meir Finkelstein and Chayim Frenkel of Pacific Palisades, Calif. Concert chair Shep Gangbar announced that a fund has been established to assist Goldberg's wife and seven young children. From left are Shmuel Figdor, Marla Figdor, Ronn Goldberg, Ruth Goldberg, Shep Gangbar, Cantor Meir Finkelstein, Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl and Cantor Chayim Frenkel.**

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98-year-old keeps busy writing his memoirs

By CARA EDELL
CJN Intern

John Freeman's memories are all that linger of a life filled with meaningful personal experiences and events that have long been documented in history texts.

After almost a century of witnessing the highs and lows of the places he has called home and establishing himself as a business and family man, 98-year-old Freeman continues to write his memoirs.

"I have written an awful lot of my memories," he said in an interview. "I have hundreds of pages, all typed and easy to read. There are different items, all different, everything under the sun that happened to me. I have memorized them all and written them down.

"Life was different back in my day, and all those differences are very interesting. My wife used to say that anything in print was my meat and potatoes, which was true."

Freeman said his fascination with words began at an early age. His mother said he could read at three years old, whether in English or in Dutch, he does not remember.

"I read a lot as a youngster, enough to spoil my eyes. I wore glasses all my life. Now, my eyesight is 90 per cent gone. And my hearing is probably three-quarters gone. So I am in great disability. People don't want to talk to me, even if they are interested in a subject that I could tell them about. I am much more interesting than you could think."

One of Freeman's earliest, most vivid memories dates back to 1912, when he was a young boy, "thirsty for knowledge and information" that only newspapers could provide.

At six years old, the "big item in the news was the construction of a new steamship, which was to be called the Titanic," he said.

"All went well to start with, but on the third day, I think, calamity struck, whether it was on a moonless night, I don't know, but the Titanic going at full speed struck an iceberg so hard that it was embedded into the iceberg deeply at the waterline. It stayed lodged there for perhaps a day and a half, gradually filling with sea water at the breakages," Freeman wrote in his memoirs.

John Freeman
[Aviva Cohen photo]

Two years ago, he had a stroke that confined him to a wheelchair and wiped away most of his memories.

"My memories are all gone except what I have written. Before the stroke, I had written a lot. Since the stroke, I have been able to start again from the beginning. Up to a point, my memory was too good. It suffered badly because of the stroke, but it's still pretty good," he said.

By refamiliarizing himself with his life's timeline, Freeman said he is now able to share memories stretching as far back as his youth.

Born in England in 1906, Freeman said he lived in London until he moved with his parents and three younger siblings to Montreal in 1910.

"We came to Montreal because my mother's brother had moved there before, and he was well established as a watchmaker. He had a contract from the CPR [Canadian Pacific Railway] to check the watches of all the train men who passed through Montreal… In Montreal, my mother had three more children. I was the oldest of six."

Freeman said he went to school in Montreal and at 15 went to London, England, alone. He got a job with an uncle, a brush manufacturer, and spent 20 years working in a factory there. Freeman eventually became managing director of the business, a job he considered "quite important."

Freeman said he visited Montreal in 1930 – a trip he will never forget.

An avid reader, Freeman said on his visit to Canada he was "very put out" to hear that Montreal's Jewish Public Library was closing.

"I always had a book at my side, I have never read a novel in my life. Serious books only, like a young student would. I was a good customer for the library," he said.

The Jewish library – which Freeman called his "second home" – was to be converted into an office space. He said he decided to investigate the closing, and on entering the building, he saw a girl at a desk on the telephone.

"There was no one else there, but the books were still on the shelves. She motioned for me to sit down in front of her. She talked for quite a long time on the phone.

"When she was talking, she wasn't facing me, but sat kind of sideways at her desk. It had drawers on each side, but the middle was open. And through the open middle part, I could see her legs. And I decided they were the nicest legs I had ever seen. Well-shaped, fully curved, and really, for me, it was a treat to look at them, because I had never looked at women's legs, ever," he said.

Women had never interested Freeman before, but at that moment he said something changed inside him.

"I have got to have those legs. Even if it means I have to marry her," he decided.

Discussing the library's closure led to a lunch date the next afternoon, which soon after led to marriage for Freeman and Dorothy Blumfield.

"I finally persuaded her to come to London and marry me in 1932," he said. "I was 26 years old; she was 24. We got married two or three months after she arrived."

In 1940, Dorothy convinced her husband to return to Montreal, because of the impending war in Europe. She said she wanted to have a family, but not in England.

"A few weeks, or a few days later, Dorothy was pregnant with a baby girl, Carol," Freeman said. Their second daughter, Wendy, was born in 1946. Both of his daughters are married with families of their own.

All her life, Dorothy was "an accomplished social worker and a very good leader," he said. She taught for 30 years at McGill University after World War II, until she retired. The couple then moved to Toronto in 1978 and Freeman gave up the brush business.

"We began to live what I would call a normal married life. I had no job to do, we had enough income not to have to worry, and she kept socially quite busy. I carried on, mostly reading," he said.

After 63 years of marriage, Dorothy died in 1995. She was more than 80 years old.

"The upshot was that I never mentioned to her that I married her because of her legs. Which is kind of ridiculous now, but for me, then, it wasn't very important even to mention it. She had more interesting things for me than looking at her legs. We got on very well together," Freeman said.

In 2002, Freeman moved to Cummer Lodge. He celebrated his recent 98th birthday with his youngest sister from Montreal, who is now in her 80s.

Freeman insists his health is first class, but admits his age carries certain burdens.

"Being alone is the worst of all. The last good friend that I had died two years ago. He was 85. Since then, I have hardly talked to anyone. Things here are quite difficult for me. I'm beginning to talk to myself."

He said many people who visit him at the lodge come to him with a watch in hand, "ready to leave before they start."

Now dedicated to preserving his memories in print, Freeman said he would like his writings to be published.

He said people choose to stop learning, not knowing there is so much left to learn, especially from a person like himself.

"I think my memories would be very interesting to most people. Not to the illiterate ones, but to the ones who can read English and appreciate what they are reading."

95-year-old alumna gets honorary diploma

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL – There were no real surprises among the 12-year-olds who graduated Grade 6 this year from Jewish People's Schools and Peretz Schools' (JPPS) elementary school.

No wait, actually there was. One of them was 95 years old.

As part of JPPS' 90th anniversary, Mary Pencer received an honorary degree more than 90 years after entering the Peretz Schools' very first kindergarten class in 1913.

"I'm proud, but also humbled," said Pencer, who received her diploma from JPPS-Bialik High School president Matt Newpol in ceremonies held at Congregation Shaar Hashomayim. She got a rousing ovation from the crowd.

Pencer may very well be the last surviving member of her incoming class.

Sounding spry, alert and much younger than 95 in a later phone conversation, Pencer said she still comes in every day to an investment company office where she's worked for 45 years.

She joked that she is actually "95-and-a-half.

Pencer said she recalls parts of the Peretz School years, but hardly anything from those first kindergarten days.

"At my age, there are things you shouldn't remember but you do, and certain things you should remember but you don't."

One thing she does remember is that almost 60 years before merging with the Jewish People's Schools in the early 1970s, the Peretz School's original name was the Yiddish National Radical School.

Before it erected its own building near de Bullion and Prince Arthur streets, the school's very first classes were "in a home on St. Dominique or Coloniale," Pencer recalled.

Pencer recalled that the school had a reputation for being dominated by "socialists and radicals." She remembers famed Yiddish poet J.I. Segal as one of the teachers, but she has only faint memories of the Peretz School's founder and decades-long leader, Yaacov Zipper.

Born on Kol Nidre night in 1908, Pencer has lived a full life. She and her late husband Abe raised two children, son Edward and daughter Elca, who still lives in Montreal and tends to her mother's needs. She also has six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Pencer now lives on her own at the Castel Royale seniors residence in Cote St. Luc and said she spends her time "keeping busy."

Her faculties, she said, are fine, but, she adds with a laugh, "from the neck down, *kapores* [good for nothing]."

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Special Report

Where have all the heroes gone?

Older and younger Jews differ when it comes to icons

Differences between the generations are as old as time itself. Each one looks at the world through the unique cultural, political, technological, economic and social trends of the times.

Who are heroes to today's young Jews? How do they compare with those of their parents and grandparents?

The CJN *recently spoke to a non-representative sample of the community about who they consider to be their icons.*

By CARA EDELL AND JESSICA HELLEN
CJN Interns

When former Refusenik and current Israeli cabinet minister Natan Sharansky came to town on a North American campus lecture tour, Zac Kaye was shocked that so few students went to see him and that many didn't even know who he was.

"When Sharansky came to speak at York [University] earlier this year, we expected a lot of students would turn up. But the crowd was mostly composed of older people – faculty members who saw him as their hero," said Kaye, executive director of Hillel of Greater Toronto.

Golda Meir

"We expected a major draw, but that was not the case. Students asked, 'Who is Sharansky?' He was a hero in so many ways."

It was a telling moment, Kaye said.

"It became clear that the icons of young people today are not those of people 20 years ago. I see a general sense of people asking what a hero even is. We don't have leaders today like we did in the past."

Both older and younger Jewish adults agree that the people they admired growing up have influenced who they have become. But many teens and young adults say they either don't have any heroes, or they name their parents and grandparents as the iconic figures who have shaped their lives.

Those who do name public figures tend to mention entertainment and sports celebrities and educators, in contrast to older Jews who often cite leading political figures of the 20th century as their role models.

For many, these larger-than-life heroes were the stuff of their youth.

"When you get older, it's more difficult to have heroes. You can just respect and admire people," said Irwin Koziebrocki, a Toronto lawyer and father of four children who range in age from 18 to 25.

John F. Kennedy

He said the people he looked up to as a young man – leaders such as Golda Meir, John F. Kennedy and Pierre Trudeau, whom his children now study in history books – influenced his philosophical and moral worldviews.

While Meir, Israel's only female prime minister, governed far from where he lived, Koziebrocki said her dedication to her adopted land inspired him as a Jew in the Diaspora.

"She put up with difficulties in a growing country being attacked by all sides. Most of us would have hidden," he said.

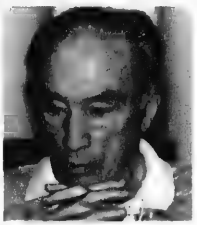
Like Meir, Koziebrocki said Kennedy, the 35th president of the United States, had a "common touch with people" and, as a relatively young man, changed the face of the world.

"He was charismatic, a person of the present, not of the past."

Trudeau, Koziebrocki said, was also a man who reflected "what appeared to be a modern age at his time." He became Canada's prime minister in 1968 and was a "phenomenon" who changed how Canadians looked at themselves.

"He was a strong federalist who believed in Canada as a nation, as opposed to in parts," Koziebrocki said.

Hillel's Kaye believes there are fewer strong leaders around than there used to be to serve as examples to young people.



Pierre Trudeau

For instance, he said, former U.S. president Bill Clinton doesn't compare to former British prime minister Winston Churchill or president Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who led their nations at critical moments in their histories.

"[Clinton]'s charismatic but full of flaws," Kaye said.

Barry Green, president of a produce company and a father of two kids, ages 18 and 20, said he wishes current politicians were more like Trudeau.

"I believed in his vision and I respected how he did things," he said, adding that today's political leaders break their promises when they win power.

But Green defines a true hero as "anyone who has overcome traumatic experiences" or disabilities.

He said reading biographies of people who have triumphed over tragedy, such as Helen Keller, "hits [him] in the heart."

Miriam Frankel, a Toronto grandmother of 13, agreed that heroes are people "who have risen to accomplish things to help themselves and others.

"It's the unsung people out there who I've admired," she said.

Menachem Begin

Frankel praised Rabbi Nachum Rabinovitch, a Toronto native who "made his name and mark" after moving to Israel more than 30 years ago, for "raising the standard of what Jews can accomplish."

She said Rabbi Rabinovitch left a settled and accomplished career in Canada – he served at Clanton Park Synangogue and taught mathematics at the University of Toronto – and dove into the uncertainty of living in Israel.

"He went as an idealist with a dream," Frankel said. "He made a huge contribution to the country and to us generally as Jews."

Among his achievements, Rabbi Rabinovitch opened Yeshivat Birkat Moshe in Ma'ale Adumim in the West Bank and trained immigrant students in secular and talmudic studies. Frankel said the students "are now in every branch of Israeli life.

"They are the crème de la crème of the people that Israel needs."

She said she defines a hero as someone who is ready to make a sacrifice and lives in accordance with a dream he or she strives to fulfil.

"Personally, I admire people who are convinced of how right a cause is and will fight for it – people who will not sit on a fence."

Terry Fox

Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who saved tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews during World War II, was one such example, she said.

"He is a hero for the morals and ethics he exhibited during the darkest hours of the war," Frankel said. "It is unfortunate that people such as him pay the ultimate price."

When considering which other public figures meet her standards, Frankel noted that both Churchill and Menachem Begin faced large challenges.

In World War II, Churchill became prime minister of Britain and led a united British nation and Commonwealth in resisting the Nazi domination of Europe.

He was "able to get a country behind him in his pursuit to put an end to fascism," Frankel said. "He had power of conviction at a time when people wanted to cave in to the Nazis."

Lenny Kravitz

Begin, Israel's sixth prime minister, defied the British mandate and pursued his Zionist dream, said Frankel.

"They are two sides of the coin, but they both had courage and determination."

Sharon Gancman, an interior designer and mother of two kids, ages five and eight, said she was impressed with Terry Fox's "drive to succeed" despite his physical limitations.

Fox, who lost his leg to cancer, began a cross-Canada "Marathon of Hope" in 1980 to raise money for research on the disease. He stopped short outside Thunder Bay when the cancer spread to his lungs. He died in 1981, one month short of his 23rd birthday.

Rabbi Glenn Black

"You always hope, if faced with such obstacles, that you would not give up without a fight," Gancman said.

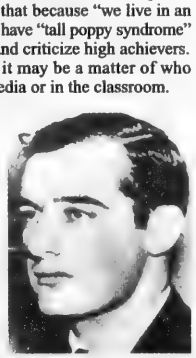
She said she admires Holocaust survivors for the same reason.

"You think that you'd give up, but they not only lived, they accomplished a lot in their lives. Financially they prospered, they went on to have families and businesses, and you wouldn't know the hell that they experienced so many years ago," said Gancman.

Like their parents and grandparents, today's Jewish teens and young adults also make personal connections with public figures, though Kaye speculates that because "we live in an egalitarian society," young people have "tall poppy syndrome" – a tendency to over-scrutinize and criticize high achievers.

But for many young people, it may be a matter of who touches them, whether via the media or in the classroom.

Eli Ekstein, who will enter Grade 12 this fall at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto's (CHAT) Richmond Hill campus, said his hero is rock star Lenny Kravitz.



Raoul Wallenberg

Ekstein said he has looked up to Kravitz since he was 12 years old and shares similar Jewish values and beliefs with the musician, whose father is Jewish.

"He stands out because of his individuality and originality, how he incorporates four different kinds of music into one and how he takes Judaism very seriously, although his mother is not Jewish," Ekstein said.

Continued on page 21

Coast to Coast

No suspects in Ottawa synagogue vandalism

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — Police have no suspects in their investigation into the desecration of Beth Shalom West Synagogue in the west-end Ottawa neighbourhood of Craig Henry.

When caterers arrived to set up for the bar mitzvah celebration of Joel Hameiri on Sunday morning, June 20, they discovered that the back wall of the synagogue had been covered in graffiti, some of it anti-Semitic and some of it illegible. Because there were swastikas and racial epithets, the police are treating the vandalism as a hate crime.

Mitchell Bellman, executive director of the Jewish Community Council of Ottawa/Vaad Ha'Ir, was called to the scene by Rabbi Howard Finkelstein and arrived even before the police.

"It is just a very disturbing sight to see the synagogue vandalized in this way and to see the scope of it," Bellman said. "The entire back wall was covered in graffiti."

On a positive note, Bellman said there was an immediate outpouring of support from the general community.

"We have received calls from the mayor, the premier and leaders of our community who are outraged by this and are making their voices heard," he said.

Ottawa Mayor Bob Chiarelli said that "while Ottawa prides itself as a multifaith and multicultural community of respect and tolerance, the attack on the Beth Shalom synagogue will remind us all that we must never let our guard down on acts of hatred."

Premier Dalton McGuinty also issued a statement condemning the attack.

"Hatred and intolerance have no place in our society and our government is committed to stamping out hate crimes, but everyone can play a role by assisting police, speaking out and promoting understanding," he said. "We're committed to building a province that will be made stronger by ensuring that all cultures and faiths are treated with the respect and dignity they deserve."

This obscene message was found at Beth Shalom West Synagogue in the Ottawa area.

NDP leader Jack Layton also issued a statement. "In the past, my colleagues and I have called for all parliamentarians to support the OCSE Parliamentary Assembly Berlin Declaration that condemns all anti-Semitic violence and seeks aggressive law enforcement by local and national authorities for hate crimes. Today, I renew that call."

As of last week, the police investigation was continuing.

"There are no suspects at this time, but we are examining the neighbourhood for similar graffiti, checking out people who have been involved in hate crimes of this nature and speaking to people in the neighbourhood," said Sgt. Ralph Heyerhoff.

Police have also spoken with Rabbi Finkelstein and suggested additional security measures that the congregation might take.

"We're far from done," Heyerhoff said.

Heroes often found in world of music, sports

Special Report

Continued from page 20

Julia Giddens, 21, said her heroes are stars of the music and sports worlds. The Ryerson University student said she idolizes R&B and gospel guitarist Robert Randolph and Calgary Flames captain Jarome Iginla.

Robert Randolph

"Robert Randolph is full of emotion and passion for what he does," she said. "I've admired him for the past three years. I've even been on stage with him [in Toronto in February]. That was an incredible experience."

She said Iginla, "is a captain that keeps his team intact."

Win or lose, Giddens said, he always has a smile on his face and never turns down an interview.

"He puts in his all and, by doing that, it usually pays off."

Iginla's positive attitude has rubbed off on Giddens, who said she tries to stay optimistic in all situations.

Lory Tobianah, 17, is a classmate of Ekstein's at CHAT. She said her heroes are leaders of the Jewish community and include Rabbi Glenn Black, regional director of the National Conference of Synagogue Youth.

"They dedicate their lives to bring others close to their religion," she said. "They don't want a million dollars for a house. They don't want clothes with name brands. They want money to spend on groceries to have a huge Shabbat dinner, so they can keep their door open and have kids just walk in and out."

Tobianah said the shlichim (emissaries from Israel) who teach at CHAT are leaders that have directly affected her life.

"They leave their lives in Israel to make a difference in young people's lives, and they don't realize how much of a difference they actually make. They show us real way of living, what life is really about. It's really touching because you get a new perspective," she said.

Rabbi Avichai Zahavi is one shaliach who has inspired Tobianah. She said she knew she could confide in him during the school year and felt comfortable enough talking to him about her problems.

"The way they live their lives and the way they touch people made me realize that's the way I want to be when I grow up."

GENEROUS DONATION:
Canadian Friends of Herzog Hospital recently received a donation from the Beth Tzedec Men's Club for the Temmy and Albert Latner Israel Center fro the Treatment of Psychotrauma. Seen here, from left, are Jan Babins, executive director of Canadian Friends of Hezog Hospital; Hersh Rosenthal, Beth Tzedec Men's Club; and Dr. Geoff Caine, General of Herzog Hospital, Jerusalem.

Family

only

The Ca
JEWIS

Mazel

The
Graduati

Daphna Ansel graduated Grade 8 at Netivot HaTorah.

Moshe Balofsky graduated from Netivot HaTorah senior kindergarten.

Brian Baum graduated from the Richard Ivey School of Business & University of Western Ontario Law School with degrees in honours business administration and law.

Megan Raschig Bendayan is going on to study at the University of British Columbia.

Dr. Nowell Fine graduated from the University of Western Ontario Medical School, specializing in Internal Medicine.

Alexandra Gold graduated from Temple Sinai preschool and will attend Associated Hebrew School in the fall.

Jordan Gold graduated from Temple Sinai nursery. He will attend Associated Hebrew School in the fall.

Yaakov Halpern graduated from Netivot HaTorah senior kindergarten.

Raphael Jesin graduated from Or Chaim Bnei Akiva High School and will attend Yeshiva Keren B'Yavneh in Israel.

Shlomo Jesin graduated from She'arim Hebrew Day School and will attend CHAT next year.

Joel Kovshoff graduated from King City Secondary School and will attend University of Ottawa.

Jessica Laforet recently graduated from ASE I.

John Laforet will be attending the University of Toronto this September after graduating from the City School as an Ontario Scholar.

Lindsay Lefton graduated with a bachelor's degree in psychology from Wilfred Laurier University and is continuing at Laurier for a master's in social work.

Moments

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Tou to...

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ng Class

Arielle Lewis graduated Grade 8 at Netivot HaTorah as valedictorian.

Daphna Margolis graduated from Ora Academy in Rochester and will study at Michelet Mevasseret Yerushalayim.

Adam Meitz graduated from junior kindergarten. He is going into senior kindergarten at Lydia Trulls P.S.

Andrew Meitz graduated from Grade 12 at Courtice Secondary School.

Michael Meitz graduated from Grade 8 at Lydia Trulls P.S. He is going to to Courtice Secondary School.

Ellise Ostrovsky graduated from Yorkhill Elementary School and is going on to Thornhill Secondary School.

Daniel Ozier graduated from Grade 8 at USDS Bayview campus.

Michelle Picov graduated from Thornlea Secondary School and will attend Brock University.

Lauren Rotman graduated from CHAT and will be attending Cornell University.

Robin Rotman graduated from USDS Bathurst Campus and will attend CHAT.

Yitzy Stavsky graduated from senior nursery. He will attend junior kindergarten at Menorah Nursery.

Ashley Zimmerman graduated from CHAT and is going on to study at Ryerson University.

Julie Zimmerman graduated from York University with an honours bachelor of science degree in psychology.

Shari Zimmerman graduated from York University with an honours bachelor of arts degree in mathematics.

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Depression remains one of most common illnesses

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Karen Lieberman, executive director of the Mood Disorders Association of Ontario, has declared the silence surrounding mood disorders officially over.

"From this point on, we encourage people to keep talking," said Lieberman, who has recovered from a decade-long battle with severe clinical depression.

She described her journey from "victim to patient to activist to loudmouth," at a recent symposium sponsored by National Council of Jewish Women, Toronto section.

Also on the panel was Dr. David Goldbloom, senior medical adviser, education and public affairs at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, and Carolyn Kirk, founder and CEO of Workplace Health and Wellness Limited. The moderator was *Toronto Star* journalist Robin Harvey, who is the third generation in her family to have bipolar mood disorder.

Lieberman said that when her mother, who is now 89 and was in the audience, battled clinical depression "we never talked about it; it just invaded our lives. As children, we learned that it is something that is horrible, dark and frightening."

In her own battle against the disease, she saw six doctors, was hospitalized 17 times, tried 27 different medications and had 24 shock-therapy treatments.

She now "goes out and speaks to anyone" on the topic of mood disorders, mental illness, stigma and recovery.

She has been honoured by *Chatelaine* magazine as Health Hero and by the Royal Bank of Canada for her work combating the stigma of mental illness, and she was featured on a CTV documentary about depression, *Fighting the Dragon*.

Goldbloom said that depression is an "unspoken problem" that strikes people from every walk of life, typically in their peak productive years, whether things are going well or badly.

"It is one of the most common illnesses in society, and it is one that carries the double burden of symptom and stigma."

The term "depression" is used very loosely, he said. "Sadness is a normal human emotion, and anyone who is depressed can tell in a heartbeat the difference between sadness and depression.

"[Depression] becomes a bodily illness. It disturbs sleep, appetite and energy. There is a highly predictable pattern of symptoms."

Every year, he said, 4,000 people in Canada kill themselves [due to depression], "and the irony is that it is a treatable illness. The vast majority of people can get better if they are treated. The gut response of a depressed person is that there is no hope, yet there is hope. There are a variety of ways to get better."

From left, Karen Lieberman, Carolyn Kirk, David Goldbloom and Robin Harvey at a symposium on mood disorders, presented by the National Council of Jewish Women.

Kirk, who specializes in treating workplace stress, anxiety and depression, says that depression makes up the fastest growing category of disability claims in Canada, and that estimated costs of mental illness in the Canadian labour force exceed $33 billion a year in lost production alone.

"The stigma attached to having a mental illness prevents many employees from seeking help, [and as a result] only about six per cent get the treatment they need [because they want to hide] what they're going through."

Kirk said it is the modern workplace that is laying the foundation for some of the mental health problems employees are experiencing.

With voice mail and e-mail bombarding people at all hours of the day, she said, it has become a 24-hour-a-day workplace, and over time employees suffer the treadmill syndrome. They have too much to do at once.

Another source of workplace stress is office politics, she said. Employees are not sure where things are headed, there is mistrust, and company direction and policies are unclear.

As well, she said, other employees may be self-serving and manipulative, so there is no sense of community. "People feel that being appreciated comes ahead of financial remuneration, yet there is a basic level of feeling underappreciated."

The upside, said Kirk, is that a lot can be done to combat this stress. "Make sure you get mental and physical activities that are separate and apart from work. Keep work in its important but proper place.

"Many people work in isolation, [but] you don't have to work in a vacuum. Get together formally in groups or informally with co-workers and colleagues. You can identify problems and exchange solutions and strategies. Share the load, and you'll find you lighten the burden," she said.

The hidden costs of mental illness can be eliminated, said Kirk, "if employees establish employee health and organizational health as twin priorities."

About Nutrition

By LISA WEINBERG

Q. I have a daughter who is 14. She decided recently to become a vegetarian, and I am concerned that she isn't eating properly. How can I help her?

A. Vegetarianism is a common trend now. It is most important to ensure that your daughter knows what the essential components of a well-balanced diet are.

Make sure she is eating enough protein. If she still eats dairy and eggs, they are good sources of protein. Soy and quinoa are vegan sources of protein. Quinoa (pronounced keen-wa) is a grain. Legumes such as chick peas, lentils and kidney beans, as well as nuts, are also good, but incomplete, sources of protein. In combination with certain other foods, they are a complete source of protein.

Encourage your daughter to eat a wide variety of foods. Eating vegetarian can be safe and healthy, as long as she is well-informed. Your daughter may find it helpful to discuss her diet with a dietitian or her doctor, or to read a good book on vegetarianism.

Q. Is it true that some medications contain lactose? I am lactose intolerant and was not aware of this.

A. Yes, some medications contain lactose, as do many vitamins. Ask your pharmacist to see a list of ingredients before purchasing medications or vitamins, as lactose is usually not disclosed on labels. Lactose can also be found in snack foods with flavourings such as salt and vinegar, fried foods such as chicken fingers and some hot dogs.

Lisa Weinberg is a registered dietitian/nutritionist in Toronto, in private practice and at the Genesis Professional Group. If you have any nutrition questions, please send them to The CJN.

RECORD MOVEATHON:
Members of the Shaarei Shomayim Congregation team complete the 10K run in the Zareinu Moveathon. This year's Moveathon, held late last month, was the most successful ever, with more than 100 corporate sponsors, almost 500 participants and 2,000 attendees coming together to raise more than $700,000.

Family Moments

only from The Canadian jewish news

Mazel Tov to...

Julie & Adam are engaged! Parents Judith & Richard Shapero, Gloria & Joel Clamen, grandparents, Roselind & Fred Shapero, Max Clamen and families are thrilled.

Felix & Regina Opatowski were married in Austria after WWII. They have four children, five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Anna & Vladimir Machlis, Barbara & Elliott Rothman announce the upcoming marriage of Julia & Jeff. Grandparents, Lillian Rothman, Esther & Werner Daltrop.

Congratulations to Julie Weill who was presented with the Scarlet Key Award at McGill University, recognizing student leaders who have made significant contributions to the university.

Mazel tov to Bernice & Marvin Kalifer on their 50th wedding anniversary. Love from their children and grandchildren.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

Label the back of all photos and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Send all your photos to: The CJN, Family Moments, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, ON, M3B 3K4.

Time to celebrate fruit in all its diverse glory

BY NORENE GILLETZ
Special to The CJN

Summertime brings hot weather, casual get-togethers with friends and family and the richness of the summer harvest. Fresh, ripe, juicy fruits are in abundance at farmers' markets, roadside stands and your local supermarket.

If you are feeling overwhelmed and don't know what to do with all that bounty, don't worry.

David Lebovitz to the rescue! In his latest book, *Ripe for Dessert, 100 Outstanding Desserts with Fruit* (HarperCollins, $53.95 Cdn.), Lebovitz shares his passion for fruit and his treasure trove of inspired, innovative and luscious dessert recipes.

These sweets celebrate fruit in all its diverse glory, as Lebovitz's intensely flavourful and imaginative recipes show off the best of every season and reward every dessert lover's fancy. The recipes are divided by category, with an eye to the seasons. They feature apples, pears and quince from the fall harvest, citrus and dried fruits from winter, and stone fruits and berries for the height of summer. His recipes are sure to delight your sweet tooth year round.

Lebovitz presents pairings that will surprise and satisfy, including Anise-Orange Ice Cream Profiteroles with Chocolate Sauce, Chocolate Souffle Cake with Prunes, Cranberries and Kumquats. He even offers a fabulous, thirst-quenching Gingery Lemonade.

With *Ripe for Dessert*'s bounty of easy, user-friendly recipes, you can transform your favourite fruits of every season into desserts that will impress and delight all the dessert lovers in your life.

You'll notice that this fruit cobbler is very low in the f-word (fat, that is), since Lebovitz uses buttermilk and only a modest amount of butter in the biscuits. So don't feel any guilt about enjoying this with a rewarding scoop of melting vanilla ice cream. You'll also notice that these biscuits are much fluffier than traditional biscuits. David especially likes the fluffiness because the biscuits soak up more of the tasty juices from the fruit.

NECTARINE & BLUEBERRY COBBLER WITH BIG FLUFFY BISCUITS

Fruit Filling:
7 medium or 9 small nectarines (about 3 lb.)
6 tbsp. sugar
2 tsp. fresh lemon juice
2 tsp. flour
1 tsp. vanilla extract
One 6-oz. basket of blueberries

Biscuits:
1½ cups flour
1 tsp. baking powder
¼ tsp. baking soda
¼ tsp. salt
2 tsp. sugar plus more for sprinkling
4 tbsp. (½ stick) unsalted butter, frozen
⅔ cup buttermilk
1 large egg yolk
1 tsp. milk

Position the oven rack in the centre of the oven and preheat the oven to 375.

To make the fruit filling: Cut the nectarines in half, remove the pits, and cut the fruit into ½-in. slices. In a large, deep mixing bowl, toss the nectarines together with the sugar, lemon juice, flour, vanilla and blueberries.

Transfer the fruit mixture to a 2-quart baking dish and bake in the oven for 40 minutes, stirring once during baking. (I recommend putting a layer of aluminum foil on the rack under the baking dish to catch any juices that may bubble over.) Remove the baking dish from the oven.

To make the biscuits: Mix together the flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt and 2 tsp. sugar. Using the largest holes on a box grater, grate the frozen butter into the flour mixture. Stir in the buttermilk until the dry ingredients are just moistened. Spoon the biscuit batter over the nectarines in 6 roughly equal mounds.

Mix the egg yolk with the milk and dab the top of each mound liberally with the egg wash. Sprinkle with a nice dusting of sugar and pop the cobbler back into the oven for 20 to 25 minutes, until the biscuits are browned.

Serving: Serve the cobbler warm with vanilla ice cream or a pitcher of very cold heavy cream.

Variations: Substitute peaches for the nectarines (but be sure to peel them). Substitute a 6-ounce basket of raspberries or blackberries for the blueberries or 1½ cups of pitted cherries.

GINGERY LEMONADE

Great lemonade should be served outdoors, in tall glasses, poured over crackling ice cubes. Since Lebovitz likes ginger a lot, he uses about 3 oz. per quart for a particularly robust lemonade. The more timid may prefer to make it with the smaller amount of ginger.

Either way, pour it over plenty of ice in a tall glass. You can dress it up with a few slices of fresh lemon or turn it into pink lemonade by adding a small splash of red fruit juice.

2 to 3 oz. fresh ginger, unpeeled and cut into thin slices
3 cups water
½ cup sugar
1 cup strained freshly squeezed lemon juice (6 to 8 lemons)
optional: ¼ to ½ cup cranberry or red grape juice

In a small saucepan, bring the ginger slices, water and sugar to a boil. Remove from heat and cover. Let steep for 30 minutes.

Strain the sugar syrup into a pitcher and stir in the lemon juice and the cranberry or grape juice, if desired. Discard the ginger slices. Chill the lemonade thoroughly. Serve over lots of ice. Makes 1 quart, about 4 servings.

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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

INSCRIBE YOUR LOVED ONES
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HOLOCAUST WALL OF REMEMBRANCE
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What's New Deadlines: There is no issue July 22. The July 15 issue will include community events taking place from July 15 to July 28. Monday, July 5, is the deadline for the July 15 issue and Monday, July 12, is the deadline for the July 29 issue. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Thursday, July 1

CANADA DAY PARTY

Commemorate Canada's 137th birthday at Downsview Park. Party all day with a non-stop lineup of live shows, contests, an artisan village and a midway. Rock the night away with the sounds of Juno Award-winning artist **Chantel Kreviazuk**, **Spirit of the West** and South African **Johnny Clegg**. And stay for the evening fireworks display. Free Admission. 11 a.m. to 11p.m.

Friday, July 2

BBQ & SHABBAT SERVICE

Temple Israel of London hosts its inaugural summer service and barbecue. The barbecue begins at 6:30 p.m. with burgers, hotdogs and salad. Shabbat service starts at 8 p.m. rain or shine. For information, call 519-858-4400 or visit //uahc.org/congs/cd/cd001/.

Sunday, July 4

FEMINIST BOOK GROUP

Feminist Book Discussion Group, Older Women's Network, is discussing the book *Without Reservations* by **Alice Steinbach** at 1:45 p.m. For location and information, call **Marge Mintz**, 416-630-5049.

Other news

CHESED DRIVE

On Saturday, July 3, communities around the world embark on projects and acts of kindness in memory of **Chana Liora Rosenfield**, granddaughter of **Jerry and Bea Rosenfield** of Toronto. Three-year-old Chana succumbed to cancer early in June. The goal of the weekend is to instigate as many acts of chesed as possible. One such project is "The Toronto Toy Drive," an effort to encourage families to donate toys for children in need in Toronto. Bring a toy to Netivot Hatorah, 18 Atkinson Ave. Sunday, July 4, from 2-5 p.m. You and your child can wrap the gift – supplies provided – and personalize a card. For information on this and other chesed opportunities, visit www.chanaliora.com, e-mail dikla@rogers.com or call 905-762-1798.

ORILLIA COUNTRY SHUL

Shabbat morning services resume at the Orillia Country Shul for July and August. Join a spiritually uplifting and enjoyable Shabbat service with this year's leaders. In order of appearance: **Lionel Sharp, Cantor Tom Schwartz, Rabbi Shmul Veffer, Rabbi Danny Gottlieb, Stuart Hytman, Rabbi Jordan Cohen, Elliott Melamed, Rabbi Elyse Goldstein** and **Rabbi Arthur Bielfeld**. Services begin at 10:30 a.m. at 151 Creighton St. S., 705-327-7069.

TORAH STUDY

Join this summer course entitled "Days of Awe," a conceptual, practical, text-based approach to finding meaning in the High Holy Days with **Ilana Sober**. Wednesday mornings, 10-11:30 a.m. beginning July 7. Each session is an independent unit. For women only. For more information, call 416-784-9518.

SUMMER ULPAN

Canadian Zionist Federation is offering a summer ulpan, an opportunity for intensive, interactive daily Hebrew study with **Chanah Sargon**. July 19-July 22 and July 26-July 29. Two hours of instruction each day. 4580 Dufferin Street, Suite 508. Call 416-633-3988 or e-mail czf@bellnet.ca.

BBYO GOLF TOURNAMENT

BBYO is holding its 10th Annual Golf Tournament at Nobleton Lakes

Continued on page 27

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Continued from page 26

Golf Course on Wednesday, July 28. The tournament begins at 1 p.m. and includes lunch, dinner, raffle prizes and a silent auction. The cost per golfer is $250, and for those 30 or under, there are limited spaces for $175. A portion of the proceeds goes to the Colorectal Cancer Foundation, in memory of BBYO alumnus **Steve Glickman**. For information, call **Debbi** at 416-398-2004 ext. 221.

VENDORS/ARTISTS WANTED

Shuk in the Park 2004, Sunday, Aug. 29, is looking for musical acts, vendors and volunteers. For more information, contact the hotline at 416-485-7007, ext. 200, or visit www.shukinthepark.com.

SENIORS PROJECT

Baycrest Centre is offering a computer demonstration project for isolated seniors living in the community. The program consists of a computer-based support group for six isolated seniors who live alone. It runs for approximately a year. Computers are available for this project. For information for yourself or someone you know, call **Renee Climans,** 416-785-2500 ext. 2989.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service Information/registration call 416-638-7800, ext. 215. Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St.

How To Talk With Your Ex, a 2-session workshop to help individuals learn effective communication and listening skills to deal better with their ex-spouses about issues involving their children. Tuesdays July 6 and 13, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Promenade Mall, Suite 313.

FOR SENIORS

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Dances every Saturday night through July and August; Cruise and Casino, Wednesday, Aug. 11; Casino Niagara, Thursday, Aug. 26. 416-395-7881.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the boardroom at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Call 416-630-9444.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. July 1, bingo; July 8, lecture; July 15, discussion. Call **Menachem Wallach**, 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla**, 416-630-5771.

B'nai Brith Lodge, Dr. W. Filderman invites members and friends to "Images of Switzerland," a slide-show presentation by photo artist Andrei Szasz. Tuesday, July 6 at 6 p.m. B'nai Brith Building, 15 Hove St. Call **Felicia Lowy**, 416-631-0634.

Chai Shalom of Beth Emeth Synagogue theatre excursions: *Cats*, Thursday, July 29 and *Oklahoma*, Thursday, Aug. 26. Both shows 2 p.m. at the Orillia Opera Playhouse. $48 per show includes transportation. To reserve with payment, contact **Tema Wasserman**, 905-770-0355 or **Marlene White**, 905-731-2515.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

"Leadership in Difficult Times: What Makes a Good Leader" with **Prof. Hugh Innis**. Tuesdays, July 6, 13, 20 and 27 between 10 and 11:30 a.m. Members $1.50, non-members $3.

"The ABC's of Fraud," Thursday, July 8 at 1 p.m.

Nutrition services available with dietitian and nutritionist **Marlene Choleva**, Tuesdays and Thursdays 11 a.m.- 3 p.m. Call ext. 200.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew-speaking seniors meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. July 6, movie; July 13, picnic at Earl Bales Park; July 20, lecture. Call **Anna**, ext. 110.

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500

The Seniors Support Program is holding its Annual Tea on Thursday, July 22 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the recreation room, main floor, hospital at the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care. It is an opportunity for clients of the Seniors Support Program and their friends to meet face to face with the volunteers that they converse with over the telephone each week. In addition, there are openings for new people in the community who could benefit from telephone support. If you are interested in registering for the Seniors Support Program, call ext. 2247.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or wwwmilesnadaljcc.ca

Beginner Hebrew: Improve your skill in speaking and reading Hebrew. Tuesdays, 7:30-9:30 p.m. from July 6-Aug. 10. For people who have completed the Hebrew marathon or have a basic knowledge of the Hebrew alphabet. Registration required.

Jewish Storytelling@ The Miles Nadal JCC. For 4,000 years, Jews have sat around and told stories of days gone by and what might be. The tradition continues the first Tuesday of each month, holidays excluded. The next meeting Tuesday, July 6. 7:30-9 p.m. $5.

Summer Programs for Children: Bell Raptor Ball, a youth league that provides children ages 5-14 years old the opportunity to enjoy basketball. Begins Thursday, July 8. Registration required.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

Lunch 'n' Learn with **Rabbi Moshe Stern**, Friday, July 2, 12-1 p.m. in room 202. Bring your lunch, coffee and tea are free. No charge. No session for August, September or October.

The Koffler School of Visual Arts offers summer classes in ceramics, stone sculpture, painting and drawing.

The Koffler Gallery presents **Mitch Robertson**: "S & P 100," July 15 to Sept. 26. Reception, Thursday, July 15, 6 to 8 p.m. Artist's talk at 6 p.m. Robertson, a Toronto artist, discusses what constitutes authentic experience. As travelers, are we privy to the true culture of another country, or do we see a version that is fabricated for us? He will convert the gallery into a site where travel souvenirs are manufactured and sold, exposing the mechanisms that transform mass-produced objects into cherished "keepsakes." Plaster figurines modeled on antique salt and pepper shakers, "dressed" in traditional costumes from around the world, will line the shelves of his "retail shop."

The BJCC and Mount Sinai offer a prenatal class Aug. 8 and 15 from 10-4 p.m. The cost is $136 per couple. To register, call ext. 390.

The BJCC School and Daycare has daycare space available for September 2004, a new extended Tic Tac Two morning program from 9-11:30 a.m. and new preschool, nursery, junior kindergarten and senior kindergarten, morning options of 9-11:30 a.m. or 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Call ext. 248 to book a tour or for more information.

PREEMIE PICNIC: More than 800 people, including nearly 400 children born in Mount Sinai's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, attended the hospital's recent "Preemie Picnic" in High Park. From left are Tovah and Chaya Chastkofsky, born Feb. 7, 1997, at 26-weeks gestation, weighing two pounds five ounces and two pounds two ounces, respectively.

HOLE IN ONE: Chris Lodge celebrates winning a Toyota Corolla convertible after clinching a hole in one at the recent Chabad@Flamingo annual golf tournament. Lodge, left, is pictured with Rabbi Mendel Kaplan, the congregation's leader.

To place an unveiling notice, please call at least 15 DAYS prior to the date of the unveiling

OBITUARIES and Related Notices

To place any other family related notice, please call at least 10 DAYS prior to the issue date

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Lilly Gottfried	Jun 7/04	1101 Steeles Ave W
Gertrude Green	Jun 7/04	55 Skymark Dr
Valeria Konforti	Jun 7/04	1035 Eglinton Ave W
Norman Fremes	Jun 7/04	76 Heathcote Ave
Dr. Bernard Laski	Jun 7/04	1177 Yonge St
Manny Gold	Jun 8/04	23 Carluke Cres
Bella Crispin	Jun 9/04	284 Bloor St W
Mae Brown	Jun 10/04	429 Walmer Rd
Syma Pusitz	Jun 10/04	2499 Burnford Trail
Mary Rotstein	Jun 11/04	3560 Bathurst St
Marilyn Ellen	Jun 11/04	81 Townsgate Dr
Harry Drue	Jun 12/04	3560 Bathurst St
Melvin Richmond	Jun 12/04	46 Manor Haven Rd
Karl Waldner	Jun 11/04	455 Sentinel Rd
Lisa Coristine	Jun 14/04	39 Napa Hill Court
Ken Citron	Jun 13/04	403 Rosemary Rd
Reva Green	Jun 13/04	645 Castlefield Ave
Helen Schnier	Jun 14/04	470 Russell Hill Rd
Max Kudlow	Jun 14/04	133 Torresdale Ave
Gayla Sullivan	Jun 13/04	27 Tournament Dr
Dorothy Allison	Jun 14/04	365 Lonsdale Rd
Benjamin Geneen	Jun 16/04	120 Rosedale Valley Rd
Minnie Grafstein	Jun 15/04	3560 Bathurst St
Brooke Turack	Jun 16/04	56 Shieldmark Cres
Sydney Fedder	Jun 15/04	111 Davisville Ave

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Jedwab, Lidia	June 19, 2004	3560 Bathurst St
Cohen, Charles	June 14, 2004	176 Old Surrey Lane
Kezwer, Vera	June 14, 2004	550 Cummer Ave
Norinskaia, Tatiana	June 15, 2004	Private
Rabinovitch, Miriam	June 16, 2004	53 Applewood Dr
Michaels, Hyman	June 17, 2004	50 Weatherstone Cr
Silver, Irving	June 17, 2004	2 Neptune Dr
Levin, Leonid	June 18, 2004	Private
Obodovsky, Sofya	June 18, 2004	Private
Silberstein, Sandor Alex	June 19, 2004	3560 Bathurst St
Shapiro, Mordechai	June 21, 2004	4300 Bathurst St
Rochman, Itzchak	June 18, 2004	7300 Yonge St
Koshakovskaya, Chana	June 18, 2004	3560 Bathurst St
Feinberg, Rose	June 18, 2004	Private
Friedman, Yetta	June 20, 2004	3560 Bathurst St
Rosen, Eva	June 19, 2004	60 Macklin St N
Staiman, Sam Monte	June 20, 2004	Private
Siegel, Muriel	June 18, 2004	120 Promenade Cir
Davidovits, David	June 21, 2004	148 Viewmount Ave
Ginzburg, Darya	June 20, 2004	4455 Bathurst St
Strasberg, Anne	June 20, 2004	769 Euclid Ave

HEBREW DASIC

Irving Gordon	Jun 5/04	10 Senlac Road

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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
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Adath Shalom Congregation Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

JACK BLITZ ז"ל

It is with profound sorrow that the family announces the passing of Jack Blitz ז"ל.

Jack was born in Winnipeg in 1915, lived in Toronto for 50 years, immigrated to Israel in 1977, and died in Eilat on June 8, 2004.

Jack was the beloved soul-mate of Tova (nee Rosenvald) for 60 years, cherished father of Andy Barak and Sally Cozens and Cheryl and Tzvika Gaster, and treasured Saba of Shaharit, Liora, Mya, Enosh ז"ל, Jeremiah and Benny.

Jack's *menschlechkeit,* good humour, devotion to his family and to the State of Israel are just a fraction of his legacy.

If friends wish to make a donation in Jack's memory, the family requests they be made to the Enosh Gaster Memorial Fund, c/o 175 Ashdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M4L 2Y8

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Osgoode students protest choice of convocation honoree

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

At least one Osgoode Hall law student decided not to participate in convocation ceremonies this year to protest the choice of recipient of an honorary doctorate from the school.

David Moull, who co-organized a "silent protest" instead, said he "didn't want to be on the same stage as Richard Falk," an international law professor at Princeton University who has been called an "anti-Israel extremist" by B'nai Brith Canada.

Allan Socken, incoming president of the York University school's Jewish Law Students' Association (JLSA), sent an e-mail to members the day before the June 18 ceremony to alert them about Falk's views.

A York media release had described Falk as "highly critical of Israeli policies" and said he served in 2001 on a three-person Human Rights Inquiry Commission for the Palestinian Territories appointed by the United Nations. Socken's e-mail included links to Falk's writings, including a defence of Palestinian "resistance to occupation [as] a legally protected right."

Following complaints from students, Osgoode Dean Patrick Monahan replied to them by e-mail on June 17, defending the choice of honoree. Monahan wrote that the complaints presented an "inaccurate, misleading and unfair characterization" of Falk's views.

He said that the Middle East has been a relatively minor aspect of Falk's scholarly work over the past 40 years, and that some of the items in question (like old ads by the Jewish Committee On The Middle East, an organization on whose advisory committee he is listed) "were neither written nor approved by" him. Among the comments were an allegation of Jewish control of the American president and the media.

Monahan wrote that he had spoken to Falk, who "is on record as opposing any form of deliberate violence directed at civilians, including suicide bombing."

"I understand the concerns of the students," Monahan told *The CJN*. "I've been reflecting on them and I want to take them seriously as we go ahead in future years."

The criteria for selecting honorees include things such as scholarship and contribution to public life, Monahan said. At Osgoode, faculty members nominate candidates, whose names are then circulated among them for comments. Suggestions are passed on to a committee of the university's senate, which makes recommendations to York president Lorna Marsden.

International law professor called 'anti-Israel extremist'

A deeper probe into a candidate's background might take place "if you don't know much about them," said Monahan, who was familiar with Falk's international law work "generally."

Among other recipients of honorary doctorates from York this year were Toronto philanthropist and businessman Saul Feldberg, and Fumiko Ishioka, director of the Tokyo Holocaust Education Resource Centre, known for her connection with the book *Hana's Suitcase*.

Ed Morgan, president of Canadian Jewish Congress and a professor of international law at the University of Toronto, said Falk was "a poor choice" for Osgoode, although his writings were "within the bounds of academic and legal debate."

In a letter to Monahan, Morgan wrote that CJC respects the school's "right to honour an individual with whom we happen to disagree. However, we do wish that, given the current divisive climate on campus, universities would select convocation speakers who role model an approach that is sensitive to the views of all sides of a complex dispute like the Middle East."

Michael Tweyman, who is entering his third year at Osgoode, was among a group of students distributing flyers at the ceremony, encouraging people not to applaud when Falk was honoured. Some audience members booed and one opened up a newspaper, while others walked out, witnesses said.

Falk's speech proceeded without incident following an introduction from professor Craig Scott, who said he hoped he could proceed "without misguided and shameful bullying."

Tweyman's classmate Deana Silverberg, said she's "a bit worried" about who might be honoured at future convocations and that, like Moull, she "would like an apology" from Monahan.

Graduating student Matthew Mostyn, a co-organizer of the silent protest, said he was "very disappointed" with Osgoode. Given the Mideast-related tensions on campus in recent years, there were "so many others [Monahan] could have honoured," Mostyn said.

SINGLES EVENTS

DEADLINE:
Wednesday 4 p.m.
8 days preceding issue date

The CJN encourages readers to direct any queries on events to the event's organizers

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CORRECTION

In the article, "Foundation promotes graphology in field of mental health", (June 24 issue) the headline should read, Institute promotes graphology in field of mental health. *The CJN* regrets the error.

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Two killed, several hurt as Qassam rockets hit Sderot

By NIR HASSON
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Two people, one of them a young child, were killed and at least nine others wounded Monday morning, when four Qassam rockets landed on the southern town of Sderot.

The fatalities were identified as Mordechai Yosopov, 49, and four-year-old Afik Zahavi, whose mother, Ruthie, was seriously wounded in the attack.

Emergency services reported that one of the rockets landed just metres from Yosopov, killing him on the spot.

Yosopov and Afik Zahavi will be buried Monday at the Sderot cemetery.

Since the start of the intifadah in September 2000, 347 Qassam rockets have been fired at Israeli targets, 265 of which have landed within the Green Line.

The wounded were rushed to Soroka Medical Centre in Be'er Sheva, where surgeons battled in vain to save the life of the four-year-old boy.

"There was a huge boom. I was very frightened and ran away," said Chen Smadja, 18, who was on her way to a nearby high school.

"Who is watching over [our children]? Nobody. That's my message to the prime minister," said Yitzhak Ohayon, Afik's father.

"We were supposed to go to his end-of-year party in kindergarten tomorrow… and now instead we'll be going to his funeral."

One of the rockets – fired by Palestinians in the Gaza Strip – landed close to a kindergarten in the Neveh Eshkol neighbourhood, and the second hit a nearby coffeeshop. The rockets landed just a kilometre from Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's private ranch.

A third and fourth rocket landed in an open field shortly after the first two exploded, but there were no injuries this time.

Sderot has regularly been targeted by Palestinian militants. In most cases, the crude home-made missiles land in open areas. This is the first time a Qassam has led directly to an Israeli fatality.

"So far Sderot had been lucky in the Qassam attacks," cabinet minister Gideon Ezra told Israel Radio, "but that luck ran out today."

David Baker, an official in the Prime Minister's Office, told *Ha'aretz* that "the Palestinian missile attack was an especially cruel reminder of the brutal nature of Palestinian terrorism. Once again, terror has struck at innocent Israelis in the heart of an Israeli town."

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon held a two-hour meeting with security chiefs Monday afternoon to discuss possible responses to the attack.

The United Nations envoy for the Middle East, Terje Roed-Larsen, condemned the rocket attack.

Soldier killed in Gaza; helicopters hit Gaza foundries

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Staff Sgt. Roey Nissim, 20, of Rishon Letzion was killed and five other soldiers were wounded Sunday evening after a huge explosion in a tunnel beneath an army outpost at the Gush Katif junction in Gaza.

Early Monday, a few hours later, Israel launched two separate missile strikes at metal workshops in Gaza City. No major injuries were reported. Israel said the workshops were being used by Hamas and other terror groups to make weapons, including homemade rockets.

In the first strike, an Air Force helicopter fired three missiles at a workshop in the Zeitoun area of Gaza City, causing a small fire and some damage. Shortly afterward, helicopter gunships fired seven missiles at another foundry nearby. They lit up the night sky in and the explosions echoed across Gaza City.

Nissim was trapped under the rubble of the IDF post before dying of his wounds Sunday night. As of Monday morning, one soldier was in serious condition, one was in moderate condition, and two more were lightly wounded.

Palestinian gunmen fired guns and mortar shells at rescue forces as they attempted to evacuate the wounded from the site of the attack.

Both Hamas and the Fatah-related Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades claimed responsibility for the attack. A spokesperson for the Al-Aqsa Brigades said the group had dug a 350-metre-long tunnel, and detonated 150 kilograms of explosives underneath the outpost. The Israel Defence Forces is not yet certain where the tunnel originated, but army sources said it probably was in the area of Khan Yunis, whose northernmost houses lie some 300 metres south of the outpost.

"This is a message to [Prime Minister Ariel] Sharon that… our fighters will continue the holy struggle until we uproot them [Israelis] from our land," said the spokesperson, who gave his name as Abu Mohammed.

Two Palestinians from Khan Yunis, to the south of the outpost, were killed in clashes with Israeli troops shortly after the attack, Palestinian sources said. They said one of the Palestinians was a 12-year-old boy.

Hamas said the explosion came as revenge for Israel's assassination of the group's founder, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, in March, and of his successor, Abdel Aziz Rantisi, a month later.

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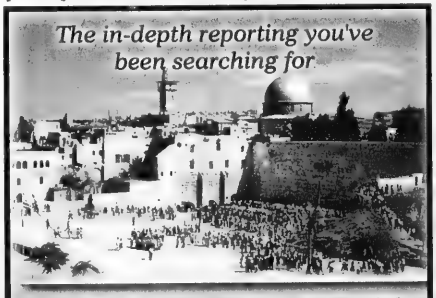

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Israel NATO 'partner'?

By AMIR OREN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

ISTANBUL — NATO leaders have decided to upgrade relations with seven countries, including Israel, in the "Mediterranean dialogue" in a relationship defined as a "partnership."

The partnership with Israel, Jordan, Egypt and other countries in the region will enable these states to strengthen military relations with NATO and ensure invitations are sent to foreign ministers and defence ministers, along with top military figures, to NATO meetings.

The official version of the decision reached by NATO heads of state was to be released Monday in a statement summarizing the Istanbul Summit. As one of the decision's tangible results, an invitation will be issued to Israel's navy to take part in operations designed to prevent the smuggling of weapons and materials used to produce weapons of mass destruction.

NATO naval vessels and planes are taking part in these Mediterranean Sea operations, checking suspicious ships and stopping illegal activities. Anti-terror equipment, as well as gear to cope with natural disasters and the aftermath of terror attacks, will be made available to countries involved in this "Mediterranean dialogue" partnership.

The upgrading of relations represents another step toward making the Middle East and Central Asia the central theatre of NATO operations.

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Hamas raps Arafat

Hamas criticized Palestinian Authority president Yasser Arafat saying he recognized Israel's right to be a Jewish state. Arafat told *Ha'aretz* he wants a state alongside Israel, based on the offer he rejected at the 2000 Camp David summit. A Hamas website accused him of betrayal. "Hamas strongly condemns the statements made by Yasser Arafat ..., which contain very dangerous views," the terror group said. "These positions represent new concessions" by Arafat, who "has given legitimacy to the expulsion of refugees in 1948."

Transfer gains support

Almost two-thirds of Israeli Jews believe Israeli Arabs should be "encouraged" to emigrate, a poll found. The Haifa University survey of 1,016 Israelis found 64 per cent said they favoured Arab emigration and some 55 per cent see Arab citizens as a threat to national security. Suggesting these views are linked to a two-state solution, 60 per cent said they wanted Israel to withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza.

Anti-evacuation edict

Top settler rabbis ruled last week Israeli security forces are forbidden to remove Jewish communities from the West Bank and Gaza. "No civilians, police officer or soldier is permitted to aid in the uprooting of communities," six Yesha rabbis said in a statement after a conference in Ma'aleh Adumim. The rabbis stopped short of calling on security forces to refuse evacuation orders as part of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to disengage from the Palestinians.

Burg to quit politics

Labor Party veteran and ex-leadership contender Avram Burg, 49, plans to quit politics and become a financial consultant, Israeli media reported last week. He resigned his Knesset seat on Sunday. Burg, a former head of the Jewish Agency who made headlines by leading talks on the "Geneva Accord," did not comment. He has reportedly accepted an offer to advise a U.K. investment firm.

Soldiers questioned

Military police last week raided the "Breaking the Silence" exhibit of photographs taken by soldiers during military service in Hebron, confiscating a folder containing newspaper clips about the exhibit as well as videotape with statements made by 70 soldiers about their experiences in the West Bank town. The four reservist soldiers who organized the exhibit also were summoned to interrogations by military police.

Israel-S. Korea Defence Ties?

Israel Aircraft Industries is participating in a joint bid to sell airborne warning and control systems to South Korea. The company wants to sell the Phalcon systems for $1.7 billion (US), the Israeli newspaper *Globes* reported. U.S. defence giant Boeing and Thales of France have filed rival bids.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

Naomi Shemer, Israel's national folk singer, dies at age 74

By DAN BARON
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — It was a sign of the importance of Naomi Shemer to Israel's national psyche that the singer's death relegated the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to the inside pages of the nation's newspapers.

Saturday's death of Israel's national folk musician, at the age of 74 from cancer, spurred Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to open his weekly cabinet meeting with a eulogy and the Education Ministry to order all schools to spend an hour in classes recalling Shemer.

"Using marvelous lyrics and melodies, she succeeded in connecting us to our roots, to our origins, to the beginnings of Zionism," an emotional Sharon said at the cabinet meeting. "Today, when we part with Naomi Shemer, we bow our heads in sorrow and are grateful for the wonderful gift Naomi gave us."

Perhaps best known for her song *Jerusalem of Gold*, a paean to Israel's capital written shortly before Jerusalem's Old City was captured by Israel in the 1967 Six-Day War, Shemer penned and performed countless songs that captured the national mood and drew on her kibbutz upbringing.

Set to guitar, the melody of *Jerusalem of Gold* and its haunting descriptions of Jerusalem's ancient buildings resonated for Jews worldwide. In the Soviet Union, it inspired hope among Jewish refuseniks.

"It was the most Israeli thing we could think of, and we knew that in Israel the song had become something of a national anthem," recalled Natan Sharansky, a former Soviet political prisoner and now Israel's minister for Diaspora affairs.

Naomi Shemer as she appeared in the 1960's.

Al Hadvash Ve'al Haoketz (*Of the Honey and the Bee Sting*) spoke of the joy and sorrow that invariably intertwine in Israeli lives. In 1973, Shemer composed *Let it Be* (*Lu Yehi*) an Israeli version of the famous Beatles tune, to inspire optimism in a country demoralized by heavy losses in the Yom Kippur War.

Following the assassination of Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, in 1995, Shemer translated American poet Walt Whitman's *O Captain! My Captain!* into Hebrew, put it to music and dedicated it to Rabin's memory.

The messages of Shemer's songs still hold currency in Israel today. Her songs enjoyed a revival in public sing-alongs after the outbreak of the Palestinian intifadah in September 2000.

Shemer won the prestigious Israel Prize in 1983, a year after speaking out against the government's evacuation of Sinai settlements as part of a peace accord with Egypt. The award was a sign her popularity spanned even fierce political differences.

Shemer was born in 1930 in Kibbutz Kinneret. She began playing piano at age 6 and was writing songs in her 20s.

She studied at music schools in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, but returned to her kibbutz roots in the army, spending her years of compulsory military service as a musical co-ordinator for shows put on by the Nahal Corps at new settlements and kibbutzim around the country.

She went on to write dozens of Israeli favorites, including *All of These*, or *Al Kol Eleh*, as well as numerous children's songs.

Her last work, composed as she was dying of cancer over the last two years, was a tribute to Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon, who died in 2003 in the breakup of the space shuttle Columbia.

"The death of Naomi Shemer has for some years hovered like a little black cloud, a possibility, in the 'light blue yonder' about which she was composing even in her first songs," commentator Doron Rosenblum wrote in *Ha'aretz*. "And even back then, the occasional hint came up of a possible end, or parting one day from the light blue adventure of our lives in this land."

Shemer was buried Sunday evening at Kibbutz Kinneret, her birthplace, overlooking the lake that she wrote so many songs about. She asked that no eulogies be delivered at her funeral and that mourners instead sing three songs, including her famous *Eucalyptus Grove*, or *Churshat Ha'Icalyptus*.

After her death, Israeli President Moshe Katsav said, "In her songs, Shemer bequeathed us landmarks in the life of the country. Her songs voiced a great love for the state and the people of Israel."

Shemer leaves her husband, poet Mordechai Horowitz, two children and four grandchildren.

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Despite obstacles, Herzl never gave up on his vision

Continued from page 1

Although he attained a law degree at 24, Herzl's career choice was writing, and in the next few years he published dozens of books, plays and articles, none of which had Jewish themes.

In 1891, the *Vienna Neue Freie Presse*, an influential newspaper, appointed him as its Paris correspondent. His move to France provided the first stimulus toward Jewish awareness. Anti-Semitism was, at that time, more intense in France than in Austria-Hungary, and Herzl sought to find a remedy. Thus, in 1892, he produced his first article on a Jewish topic, and in it he advocated assimilation as the best way to neutralize Jew-hatred.

Then came a bombshell. In 1894, the French military staged the trial of Capt. Alfred Dreyfus, and though solid evidence was lacking, the court found him guilty of treason and sentenced him to life imprisonment.

Herzl covered the proceedings as a journalist, but his feelings were far from aloof – especially since Dreyfus was an assimilated Jew like himself, and France, ostensibly an enlightened democracy, was the land of liberty, equality and fraternity. It was not the sordid miscarriage of justice that appalled Herzl, for at this stage the innocence of Dreyfus and the perfidy of the court was not yet fully established; Emile Zola's *J'Accuse* was not published until four years later. What affected Herzl with sickening force was the incredible sight of mobs spewing Jew-hatred and shouting, "Death to the Jews." Most of the press and clergy encouraged them, and in some instances Jews and Jewish property were attacked while police or soldiers watched approvingly. These riots occurred throughout France, and especially in Algeria, except in Algeria many Arabs offered the Jews protection.

All this changed Herzl and imbued him with a new outlook and a new mission in life. He now sought a radically different solution to the scourge of anti-Semitism and pogroms: The Jewish people needed to establish a political entity within territory that would be their own. That territory was to be in Palestine, their ancestral homeland.

Thus political Zionism was born, and to this cause Herzl henceforth devoted every fibre of his being. He now called Zionism "the Sabbath of my life," and his entire lifestyle changed. The tree that had previously adorned his home every December was replaced by Chanukah candles on a traditional menorah, and he attended synagogue more often.

An inescapable need in creating a movement for statehood was funding. He had never before done fundraising, but now, and for the rest of his life, he set out to solicit funds.

First, Herzl approached Baron de Hirsch, who, having already given millions to resettle Russian Jews in Argentina, was a natural prospect. He consented to see Herzl, but the meeting bore no fruit. Such frustration was to thwart him again and again.

At about that time, Herzl began to write a personal diary, which reveals much of what otherwise might never have been known. For example, he describes how ill at ease he felt in the presence of the powerful or wealthy – something that was not noticed, and not divulged by Herzl during his lifetime. He also discloses that already in 1896 his heart was seriously deteriorating.

To reach the Rothschilds, he sought first Albert, head of the Vienna branch. He asked a physician friend who was close to Albert to help arrange the meeting. When Herzl described the Jewish state he had in mind, the physician expressed the firm conviction that his dream was a symptom of mental stress. Presenting such a plan to the Rothschilds was out of the question, and he recommended rest and psychiatric consultation. It so happened that Herzl and Sigmund Freud lived on the same small street and passed each other frequently, but psychiatry was not on Herzl's agenda.

Undaunted, Herzl approached the London Lord Rothschild and other wealthy capitalists, and invariably the outcome was similar. The British chief rabbi was discouraging, too. The French Baron Edmond de Rothschild was the world's most generous supporter of agricultural settlements in Palestine, but he, too, rejected Herzl, and referred to him as "a dangerous adventurer."

An artist's composite of Theodor Herzl overlooking the walls of Jerusalem.

Each rejection was a painful experience, but the bitterest of all was the antagonism of his wife, Julie. She belittled his work at every step, and it was only shortly before his death that she finally showed any affection.

Come what may, Herzl never gave up. He merely adjusted his strategy. The Jewish aristocracy rejected him, at least for the moment, so he turned his attention to the ordinary man on the street.

Instead of courting the wealthy he addressed the Jewish masses. He did it by means of his gifted pen and his stirring oratory, and the success of these efforts proved astounding. In city after city, overflow crowds came to hear him, and his message generated intense public enthusiasm. He also succeeded in convincing key intellectuals of the validity of a Jewish state, including Max Nordau, Natan Birnbaum, Nahum Sokolow, Menachem Ussishkin, Chaim Weizmann and Israel Zangwill.

In 1896, Herzl published *Der Judenstaat*, in which he outlines his concept of a modern Jewish state in the biblical land. It generated wide admiration and also considerable criticism. A surprising feature is his failure to consider the Arab inhabitants, who in his day constituted more than 90 per cent of Palestine's population.

Also, that year, he announced the launch of an annual Zionist Congress, a form of world Jewish parliament, the first of which would be a three-day event to be held in Munich in August 1897. This announcement, much to his surprise, raised a storm of protest from influential Jews and organized Jewish groups. Secular Jewish leaders, for instance, felt that such public discussions were bound to generate anti-Semitism. Rabbinical groups resented what they interpreted as messianic aspirations, and Jewish newspapers predicted that the unrealistic talk of Jewish statehood would make the congress an object of ridicule.

The Rabbinical Council of Germany, Orthodox and Reform, issued a vitriolic protest, and the immediate impact was that the Jewish community of Munich withdrew its earlier invitation. So the congress had to be moved to a less hostile place, which turned out to be the tiny community of Basel. Jerusalem had been suggested, but that was ruled out by the Turkish government, and after World War I, by the British government.

The congress itself opened with recitation of the blessing *Shehechiyanu* recited in Hebrew. Thereafter, the language of proceedings and minutes was German. Some East European speakers tried to remake their Yiddish to sound like German, and the resultant dialect came to be called "Kongress-deutsch."

Lofty levels of intellect and dignity prevailed throughout the proceedings, and delegates were required to wear frock and white tie. Herzl himself was held in such high esteem that some greeted him, in all seriousness, as king of Israel. It is noteworthy that when he visited Palestine the following year, there were even Arabs who referred to him as *Malik al Yahud* (king of Jews).

An initial assessment would, however, deem that congress to be a disappointment, perhaps even a failure. More than 400 delegates had been anticipated, and less than 200 turned up. All leading rabbis, Orthodox and Reform, were invited, and not one actually came. Also invited were the world's Jewish bankers and industrialists, and the heads of major organizations – they also did not come. Of the world's significant Jewish newspapers, not one wrote approvingly of the "Basel program."

Yet the indefatigable Herzl wrote in his diary: "Here at Basel, I founded the Jewish state, and the world will recognize this within 50 years." History proved him right, although neither he nor anyone else could at that time have foreseen the contributing developments that were yet to unfold, such as the collapse of Ottoman rule and the rise of Nazi Germany. In 1947, 50 years after this entry, the UN voted for a Jewish state in Palestine.

At the second Zionist Congress, a trickle of rabbis, capitalists and heads of organizations attended, and with each subsequent congress the numbers grew. Press approval, likewise, rose. The sixth congress drew three times as many participants as the first.

It took years of despair until Herzl won over the Jewish aristocracy. It went faster with the gentile elite, and most of the statesmen he approached readily granted him interviews and then commended his proposals.

First was the grand duke of Baden, who introduced him to Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany. Herzl also met with the kings of Italy and Bulgaria, the sultan of Turkey, the prime minister of Austria-Hungary and other statesmen. Even the interior minister of Russia received him warmly, but in that case the friendliness was misleading. Russian co-operation with Herzl was motivated by the czar's hope that Zionism might induce Jews to leave Russia.

The one decidedly cold interview was with Pope Pius X, whose sole expressed interest was the conversion of Jews. The strongest bond with any head of state was with the German kaiser, who met with Herzl three times in 1898. Germany and Turkey were close allies, and that year Herzl actively pursued a plan to set up a self-governing Jewish entity in Palestine under German-Turkish auspices. But the kaiser's ministers persuaded him to drop all contact with Herzl because the leaders of European Jewry, rabbis and bankers alike, showed so little interest at that time.

The one individual who had the full power to grant Herzl's request was the sultan, within whose empire Palestine lay. He hinted that, for a price, he might consider such a concession in Ottoman lands other than Palestine, but Herzl insisted that only Eretz Yisrael would do.

Herzl did, however, consider a British proposal for the Sinai Peninsula. The territory bordered on Palestine, so the idea was not entirely ruled out. But the lack of water, plus the emergence of other obstacles, killed that prospect.

In his discussions with British cabinet ministers, Herzl elicited a tangible willingness to seek territory where Jews could find refuge and govern themselves. Palestine was not theirs to offer, but in 1903 they came up with a suggestion for part of the extensive British territories in Uganda. Herzl rejected this outright, explaining that Zionism means the Holy Land – or at least adjoining the Holy Land – and nowhere else.

Then, in April 1903, the Kishinev pogroms struck, and the need to find an immediate place of refuge for Russian Jewry pressed upon Herzl with unrelenting urgency. He reversed himself, and at the sixth Zionist Congress that summer, he passionately pleaded for investigating the Uganda scheme. He stressed that it could be only a temporary plan to alleviate the current emergency and that Zionism must remain firmly committed to Zion. But he thought Uganda should be explored.

Opposition sprung forth like a thunderstorm, and this congress was the most rancorous to date. When the motion was put to the vote, two-thirds opted in favour, many voting that way primarily out of respect for Herzl. But 100 abstained, and those who had voted against, mainly delegates from Russia, rose and filed out. Herzl met with them later and managed to persuade them to return, which reflected the remarkable power of his personality. But the schism and the rancour remained, which was more than his ailing heart could take.

On July 3 , 1904, Herzl died, aged 44. The Zionist Congress continued to function along the lines he had established, and in 1948 it finally reached the goal he had set for it.

Rabbi Shlomo Jakobovits is the retired general studies principal of Eitz Chaim Day Schools.

KIDDISH

Jewish Kids' Fun Page
by Ellene Newman and Hallel Newman

TISHA B'AV

Adapted from Gittin 55b.

This story takes place nearly 2,000 years ago when the Second Temple still stood tall on Mount Moriah in Jerusalem. That was back before last names were invented, so if someone's name was Aviezer, to avoid being mixed up with all the other Aviezers out there, they would add on "Bar Nosson," Nosson being his father's name. In fact, if someone's father had a name that was unusual enough, like Kamtza, he could end up just being called Bar Kamtza.

"Mr. Bar Kamtza?" called the liveried servant boy standing in the doorway.

"Yes," replied Bar Kamtza, coming to the door.

"You are cordially invited to a banquet tonight at the manor of Aviezer bar Nosson."

Bar Kamtza jumped. "Aviezer? Why would ***he*** want ***me*** to come? There must be some mistake. He hasn't spoken to me in years...ever since..."

"There's no mistake here," said the servant boy, checking the paper he was holding. "You are clearly written down as an honoured guest."

"It can't be...It can't be..." muttered Bar Kamtza.

"The banquet will begin two hours before sunset. Please be prompt." And with that, the servant boy ran off to the next house on his list, leaving Bar Kamtza to his troubled thoughts. "Maybe he's doing this to humiliate me," he wondered. "Or maybe someone else sent that boy here as a joke. Why in the world would Aviezer invite me? Unless...my father. He's friendly with my father. Maybe that's why he's trying to make up with me. Yes, that must be it. My father must have encouraged him to do this."

A few hours later, Bar Kamtza was strolling through the streets of Jerusalem, dressed in his finest clothes and singing to himself. What a relief. Finally, he and Aviezer weren't enemies any longer. Ah, here was Aviezer's manor now. Guests were streaming through the open doors into the large hall, which was all set up for the banquet. At the end of the hall, sitting at the head table, Bar Kamtza saw distinguished Rabbis. "Wow," he thought, "This is a very special banquet I've been invited to."

And just inside the door, greeting the guests, stood Aviezer.

"Aviezer," began Bar Kamtza. "Thank you so much for...." He froze. Aviezer was glaring at him with loathing and contempt.

"What in heaven's name are you doing here?" he hissed. The whole room fell silent.

"You...you...invited me," stammered Bar Kamtza.

"I invited you?" demanded Aviezer. "Mayer!" he shouted, and the message boy appeared. "Did you invite him?"

"You told me to."

"Bring the list!" thundered Aviezer, and the servant boy scurried to comply.

Aviezer skimmed through the list. "Idiot!" he bellowed, waving the list in the cowering servant boy's face. "Can't you read? It says Kamtza, not Bar Kamtza! I told you to invite his father! Get out of my sight now!"

The servant boy vanished. Aviezer turned to Bar Kamtza. "I was talking to you too."

"P...please, don't throw me out now that I'm already here. Don't embarrass me in front of all these people. Let me stay. I'll sit on the side and I won't cause any distractions. I'll even pay for my meal."

"Out!" roared Aviezer.

"Please!" begged Bar Kamtza. "I'll even pay for half of this banquet."

"***Out!***"

"I'll pay for the whole thing! Just don't do this me!" pleaded Bar Kamtza, but Aviezer grabbed him, and dragged him out the door.

The last thing Bar Kamtza saw was the rabbis sitting at the dais, watching wordlessly as Aviezer re-entered. Then the doors slammed shut, and a heavy clang told Bar Kamtza that they had been bolted.

He lay there, seething. Nobody had done anything to stop Aviezer.

No one had even said anything. Not even one of the rabbis. Mindless hatred erupted inside of Bar Kamtza. He stalked the alleyways of Jerusalem, his hatred growing fiercer and fiercer until...

"Your Majesty, the Jews are planning a revolt. If you don't stop them, they will attempt to rebel against the Roman Empire."

Caesar looked down at Bar Kamtza from his enormous throne, and chuckled to himself. "I'd like to see them try. But your information is valuable nonetheless. Thank you."

This story doesn't have a happy ending. The Roman army surrounded Jerusalem until they finally pierced the walls of the city, pillaging and burning everything in sight. On the ninth of the month of Av, (in Hebrew: Tisha b'Av) they set fire to the Temple. All that remains of the Temple is the Western Wall, (Kotel HaMaaravi), where even now, 2,000 years later, Jews from all over the world come to pray. The Jews of Israel were exiled to Rome, and were without a country until the founding of the modern State of Israel in 1948. The area where the Temple once stood was reconquered by Israel during the Six Day War in 1967. Tisha b'Av, the anniversary of the Temple's destruction, is still a day of mourning in the Jewish calendar.

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Write to us at ENewman613@aol.com

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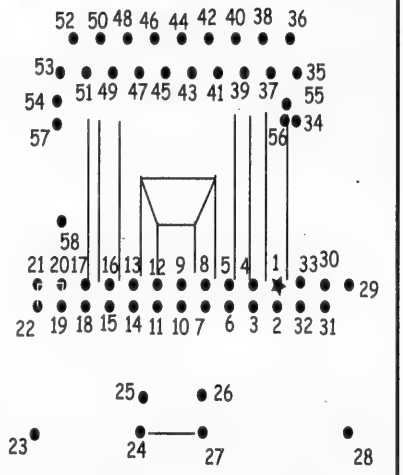

MICHA WALK: Several thousand walkers of all ages recently helped raise funds for MICHA, the society for deaf children in Tel Aviv. [Israel photo]

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CJN Profile

Toronto architect to redevelop Shanghai's Jewish quarter

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Clifford Korman, the co-founding partner of the Toronto firm of Kirkor Architects & Planners, has been tapped to create a master plan for redeveloping the old Jewish quarter in Shanghai, China.

"It's a tremendous honour, a phenomenal project and a great opportunity," said Korman, a 53-year-old architect and registered professional planner.

Under the estimated $600 million gentrification scheme, upward of 50 historic buildings in the poor but colourful Hongkew district will be restored.

In addition, two commercial towers, three high-rise condominiums, a hotel and shops, comprising some four million square feet, will be built.

Consisting of about nine city blocks, Hongkew is a study in urban decay – a congested maze of dilapidated Victorian row houses, shops, temples and alleyways.

During the 19th century, Jews from Britain and Iraq settled in Hongkew, a Japanese enclave and extraterritorial concession.

Russian Jews feeling the pogroms of the 1880s and the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution subsequently arrived.

With the rise of Nazism in Germany, some 20,000 German, Austrian and Czech Jews streamed into Shanghai, an open city whose newcomers did not require visas or passports.

Shortly after the outbreak of World War II, the Japanese herded Jewish refugees into Hongkew, and there Jews created a self-contained, pulsating community.

Stores of all kinds and Viennese-style cafes sprouted. Newspapers, sports clubs, cabarets, theatres and self-help organizations were founded.

Jews began leaving Shanghai, contemporary China's commercial capital, following the war. The process was accelerated with the proclamation of the People's Republic of China in 1949. Today, Hongkew – but not greater Shanghai – is bereft of Jews.

Korman, a graduate of Bathurst Heights Secondary School and the University of Waterloo's School of Architecture, got involved in the redevelopment project due to his old friendship with a former classmate, Ian Leventhal, a frequent visitor to and admirer of China.

On one of his trips to Shanghai, Leventhal, an artist, stepped into Ohel Moishe Synagogue on Chang Yang Road. Built by Russian settlers at the turn of the 20th century, Ohel Moishe lost its relevancy with the departure of Shanghai's Jewish refugees. But today it is back in business again as a museum, the Jewish Refugee Memorial Hall.

Leventhal was so impressed by the unobtrusive beauty of the former shul that he, Toronto designer Tom Rado and others assembled a collection of Chinese and Canadian Jewish art – paintings, drawings and sculptures – to be housed in a space adjacent to the ground-floor sanctuary.

The collection, designed to highlight the relationship between Chinese and Jewish cultures, so impressed Shanghai city officials that they asked Leventhal and Rado to propose an original Jewish heritage project.

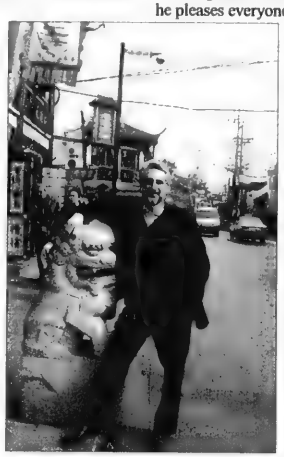
After coming up with the idea to remake Hongkew, the pair were invited to put together a team to study the feasibility of redeveloping that venerable neighbourhood.

Then they formed a company, Living Bridge, to raise funds for the project, and began interviewing internationally renowned architects, such as Moshe Safdie and Cesar Pelli, to see it through.

They settled on Korman – a member of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada – because he seemed like the ideal candidate.

Previously having worked in China, he was familiar with the country, and his reputation as a designer of luxury condominiums, hotels, retail plazas, industrial buildings and residential homes had preceded him.

"He has a modern touch, but he's wonderful at integrating," explained Leventhal. "A lot of architects will plunk their buildings down without much regard for the site. Hongkew is a sensitive and historic neighbourhood and it needs tender loving care."



Clifford Korman in Shanghai

Albert Warson, a Toronto-based journalist who writes about real estate and has known Korman for seven years, claims he possesses a magic touch.

"He is one of those architects who can whip off an architectural solution to a development problem, often on a serviette during a long flight or on a sheet of paper in a client's office. While it seems to spring off the top of his head, the solution is so insightful it invariably gets instant client approval."

Warson added: "He is also flexible enough to shift design gears abruptly if city planners and neighbourhood residents balk. In the end, he pleases everyone."

Korman, who is currently designing a master plan for a residential community in Beijing, believes his exposure to China will be extremely useful in the Hongkew project.

"It's very important that the architect have Chinese experience," he said in an interview shortly after returning from his latest trip to Shanghai.

As he sees it, the project will enhance Shanghai's cachet as a tourist destination and be a prototype for redevelopment in Shanghai and the rest of China.

That is important because, until now, old neighbourhoods have been ruthlessly levelled rather than lovingly preserved.

"The challenge is to balance restoration with intensification," said Korman, the father of two grown boys.

Korman will present officials with a final master plan in August, and he is confident it will be accepted. Once that hurdle is surmounted, developers will come into the picture.

He thinks real estate values will jump once construction gets under way in 2005.

And he expects Hongkew's character and socio-economic profile to be transformed as automobile traffic is restricted and the vast majority of its working-class inhabitants are relocated to make room for a new and affluent class of residents.

Lest the project be branded as elitist, Korman said that housing for lower middle-class dwellers will be built as well.

Korman, who has visited Shanghai three times in the past three months, believes China's potential is limitless.

"China is expanding by leaps and bounds. The Chinese are great capitalistic people. They draw on 5,000 years of history and culture. They're bringing 1.3 billion people into modern society and doing it at an accelerated pace. That's why they're searching for international professionals to give them guidance."

Born and raised in Toronto, Korman was drawn to architecture at a very early age. When he was five, he was already building tree houses and scrounging wood from his father Mike's lumber and construction business.

He graduated from the University of Waterloo in 1976, making the dean's honour list and walking away with the Ernest Wilby Memorial Fellowship for Architectural Excellence.

Joining the Zeidler Partnership, which designed the Eaton Centre in Toronto, Korman found himself working on designs for the Queen's Quay Terminal, the Glen Abbey Hotel, the Misssissauga General Hospital and the Rosedale Glen condominiums.

Having cut his teeth on these projects, he founded his own company, Clifford Korman Architect. The growth of his practice prompted him to merge with a rival firm, Steven Kirshenblatt Architect.

Kirkor Architects & Planners, the amalgamated company, has a long and varied list of clients, ranging from Loblaws and the Tridel Corporation to Menkes Development and the Camrost Group of Companies.

Korman and his associates have designed some of the finest condominium buildings in Toronto, including the Waterclub and the Riviera, and were also involved in the middle phases of construction of the expanded Bialik School.

Currently, they are working on the new headquarters of the Toronto International Film Festival and on the Zareinu school.

Their handiwork can also be seen in Israel. They designed the cadet training school in Be'er Sheva for the Israeli air force.

And now they are redesigning Hongkew. "We think it will be a very exemplary development," said Korman.

Sonny Goldstein, CFP
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Sari Colt stars in *Barely Surviving My Jewish Family.* [Dani Colt photo]

Elley-Ray Snow as Isabelle D'Arc in *The Divine Heretic.* [Chris Owen Halper photo]

There's Jewish content out there at the Fringe

By JOSEPH SERGE
Arts Editor

Over the years, Toronto's Fringe Festival has developed and grown, and it now attracts more than 42,000 enthusiastic Fringers each summer to what has become the city's largest theatre fest.

The event has mushroomed to include 11 venues and more than 120 theatre companies from Ontario, Canada and around the world, and it's now the third largest fringe festival in Canada.

Here are some highlights of this year's Fringe, which runs until July 11.

•*Barely Surviving My Jewish Family*, written and performed by Sari Colt. Witness Colt's outrageous tales of growing up in an offbeat Jewish family. From her fashion-conscious mother to her prune-juice swilling father and her Playboy centrefold Hebrew teacher, Colt reveals all.

• Veteran actress Corinne Conley stars in *Magda's Beauty Secrets*, the story of a Polish survivor who worked as a slave labourer in Nazi Germany. Directed by Brenda Darling and written by Diane Forrest.

• In *You Can't Live On Cute Forever*, a (maybe not so) typical Jewish family are trying to live on cute. But when mother Ruth gets fed up, she leaves the family to cope on its own with daily living and Friday-night Shabbat rituals. The play explores this with humour and hope. Written by Jonathan Rothman and directed by Linda Matassa.

• The musical *The Divine Heretic* takes place in France after the burning of Joan of Arc. Her legend has deteriorated into a circus of salvation-peddling and Joan's mother Isabelle finds herself lost and confused. It's written by Tara Raquel Cates and Kevin Ralph Nelson.

•Schmigeggy presents *Fable: Based On A True Story*, by Adam Lazarus and directed by Jen Johnson. Retelling the Eden story from the point of view of God's unchosen, it features Adam, Eve, Lilith, the Snake and God.

•*Exposed in High Park* turns a normal day in High Park into an intriguing and outlandish spectacle sure to leave audiences guessing. Joshua Ginsberg's play is about the struggle for identity in a materialistic social system and looks at the value of art in such a world. Directed by Zenon Skrzypczyk.

• *It's Not What You Think* is actually two stories for the price of one, featuring two short plays, *A Little Faux Pas*, starring Guy Yarkoni, and *The View From Here*.

• Ellen Marlowe stars in *Jack & Jill*, a realistic and multicultural revision of the Mother Goose nursery rhyme. Directed by Jin Huh.

• Russell Bennett co-writes and stars in *The Reefer Man*, a play about choosing your own path in life, even in the face of legal and social censure. Bennett produced and directed the documentary *Stoned: Hemp Nation on Trial*, which was broadcast on CBC Newsworld in 1998.

• Kurt Schneiderman writes and directs a *Funny Thing Happened On My Way To Shoot the Czar!* A one-act play that features a cryptic tea party that hosts all of history's executed dictators.

•*Cactus* is a bizarre, anarchic, physically devised solo show which treads the line of comedy, theatre and performance art. Directed by Mark "Sabotage" Chavez and performed by Melbourne-based Jonno Katz.

For more information, venues and dates, visit www.fringetoronto.com, or call the Fringe hotline at 416-966-1062.

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

TAPES, MEMORABILIA SOUGHT AS ASHKENAZ PAYS TRIBUTE TO HISTORIC YIDDISH RADIO SHOW

"Ershte Yiddisher radio shtunde ruft ois freyd" – "The First Yiddish Radio Hour Creates Joy."

So ran the headline in the Yiddish-language *Kanader Nayes* (Canada News) of April 1, 1936, as a locally produced Yiddish radio show began emanating over Ontario's air waves. At various times, such shows were produced in Hamilton and in St. Catharines, too.

A group of performers is planning to pay tribute to the era with a live show inspired by Ontario's own "Jewish Hour" broadcasts, to be staged at the Ashkenaz Festival over the Labour Day weekend at Toronto's Harbourfront Centre.

The live radio show will incorporate songs, interviews, singing "yinglish" commercials and comedy routines typical of the era, organizers say. The show is being directed by **Theresa Tova**, with musical direction by **Martin van de Ven**.

Performer **Michael Mandel** (otherwise an Osgoode Hall law professor) lends added authenticity to the show, since his father was **Max Mandel**, the "sweet singer of Yiddish folksongs" in the first Yiddish radio broadcasts almost seven decades ago.

Ashkenaz seeks the public's help in mounting an audiovisual exhibit to celebrate the era. The creative team is asking people to come forward and share their memories and memorabilia.

"We're hoping there still exist private recordings stored away in drawers and basements," Tova said.

For Toronto and Hamilton, Ashkenaz is looking for anyone connected with **S. M. Greenfield's** "Jewish Radio Hour" from CKOC, on air from 1936, **Max Mandel** and **Sam Yuchtman's** "Jewish Radio Show" on CKTB in the 1940s, or the *Harry Harris Jewish Hour* on CHML in the same period.

If you have photos, records, tapes of broadcasts or simply memories to share, please call the Ashkenaz festival office at 416-979-9901 or fax 416-979-4059. Or e-mail the festival at ashkenaz@ashkenazfestival.com or Tova directly at radiohour@theresatova.com

* * *

Isaac Bashevis Singer Centenary: The National Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, Ma., is hosting a conference this month to mark the 100th birthday of the celebrated Yiddish writer and Nobel-laureate, **Isaac Bashevis Singer**.

"The Imaginary World of Isaac Bashevis Singer" is a five-day exploration of Singer's remarkable stories, novels, memoirs and children's books. The conference features literary professor **Justin Cammy**, novelist **Dara Horn**, National Yiddish Book Center president **Aaron Lansky**, publisher **Max Rudin**, writer-editor **Howard Schwartz**, artist **Isaiah Sheffer**, filmmaker **Kirk Simon**, editor-professor **Ilan Stavans** and Singer's former assistant, **Devorah Telushkin**, whose memoir *Masier of Dreams* offers a riveting and intimate portrait of Singer.

The conference runs July 11 to 15. Contact program director Nora Gerard at 413-256-4900, ext. 116, or e-mail programs@bikher.org. website: http://yiddishbookcenter.org

Theresa Tova directs a live show of Jewish Hour Broadcasts at Harbourfront Centre.

* * *

Names in the News: **Matthew Teitelbaum** was recently appointed president of the Association of Art Museum Directors (AAMD) for the coming year. Currently director and CEO of the Art Gallery of Ontario, Teitelbaum has worked in art museums across North America for more than 20 years, lectured extensively and taught at Harvard and other esteemed institutions... Actor **Richard Gere** was in Israel in June to launch Tel Aviv University's International Student Film Festival... **Ed**, **Anne** and **David Mirvish** received honorary law degrees from the University of Toronto last month at Convocation Hall. It was the first time the U of T had bestowed honorary degrees on all members of one family at one time... *Wire Tap*, a radio show on CBC's summer schedule, features Montrealer **Jonathan Goldstein**, who will explore interesting themes and ideas "through the intimacy and immediacy of the telephone."

* * *

Islam Behind Bars: No religion is growing faster in western prisons than Islam, especially in the United States, where there are more than 200,000 Muslim inmates, mainly black converts, seeking an alternative to Christianity. Prison officials took a benign view of the phenomenon before Sept. 11 but now fear their jails could become breeding grounds for terror. The CBC's *Witness* presents *Islam Behind Bars*, July 7, 8 p.m.

* * *

Arts in Brief

• Here's a writing assignment you can really get wrapped up in. New Jersey Jewish educator **Dr. Debra Smith** is seeking interesting and unusual personal stories about the tallit for inclusion in a book titled *Every Tallit Tells a Tale*. Pieces should be 750 to 1,000 words in length and e-mailed with a few lines of autobiographical information to tallit stories@yahoo.com. 908-850-8037.

• The Avenue Road Arts School recently published its new course roster for children and adults. The school's director is **Lola Rasminsky** and its board includes such well-known names as **Andy Barrie**, **Sorel Etrog**, **Walter Pitman**, **Sue Polanyi** and **Sam Sniderman**. For a course roster, phone 416-961-1502 or visit www.avenueroadartsschool.com.

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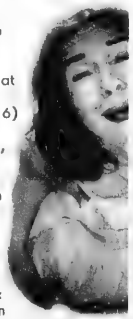

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'Overnight guy' the youngest DJ at CHUM FM

By JESSICA HELLEN
CJN Intern

A DJ in a city like Toronto typically gets his start living out of a suitcase, working at different small-market radio stations in towns most of us have never heard of.

But Rob Daniels was hired by CHUM FM while still in college, and at 20, he is the youngest DJ to work at Toronto's top radio station.

Daniels has been working the overnight shift since November 2003.

"I always had this passion for announcing. I wanted to be on the air," he said.

Rob Daniels

Daniels' teachers at Seneca College's radio broadcasting program warned him that trying to get a job as a broadcaster at a Toronto radio station was like trying to play for the Toronto Maple Leafs, but he decided to send audition tapes to two local stations "for fun."

When Rob Farina, program director at CHUM FM, called Daniels to talk about his "future goals and the possibility of [his] working for CHUM," Daniels went "berserk."

Eight months later, Daniels still has Farina's message saved on his answering machine. He can also recite, word-for-word, what Farina said to him at the end of their meeting.

"He said to me, 'You know what, Rob, I'm sick and tired of people saying that we're not hiring any new air talent in the city, and I'm about to change that.' I went crazy, my mouth dropped."

After his first shift on Nov. 1 at two a.m., Daniels was hired on a "trial by fire basis" and started working three overnights a week.

"I was going ballistic," he said. "It's not just any station, it's the number 1 radio station in Toronto."

During this time, Daniels was also taking eight courses at Seneca and working a shift at his high school radio station, where he got his start. "My whole life was upside down," he said.

Daniels got his start working at the high school station during lunch on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. He interned as a "phone guy" at KISS 92 two nights a week, answering phones and screening calls. He was later hired in the promotions department and went to events. During college, he interned at MIX 99.9, filing CDs, and worked in promotions at 97.3 EZ Rock.

"You have to be persistent," he said. "You can't just think everything's going to come to you."

While at Seneca, Daniels' drive and determination helped him achieve his goals. He set up a schedule for himself to send audio tapes to 20 medium-market radio stations, after every semester. He then asked each station for feedback and constructive criticism.

"It's all about paying your dues, and you really, really have to work your ass off. Believe me, this didn't just happen."

As a young man at a radio station with a core demographic of females aged 25 to 35, Daniels has to relate everything he talks about to this audience.

"Now I have to start watching programs like *Friends* or *Oprah* or *Dr. Phil* – whatever a 25-to-35-year-old female would watch," he explained.

Daniels said working the overnight shift isn't easy. He operates on a backwards schedule, has to set a curfew for himself and is constantly tired.

"Picture how you feel at 2:30 a.m," Daniels said. "That's how I sometimes feel at 5 p.m. or 6 p.m.

"The most difficult thing is having to go to sleep on a Saturday or Sunday morning when you see the sun just rising and it's going to be, like, 28 degrees."

Daniels now works the overnight shifts from Thursday to Monday.

He usually follows the same routine, sleeping from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. He then wakes up, eats a light meal, goes for a run, takes a shower and spends time with his friends or his girlfriend until it is time for him to head back to the radio station.

"It's totally backwards, but that's how the radio life works," he said.

Despite a hectic schedule, Daniels still manages to sound energetic when he's on the air. He credits this to his love of the job and the music he plays.

"What keeps me so passionate about it is that when I go, I don't even sometimes consider it work. I look forward to going there and doing my show," he explained.

Making time for friends, family and a girlfriend can be quite difficult, Daniels said.

"I try to keep a steady balance. So far, the true people who mean a lot to me in my life have stuck by me."

Daniels said he hopes to go on a Birthright trip to Israel in the future, and looks forward to working a day shift. He also plans to do some sports broadcasting, preferably baseball, at some point in his career.

Although Daniels said he doesn't want to be known as the "overnight guy" forever, he understands that right now is the best time for him to do it.

"People will notice that you're working hard, and you just hope that one day you can move up."

Celebrate Canada Day with local movies

By LARRY ANKLEWICZ
Special to The CJN

Canada Day is a period to celebrate our Canadianism and show our pride in our country. I am frequently asked whether there are any good Canadian films out there.

In fact, quite a few good Canadian films have been released this past year, theatrically and on video. First let me mention two Canadian films with some Jewish content.

The Event is the story of a Jewish young man who has contracted AIDS. He knows he is dying and decides to end his life while he still has some control over his destiny. When the local assistant District Attorney hears of his death, she launches an investigation to determine whether a crime was committed and whether charges can be filed.

While *The Event* is a comedy, it provides a serious look at the topic of assisted suicides.

Another recent Canadian film with Jewish content is *The Statement*. Norman Jewison directed this story of a Nazi collaborator who was protected and given asylum after the War by church officials. Forty years later, French legal officials attempt to track him down in order to ensure that justice is meted out. Michael Caine stars as the villain in this film, the kind of role he rarely gets to play.

Other excellent Canadian films to be released on video over the past year include the following films: *My Life Without Me* won a well deserved Genie Award for Sarah Polley, who portrays a young mother who learns she has only a few months to live. Instead of feeling sorry for herself, she decides to use the time remaining to prepare her family for her death and to do some of the things she1s never had an opportunity to do.

Marion Bridge is a small Canadian film set in Atlantic Canada. Molly Parker returns home to join her two sisters for the short amount of time their mother has remaining. As the women re-unite after many years of separation, the dynamics between them re-assert themselves and we learn about the deep dark secrets they have refused to acknowledge for a long time.

Not all Canadian films are sombre affairs.

Mambo Italiano is a delightful comedy set within the Italian community in Montreal. Angelo is the only son of an Italian immigrant couple. The parents keep trying to introduce him to nice eligible Italian girls only to discover he is gay and living with a handsome Italian guy. It's funny and it's often outrageous, but it's great entertainment.

And if that doesn't make you laugh, try *Seducing Doctor Lewis*, a charming French Canadian comedy about a small village trying to persuade a doctor to relocate to their island so they can attract a new factory to their town and give the residents long-term and well paying jobs.

Or you could try *Seraphim: Heart of Stone*, a drama that took Quebec by storm and will satisfy everyone who likes a good love story.

The Triplets of Belleville is a rather unusual film. It was produced in co-operation with France and is an animated tale of a young bicyclist who is kidnapped, taken to North America and rescued by his grandmother. The animation is a throwback to the 1930s and 1940s and there is very little dialogue.

The Republic of Love tells about a late night radio talk show host who has trouble maintaining a lasting relationship. He has been married and divorced three times and he1s still in his 30s. He then meets someone new and the two fall in love, but this time it is the woman who has trouble committing.

Emile tells the story of an English university professor who has just retired from teaching. He is invited to receive an honourary degree from a university in Victoria, B.C. and decides to take the opportunity to visit a niece that he hasn't seen in many years. There are a lot of issues between them and slowly we learn the details of their shared history.

And coming up on July 13th is the video release of *The Barbarian Invasions*, which won the Academy Award this year for Best Foreign Language Film and received the Genie for Best Canadian film.

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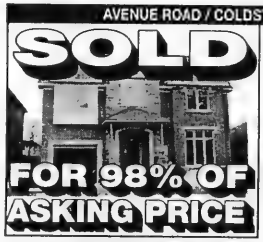

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Magnificent Chateau-style luxurious custom home by upscale builder in prestigious location! Architectural gem with impressive front elevation, stone exterior, granite & limestone, 5 + 1 bdrms., 7 baths, dream maple kit., main floor library + fam. room ++. $1,099,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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Stunning custom luxury home! Approx. 3,600 sq. ft. + fin. bsmt., 5 + 2 bdrms., upgrades throughout. Stone front, extensive use of limestone, marble & granite, main flr. 9.5 ft. ceilings and custom library w/ built-in bookcases, dream kit., sep. entry to 2 in-law suites, w/o to deck. **ONLY $1,049,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712 or visit **TERRACE LANE** on our website.

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1ST AD! FAB 3 BDRM + FOUR HEIGHTS! SOLD
Privated drive, separate entrance to finished basement, newly renovated kitchen! CAC! $499,900. Marilyn Ray* 416-226-1987

11 KAINONA AVENUE! BUILD OR RENOVATE!
$459,000. Bathurst/York Downs. Immaculate! 54 x 150 ft. lot. Close to parks, schools. Brenda Westbrook* 416-226-1987

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3+1 bedroom bungalow. 2 kitchens separate entrance, 45 x 120 ft. lot. Just move in! Brenda Westbrook* 416-226-1987

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Yonge S/Finch! Impeccable. 1.5 storey, 3 bdrm, 1 bath! Spectacular 60x126'! Walk to subway! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

12 LISTER DRIVE! 3+1 BDRM, 3 BATH BUNGALOW!
$399K! Yonge N/Finch! Value packed! Nanny suite! Gorgeous 67 x 113'! Corner lot! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

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SPRING FARM! PRIME LOCATION!
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YONGE/FINCH $318,900
Superb layout, sub penthouse, 1,359 sq. ft., 2 baths, solarium, indoor pool, concierge. Marilyn Merrick* 416-488-2875

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Bayview N/Finch! Dare to Compare! Mn Fam+Lib+Lau+2pce! 3 car Garage! Vendor Says Sell! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

SPECTACULAR PENTHOUSE/FOREST HILL
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240 HEATH ST. W. $579,000
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$227,000 BLOOR/DUNDAS, 2 BDRM, 2 BATHS SOLD
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$1,598,000. Exquisite Arnold Ave., 5 bedrooms, gorgeous hardwood, huge family room, elegant reception rms, walk-out to magnificent pool and mature treed private garden.

$949,000. On Franklin, huge lot, 4 bedroom, fin basement

$519,000. 5+2 bedrooms, finished basement, main floor office + family room, LR/DR combined, premium lot.

$949,000. The Conservatory. Exquisite 3,000 sq. ft. condo + wrap-around terrace, 2 bedroom, family room, liv rm, din rm/solarium, open concept, 3 full baths, 4 car parking.

$459,900. The Conservatory. Comb LR/DR, cream marble flrs, 2 bdrms, bleach hrdwd flrs, 2 full baths, jacuzzi & sauna in master, lndry rm, eat-in kit, granite counters/flrs, prem applncs. Million $ health club style rec centre, guest suites.

$369,000. 7 Townsgate, 1,500+ sq. ft. of magnificent living space, 2 bdrm, 2 full baths, 100K in reno, s.w. views.

$489,000. Reno'd, 4+2 bedroom, LR/DR comb, eat-in kitchen, fam rm, finished basement+ 2 bdrms + kitchen + laundry + 4pc bath, income pot, double garage, quiet court. NEW PRICE

$418,000. 4 bedrooms, hardwood floors, huge lot, quiet court, main floor laundry, double garage, freshly painted.

$335,000. 3+1 bedrooms, 4 baths, family room, hardwood floors, comb. LR/DR, professionally landscaped park-like lot, walk to shuls, schools, rec centre, movies, Prom. Mall, TTC. SOLD

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BATHURST-JCC
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YONGE/CLARK
Large corner unit condo, 2 bedroom, 2 baths, huge living & dining room, 2 parking, locker. SOLD

WILMINGTON/OVERBROOK
Triplex, 2-3 bdrm +1 bdrm, bath ensuites, balcs, garages + parking, great location, steps to all.

SHEPPARD AVENUE WEST
Price reduced for quick sale, large building, now used as a school, lot 56'x205', ideal for many professional uses, steps to subway.

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The CJN 2004 Graduating Class - pages 22-23

15 HOUSES FOR RENT

Bath./Lawr. area, long term, 4 bdrm, lrge., opt furnish'd home.416-635-8323, ext. 307 torontorental@sympatico.ca

30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

Sheppard W. Subway, 2 bdrm, 2 baths, $20,000 upgrade, $269,900. Call 416-803-7056 or **www.rpt.ca/sheppardsub**

Bathurst/Finch, 131 Torresdale, 1450 s.f., 2 bdrm., 2 baths, solarium, spacious din/liv rm., 416-229-9125, no Shabbat calls.

Bathurst/Promenade Towers, 2 bdrm. + den, 1250 s.f., lux. condo, prkg., security, cable, sale by owner. Please call 416-617-4272 / 905-881-6491.

Bath./Finch, lux. 3 bdrm., 2 bath, appr. 1500' & encl. sun rm., pkg., pool, gym, sauna, cac, nr. syn., Sabbath elev., Maint $515/mo., util. incl., $350,000. No agents. Call 416-920-7800.

35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

Bathurst/Steeles, totally reno'd condo. Very quiet & bright corner unit, 1300 s.f., 2 bdrm., 2 baths, huge kit., dining rm., balc., immed. $1550/mo. all incl. 416-727-7303.

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Bathurst /Briar, bsmt apt, beautifully furn'd bdrm, lrg liv. rm, eat-in kitchen, prkng. space, close to TTC & shopping. 416-636-3544.

Bath./Steeles, avail. immed., newly renov., spac. bsmt. apt., 1 bdrm. eat in kit. 905-764-0212.

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Bath./Briar Hill, Jr. 1, 1, 2 & 3 bdrms. now from $900, reno'd., a/c, BONUS: 1/2 July FREE. Call James at 416-769-6779.

Bathurst/Sheppard, lux., spacious, bright apts., in quiet ravine setting off main streets, newly reno'd, walk to TTC, utilities incl. 1 bdrm. avail. immed. / Aug. 2 bdrm. / Sept. 416-398-0566 / 905-474-3600.

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110 COTTAGE FOR RENT

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Coast to Coast

Rabbi Ari Enkin and his wife Shayna will soon be making aliyah with their children.

Winnipeg rabbi, family realize dream of aliyah

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Rabbi Ari Enkin and his wife Shayna have long dreamed of making aliyah.

Now, they are making their dream a reality with the help of Nefesh B'Nefesh, an organization founded two years ago to encourage more North American Jews to make aliyah by removing the financial obstacles that often confront them.

On July 13, the couple and their children – Shira, 5, and Eitan, 1 – will be joining other North American olim at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York for their flight to Israel.

Rabbi Enkin and his wife are originally from Montreal. He served as the spiritual leader of the Orthodox Beth Israel Synagogue in Edmonton before coming to Winnipeg two years ago to become assistant rabbi at a synagogue in the city's south end. For the past year, he has doubled as the Hillel rabbi and rabbi in residence at the Rady Jewish Community Centre. He was the first Hillel rabbi here in about 25 years.

"This past year was Hillel's most successful year in a long time," Rabbi Enkin said. "More students reconnected with the Jewish community through Hillel last year than at any other time in recent history. We had more frequent programming and they were generally well attended. The Jewish presence at both the city's universities was resurrected."

But as much as Rabbi Enkin and his wife enjoyed living in Winnipeg, the pull of aliyah was stronger. "We are settling in Israel both for religious and political reasons," he said. "We believe that Jews should live independently in their own land. We should be masters of our own destinies. In the Diaspora, we observe Jewish history. In Israel, we make Jewish history.

"Aliyah is also our own personal response to the intifadah. Aliyah is the best answer to terrorism."

Citing several biblical references linking the People of Israel and the Land of Israel, he noted that "aliyah is the highest form of spiritual elevation from a Torah perspective."

He said the deciding factor in the couple's decision to make aliyah now is the existence of Nefesh B'Nefesh.

"In the first year, Nefesh B'Nefesh sent one planeload of new olim," Rabbi Enkin said. "Last year, it sent two planeloads. This year, 3½ planeloads are going."

In addition to financial assistance, Nefesh B'Nefesh's mandate includes assisting olim with social integration and finding employment. Its success rate so far has been 99 per cent, Rabbi Enkin said.

Although other Canadian Jewish families are flying out of JFK on July 13, the Enkins are the only family from Winnipeg.

They will be settling in Ramat Bet Shemesh, a new development located halfway between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv and populated mainly by North Americans and South Africans.

Shayna Enkin will be opening a day-care in their home. As for Rabbi Enkin, he said he is open to offers of employment.

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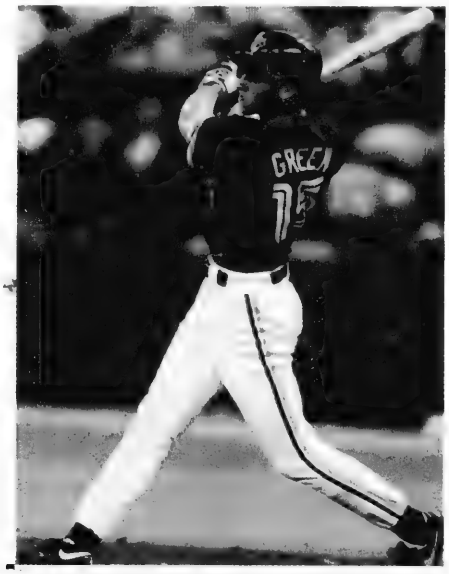
Ex-Blue Jay has 'a lot of good memories of Toronto'

By ELI SHUPAK
Special to The CJN

Shawn Green's recent return to SkyDome, five years after being traded to the Los Angeles Dodgers, coincided with him beginning to swing the bat again the way everyone in the baseball world knows he can.

Mired in a season-long slump at the plate, the career .284 hitter entered the inter-league series against his former Blue Jays club batting a paltry .228.

His average began to climb with his first at-bat, a double off the right-field wall, and he later homered off the right-field seats. He finished the three-game set five for 11, and by week's end, his average had risen to a much more respectable .250.



Shawn Green when he was a Blue Jay.

He followed up his success against the Jays by going five for 12 with a pair of RBIs in a series in Boston.

By mid-June, Green was hitting .317, leading Los Angeles to a share of the lead atop the National League West, tied with San Diego. By the 25th, the Dodgers and Green had slipped. L.A. was 2 ½ games behind San Francisco, while Green's average sat at .249.

"I have a lot of good memories of Toronto, so it's fun to be back," said the 6-4, 200-pound first baseman, who was drafted out of high school by the Blue Jays, 16th overall, in 1991.

"I've been struggling, so it's nice to get back to a place that I played so many games in."

The 31-year-old was dealt to the Dodgers in November 1999 after spending the first nine years of his career in the Blue Jays system. At the time, the club couldn't afford to keep both him and his good buddy, Carlos Delgado.

In the season prior to being dealt to L.A., he hit .309 with 42 homers and 123 RBIs, and he won a golden glove for his play in right field.

He promptly signed a six-year, $84 million (US) deal with the Dodgers, which at the time was the second-richest contract in baseball history.

Green, a native Californian, was raised in a distinctly non-observant home and received no formal Jewish education during his childhood. He remained detached from Judaism until he became an adult.

In fact, Green may never have given his heritage any thought whatsoever had he not achieved star status. He said he learned more about his religion during the time he spent in Toronto than in the preceding 22 years. Green also attended High Holy Day services for the first time in his life during his tenure with the Jays.

Wherever he plays, Green said, there's always Jewish people reaching out to him.

He gained a great deal of respect in the community a couple of years ago by deciding to sit out a game on Yom Kippur, even though the Dodgers were in the middle of a pennant race.

Green, a member of the Jewish Sports Hall of Fame in Los Angeles, was given the Hank Greenberg Sportsmanship Award earlier this year by the American Jewish Historical Society.

"It's a big honour, because he was such a great player and Jewish figure in American history," said Green, whose family name was shortened from Greenberg by his grandfather.

On the field, Green's home run total dropped to 19 in 2003 following back-to-back seasons in which he hit more than 40. The decrease in his power numbers was a result of playing the year with a right shoulder injury he suffered in spring training.

He underwent surgery to repair the shoulder during the off-season. Green said the shoulder is not like it was a couple of years ago, but that it isn't affecting his play on the field.

However, through his first 68 games of the 2004 campaign, Green had hit just nine balls out of the park.

Stable owner's filly wins stakes race

By HARLAN C. ABBEY
Special to The CJN

FORT ERIE — The rapid ups and downs of horse racing are summed up by the old adage, "Chicken today, feathers tomorrow."

One recent Sunday was a "chicken day" for the Shoestring Stable of Dr. Jerry Edelist of Toronto as the stable's lone horse, the plain bay, four-year-old filly Dressed For Action won the $141,470 Adena Springs Matchmaker Stakes.

In addition to $48,000 in prize money and breeding awards, Dressed For Action, the race favorite, also won a free breeding with Preakness winner Red Bullet worth $30,000 (US).

But for most of the year, it's been "feathers" for Edelist, professor emeritus in the University of Toronto medical school's department of anesthesiology:

"I've been a thoroughbred owner for 30 years, but never have owned more than three horses. This year Skier's Gift won a nice allowance race in Florida, then suffered a career-ending leg injury in his next start.

"Two weeks ago, my two-year-old died of a rare heart ailment. Dressed For Action [who now has four wins, five seconds and one third in 14 lifetime starts and more than $340,000 in earnings] is my only runner."

The race followed form as Dressed For Action, ridden by Woodbine regular Ray Sabourin, and Miss Kitty Hawk, ridden by Brazilian native Enrico Rosa Da Silva, broke on top and duelled for the lead.

Dressed For Action put away that rival and drew clear in the homestretch, zipping the five furlongs in :58.2. It was the first race of the year on Fort Erie's turf course. The winning margin for the 5-2 favorite was a length-and-a-half.

Fort Erie-based Soon To Be Single (ridden by Brian Bochinski) came on to finish second in her first start of the year for trainer Lynn Simon. Another Woodbine-based horse, Leading Role (jockey Neil Poznansky) was third. She was fourth in the race a year ago.

"This filly loves the turf," said assistant trainer John Mattine. "She was second to the boys in the Bold Ruckus Stakes last year, then came back three weeks later and won the Ontario Damsel Stakes. She'll probably come back here to run in the $125,000 Rainbow Connection Stakes July 25."

Sabourin said his mount broke alertly, adding, "I was just a passenger until I asked her for speed as she turned for home. It's pretty easy to ride those kind."

Soon To Be Single won a free breeding to two-time Santa Anita Handicap winner Milwaukee Brew, valued at $15,000 (US). Gold Case ($7,500 US) will be the mate of Leading Role. All three stallions are owned by the Adena Springs Farm of entrepreneur Frank Stronach.

ספרותנו

יעל זליגר

שליחותו של הממונה על משאבי אנוש מאת: א.ב. יהושע, הוצאת הקיבוץ המאוחד, 2004

הכול מתחיל בפיגוע. אישה כבת ארבעים, שלא נשאה עימה שום מסמך מזהה פרט לתלוש-משכורת קרוע ומוכתם ממקום עבודתה - מאפייה גדולה ומפורסמת, נפצעה אנושות בפיגוע בשוק ירקות. היא נאבקת יומיים על חייה מבלי שאיש יתעניין בשלומה. "וגם אחרי מותה היא שוכבת אלמונית ולגלגדתה במדור-המתים של בית-החולים." אחד המקומנים מאיים לפרסם כתבה מאשימה תחת הכותרת: חוסר-אנושיות מזעזע אצל יצרני וספקי הלחם שלנו. לכתבה משובצים שני תצלומים, המזהים בבירור את האחראים להתעלמות מגורלה של העובדת; האחד הוא בעל-המפעל, והשני הוא של הממונה על כוח-אדם. בעל המפעל הקשיש מזעיק את הממונה על משאבי אנוש למנוע את ההשמצה ולתקן את העוול שנעשה לעובדת הזרה שנראה שאפילו הפיצוץ שהרגה לא פגם ביופיה הנדיר. (על עטיפת הספר דיוקנה האיקוני של אישה – פסל של פרנצ'סקו לאוראנה (1940).

זו נקודה ההתחלה של הסיפור. בהמשך העלילה נחשפת אישיותו של הממונה על משאבי אנוש. הוא האיש שבתוקף משרתו קובע סמכותית בענייני הון ותאני עבודתם של עובדים במפעל מאוד גדול. אלא שלמען האמת אין לו את הכישורים הנדרשים בכל הנוגע ליחסי אנוש. הניכור ואוסר המדעות מאפיינים את יחסיו לא רק עם העובדים אלא גם עם בני משפחתו. ואולם, הוא יעבור שינויים ויגלה קירבה רגשית לאדם אחר בעקבות המשימה הקשה שבעל המפעל מטיל עליו; לכפר על העוול שנעשה לאותה עובדת זרה. כך יוצא הממונה על משאבי אנוש בשליחות שמטרתה מצפונית ועשיית הישר: השבת גופת ההרוגה לארץ מולדתה. לפתע חש הגיבור בתוכן בחיין: "אני מייצג מפעל גדול וחזק, שרוצה ויכול להמשיך להיות מעורב בטרגדיה הזאת. יש לנו אפילו אינטרס בכך. המצפון הציבורי שלנו מחייב אותנו להוכיח שיש אצלנו ערך לכל עובד, גם לעובדת ניקיון זמנית".

בדרכו המיסיונרית פוגש הממונה על משאבי אנוש בכל מיני סיפוסים שא.ב. יהושע משתעשע בתיאורם. מזכירה שכל-כך רוצה לתפוס פיקח, נציגת משרד הקליטה שנרתמת במלוא המרץ לסידורים להעברת הארון, האישה-לשעבר, הקונסולית הישראלית במדינה הזרה "בפרוותה השחורה ובמגפיה הרחבים, עם כיפת צמר אדומה על ראשה" העיתונאי "הנחש" מהמקומון שמצטרף אף הוא למסע השבת הגופה, בנה של המתה והישיש, מנהל המפעל שמוכיר לממונה על משאבי אנוש שלא ישכח שהוא בסך הכול שליח ולא מנהיג. כולם, כולם שותפים למבצע שקטעיו מוכירים אירועים בספינה של שוטים.

תיאור אחד שובה לב הוא חנייה של הממונה והמשלחת המתלווה באיזה בסיס צבאי במדינה הזרה אי-שם במזרח אירופה. פעם, בימי המלחמה הקרה היה זה מקום מקלט צבאי-גרעיני, במעמקי האדמה. היום הפך המקום השומם לאכסניה-מוזיאון. במקלט זה שוכב גיבורנו מכורכל כתינוק בקרבת הארון שבו מונחת גופת האישה ולצידו בנה שהגיבור מהופנט מיופיו.

המצבים שא.ב. יהושע מדמיין כמעט סוריאליסטיים. חלקם סיוטים, חלקם מבוימים כקומדיה של טעויות. שיאה של "הקומדיה" הוא בסוף הסיפור כאשר לאחר כול תלאות הדרך מסתבר שהאם הזקנה של ההרוגה "כעסת שגרמנו אותה מירושלים, במקום לקבור אותה בעיר ששייכת גם לה."

שליחותו של הממונה על משאבי אנוש איננו **מר מאני** ואף לא **המאהב**. אך המסר חשוב. א.ב. יהושע הצהיר בעקבות הופעת הספר כי מטרתו הייתה לתת למנות ואירועי הטרור פנים ומימד אישי. אכן יש חשיבות לעובדה שרק לאישה המתה יש שם בסיפור: יוליה רגאייב. לכל הדמויות האחרות אין שם. זו צורת מחאתו של יהושע על השלמה עם מצב אימתני והתרגלותנו לנהל את החיים בצל אלימות המוות.

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Steam or microwave broccoli until tender-crisp. Drain and chop into bite sized pieces. Stir together mayo, vinegar and sugar, then add to broccoli and stir to coat all pieces. Add mango and nuts; stir lightly to combine. Chill. Serves 8.

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Money Matters

Interesting times

Rabbi Jay Kelman

The biblical prohibition against charging interest seems to be out of place today. Interest rates are crucial to our economy. Too high and the economy is stifled, too low and inflation runs amok.

Without interest, homeowners would be few and far between – what bank would offer a zero per cent mortgage? – and business could not get the capital it needs to create wealth for all. Simply put, we would all be much poorer. So how could the Torah ban such an important financial tool? Furthermore, the Torah's laws of interest seem discriminatory, as interest is forbidden only on loans between Jews.

Yet it is precisely because charging interest is not immoral – it can even be praiseworthy – that one may do so with a non-Jew. All moral wrongs, be they tax evasion, offering inappropriate advice, price fraud or misleading advertising, are prohibited irrespective of the victim's religion. These may, in fact, be even more grievous sins if perpetrated against a non-Jew.

The charging of interest, however, is a ritual prohibition, not a moral one, and thus applies only between Jews. It is a prohibition not only between men but also between man and God. Apparently the Torah expects, even demands, that we bestow special favours to our brethren. We must give up small amounts of profit to help those in need by granting an interest-free loan.

However, favours have their limits. The Torah did not demand, though the rabbis did recommend, that we not charge interest to non-Jews either. In the modern era, loans are no longer for a few shekels, but are often in the thousands, if not millions, of dollars. No one would, or even could, lend that kind of money without an expectation of some return.

Furthermore, many loans today are not given to help the struggling poor but to help relatively wealthy people prosper. A legal mechanism (*heter iska*) was developed by our rabbis that allows many types of loans to be structured as part of a business venture allowing for payment of "profit" in place of "interest." This legal loophole, to be used only in times of true economic necessity, allows us to be faithful to the Divine, eternal laws of the Torah while being responsive to the realities of the modern-day economy.

Quiet Jewish goodness in T.O.

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

URBAN WRITER

I met a man in the Toronto Jewish community, Phil, who gives half his meagre salary to a poor Jewish woman living in a small town, for her rent and food. (The Canadian Jewish community is not set up to assist poor Jews living outside metropolitan and federated communities).

Last week, I met a Jewish woman, Miriam, who volunteers at the Hospital for Sick Children on a weekly basis by dressing up like Superwoman and entertaining children suffering from illnesses that God felt were important to create in our world. She's been doing it for a long time.

In a discussion with my friend Bert, he mentioned that when he meets an Arab or a Muslim along his sales route, he makes a concerted effort to befriend them. He describes this as his way of "bringing peace to the Jewish people and the world." I told a few people. They said they do the same.

Last Shabbat, one of my brother-in-laws humbly stated that he will complete the entire Shas – every tractate in the Talmud – in March, together with thousands of other Jews around the world. Every morning, for the last seven years, they have studied a different page of Talmud in a program called Daf Yomi (a page a day). This is a huge task!

My friend Rebecca tells me stories about her Sephardi shul. Once, the shul's members became guardians of a young man who had come here from Israel to study. Rebecca's family accepted him into their home for close to two years.

In May, I was talking to Hadassah, a graduate of Ulpanat Orot High School about an article I wrote called "The Walking Man" (about Naftali Mernick, who spends his days walking the streets). Hadassah told me that whenever she sees Naftali, she says hello to him in her head, because "he is an important member of our community." Later, a colleague told me he does the same. Apparently a lot of folks do.

I was privy to a story last weekend, about a local South African Jewish family who invited a friend of their son to live in their home, away from an abusive environment. The mother accepted him as one of her own children. The teen is not Jewish. He lived with them for five years.

We have a high profile Jewish community member who adopted a native child, raised her and gave her a life.

At a committee meeting in May at Ve'ahavta (where I am director), I found out that two of my volunteers pay the mortgage of another family who have fallen on bad times. They also sent the family on a vacation last year, preventing them (my volunteers) from taking one of their own.

I know a little girl from an affluent Jewish home who insists that her entire family climb into their car at least once a week with sandwiches and warm clothing (in the winter) and travel the streets of Toronto to help the homeless and needy.

I have a friend who donated very expensive and frilly brassieres to a women's shelter. When I asked her why, she said she did it because the "girls had very little and I wanted them to feel beautiful."

There is a man in the Toronto Jewish community – Norman Epstein – who remembers that "we were slaves in Egypt" and hates that slavery exists in Sudan today. He is sickened by the murder of two million Sudanese and the ongoing ethnic cleansing and genocide. In response, he started up C.A.S.T.S – Canadians Against Slavery and Torture in Sudan. His website is www.geocities.com/castsudan.

"Let us live so that when we come to die even the undertaker will be sorry."

– Mark Twain

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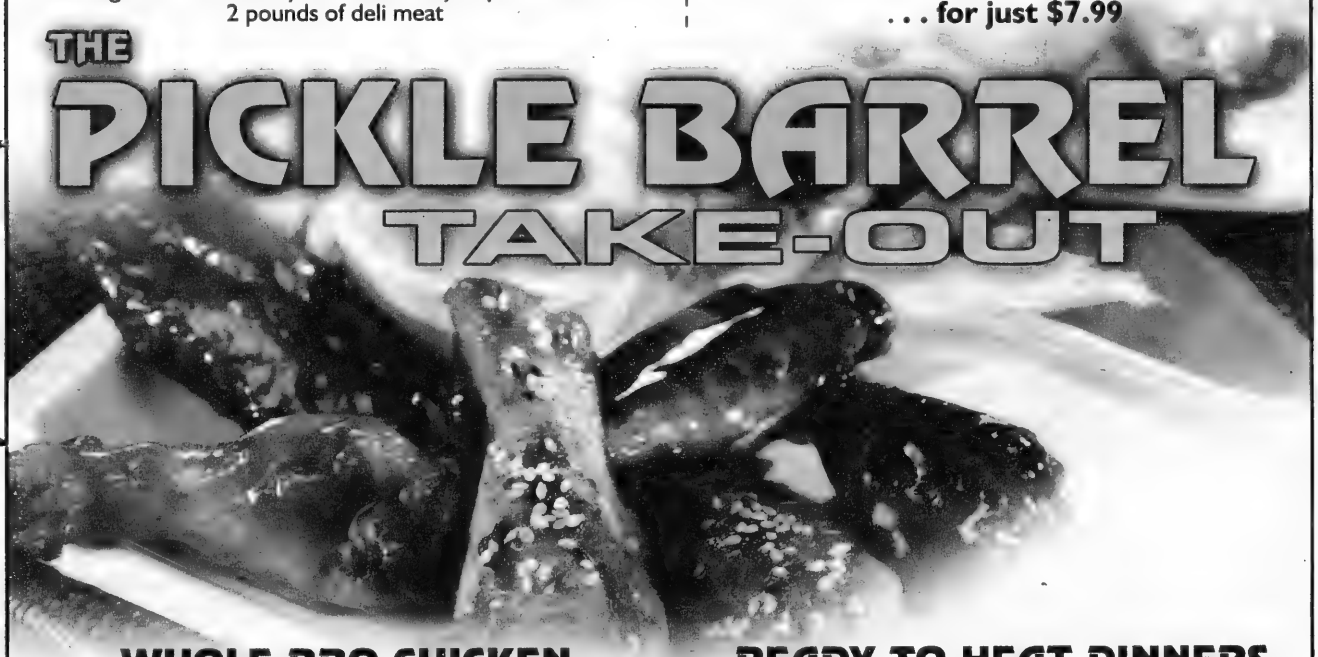

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This Week

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Winnipeg mayor is 'humbled' by victory. *Page 17*

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'Wait and see' mode on Liberal minority

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

In a vote to elect Canada's 38th parliament last week, the Liberal party continued its stranglehold on ridings in Montreal and Toronto, home to the country's two largest Jewish communities.

In the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), Liberals were elected in Eglinton-Lawrence (Joe Volpe), York Centre (Ken Dryden), Willowdale (Jim Peterson), Thornhill (Susan Kadis) and St. Paul's (Carolyn Bennett) – all ridings with a substantial Jewish populations.

In Quebec, Justice Minister Irwin Cotler received 76 per cent of the vote to be returned handily as the MP for Mount Royal, while government house leader Jacques Saada and backbencher Raymonde Folco were re-elected in, respectively, Brossard-La Prairie and Laval-Les Iles, north of Montreal.

Prime Minister Paul Martin *[RNS/Reuters photo]*

In Winnipeg South Centre, another area with a substantial Jewish population, Liberal Anita Neville was returned as MP, while NDP candidate Judy Wasylycia-Leis took Winnipeg North.

Although Liberals in the GTA and Winnipeg South won their ridings with ease, Tory candidates took consolation in narrowing the margin from 2000 and in laying the groundwork for future contests.

Continued on page 20

Supreme Court approves condo sukkot

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

In a 5-4 decision, the Supreme Court has ruled that Orthodox Jews living in a luxury condominium complex in Montreal have the right to set up a sukkah on their balconies during Sukkot, even though their contract prohibits construction and decoration on the balconies, which are part of the buildings' common property.

The B'nai Brith League for Human Rights, which was a co-party in the case, hailed the judgment as "a landmark ruling that upholds the right of all Canadians to follow their religious practices without interference by the courts."

Landmark ruling upholds religious rights

The proviso is that the sukkot must not be up for longer than the nine days of the holiday, and their structure must allow for a passageway in case of emergency and conform, "as much as possible, with the general esthetics of the property."

The high court says the trial judge erred in basing his decision on conflicting expert testimony by two rabbis (Moise Ohana for the six Jewish claimants and Barry Levy for the co-owners' association) on whether having one's own sukkah was an obligation of Judaism.

Essentially, the Supreme Court says religious belief is personal and does not have to be backed up by an official dogma or religious authority, and therefore requiring expert opinions was inappropriate.

Continued on page 20

Future pilot?

A young girl attends the celebration last week of the 56th anniversary of Israel's Air Force. Women have recently graduated as pilots in the Air Force. *[Isranet photo]*

Parsha: Pinchas
Candlelighting: 8:41
Havdallah: 9:46

Greater Toronto Area

'836 today
News
/eek.

Head of UN nuclear watchdog visits Israel — please see page 27

Canada

New UJA Director

OTTAWA — London, Ont., native Jack Silverstein has been named director of United Jewish Appeal of Ottawa and the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation. Silverstein most recently served as director of gift planning with the Ottawa Hospital Foundation, where he managed a $100-million legacy campaign. Before that, he worked for Carleton University and the Ontario Coalition of Senior Citizens' Organizations.

World

Imam Convicted

CLEVELAND — A U.S. federal court last month convicted a Palestinian-born imam here of lying about his ties to Palestinian Islamic Jihad and other terror groups when he became a U.S. citizen in 1994. Fawaz Damra, imam of Ohio's largest mosque, faces five years in jail, deportation and loss of citizenship. Jurors were shown video footage of Damra raising money for Islamic Jihad and calling Jews "the sons of monkeys and pigs." Sentencing is set for Sept. 9. Damra's lawyers said they would appeal.

Germany Sued Over Art

NEW YORK — A U.S. group is suing Germany for $18 billion (US), alleging it is hiding artworks stolen during the Holocaust. The lawsuit against the German finance ministry was filed in New York by the Association of Holocaust Victims for Restitution of Artwork and Masterpieces. The group's lawyer said German officials conspired to store, transport, withhold or dispose of at least 2,000 artworks taken from Holocaust victims. Germany countered that since the war's end, it has returned more than one million works to their owners or heirs, but still owned some insured for some $73 million.

New N.Y. Kosher Law

ALBANY, N.Y. — New York's state senate passed a new kosher law last week. The law was made necessary when the state's previous law was declared unconstitutional after a lawsuit arguing that the state agency involved in kashrut – administered by Orthodox Jews – had crossed the line from consumer oversight into unconstitutional religious entanglement. The bill still needs Governor George Pataki's signature before it becomes law.

Arabs Threaten Boycott

DAMASCUS — Arab states have threatened to boycott Caterpillar if it continues to sell bulldozers to the Israeli army. Pro-Palestinian activists have criticized Caterpillar because Israel uses its bulldozers to destroy what it says are terrorists' homes. "Your insistence to go on supplying the Israeli army… would eventually lead to halting any dealing with your company by all Arab countries," the Damascus-based Arab office for the boycott of Israel said in a letter. Caterpillar dismissed the threats, saying it can't police the use of its equipment. Its shareholders recently rejected a proposal to stop doing business with Israel.

SS Man May Avoid Jail

BERLIN — Germany's high court voided the jail sentence of former Nazi Friedrich Engel, 95, saying he is too old to be retried to clear up doubts about the original verdict in his case. In 2002, Engel, the ex-SS chief of Genoa, Italy, was sentenced to seven years for organizing a wartime massacre and shooting 59 Italian prisoners in 1944. Engel could still face jail under a new European Union regulation because he was sentenced to life in 1999 by an Italian military court for his role in 246 murders, the high court said.

Cemetery Desecrated

DUSSELDORF — German police are seeking leads in the desecration of the Ulmenstrasse Jewish cemetery in Dusseldorf after swastikas and SS symbols were found June 24 on 45 headstones.

94-year-old B'nai Brith Lodge Disbands

VANCOUVER — It was the end of an era last month for B.C.'s Jewish community when the 94-year-old B'nai Brith Lion's Gate Lodge voted itself out of existence.

Less than a dozen of its 30 paid members were present at the lodge's annual general meeting for the unanimous vote to dissolve the group, the *Western Jewish Bulletin* reported.

Although the membership-based lodge and its more social aspect is gone, its activist mandate has been transferred to the B'nai Brith Foundation of British Columbia, which will continue to fight hate, provide community service awards and support the Interfaith Brotherhood multifaith initiative, lodge president Rivka Arieli told the *Bulletin*.

B'nai Brith has had a presence in British Columbia since 1910, when the Samuel's Lodge #668 was formed. In 1985, it merged with Lion's Gate Lodge #1716, which was formed in 1948, to become Lion's Gate Lodge #668.

The lodge, which was not directly linked to B'nai Brith Canada, was an arm of B'nai B'rith International's Evergreen chapter, which covered Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and B.C. As part of the new restructuring, Lion's Gate members will be encouraged to join B'nai Brith Canada, the international group or both, the *Bulletin* reported.

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Jewish community 'is about volunteers'

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Judaism teaches us to reach out and help others, both in our own community and beyond, agreed a panel of speakers at a recent town hall meeting sponsored by *The CJN*.

On the panel, titled "We are Our Brothers' Keepers: What It Means in Practice," were Linda Levi, assistant executive vice-president of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee; Susan Jackson, director of community planning, continuity and culture with UJA Federation of Greater Toronto; and Avrum Rosensweig, founder and director of Ve'ahavta: The Canadian Jewish Humanitarian and Relief Committee.

Levi, who oversees the JDC's worldwide planning and budgeting process, said our heritage includes a long history of social justice, and it's our challenge to live up to these moral principles.

In her work at the JDC, she has visited Jewish communities throughout Israel, the former Soviet Union, eastern Europe, Africa and Asia, and that has helped put her own life in perspective, she said.

In the former Soviet Union, where pensioners have become impoverished due to tremendous economic changes, she has seen many people who can no longer afford to put food on their table.

"Their safety net collapsed, and JDC became a lifeline to these people. Many of them would have died if no one had been there to help them.

"There are 240,000 elderly people in 2,600 localities across the former Soviet Union, [the same places from which] many of our own ancestors come. We all have the same roots. They are our brothers."

In Buenos Aires, there is a new class of Jewish poor, and 36 children from the community die from hunger every day, Levi said. "The middle class has [become] impoverished, and we must provide the welfare services needed."

The JDC has also reached out to the Jewish community of India, which had been cut off from the rest of the Jewish world because of distance, she said.

It has established an array of Jewish programs in a country that had no formal Jewish schools or trained educators, Levi said. "Over a period of 10 to 15 years, we have created a miracle. We have created a facelift of Jewish life."

Taking part in the recent town hall meeting were, from left, Avrum Rosensweig, Linda Levi and Susan Jackson. [Carolyn Blackman photos]

Continued on page 14

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Greater Toronto Area

'A lucky, beautiful thing'

From the editor's desk

The first question I asked Laura Condlin, the engaging young Stratford actor, is what happened to the vowel in the second syllable of her last name?

With a chuckle and a playful response, she acknowledged that the "missing" vowel was indeed a conversation piece and a sore spot with government and other bureaucratic officials but owed its eccentric spelling to its Welsh etymology.

Though she is only 26 years old, this is Condlin's third season with the celebrated company, where she appears in *Timon of Athens*, *Cymbeline* and *King John*. Her previous Stratford credits include *King Lear*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *Troilus and Cressida*, *The Taming of the Shrew* and *The Scarlet Pimpernel*.

"Coming here [to Stratford]," Condlin enthused, "has been the best thing ever."

Sounding more like a veteran of many decades on the stage than a young, relative beginner, Condlin elaborated on her feelings at being part of the Stratford troupe. "I am totally excited to be here and totally terrified. And that's one of the beautiful things. You don't have to get over the fears and the butterflies. The adrenaline feeds you."

That actor's adrenaline has been coursing through Condlin's veins for most of her life. Born in Toronto, she took her first "formal" steps toward a life on stage when she was nine years old. Her family enrolled her in the Claude Watson School for the Arts in Grade 4, and she studied there until graduation from Grade 13.

"From my earliest days in school," Condlin recalled, " I always wanted to be part of the [play] productions. That was true in elementary and high school. I was totally unafraid of trying to be creative."

How she became that way – unafraid to stand before an audience, performing, acting, singing, making music – she attributed to her parents, as did her young colleagues last week and as have other young actors with whom I have spoken about their careers.

"My parents were so supportive and so encouraging," Condlin said of her early affinity for the stage and her curiosity to pursue an acting career.

Condlin and her mother were constant symphony-goers. "There was always music in our house," she said. Her mother enrolled her at an early age to learn violin according to the Suzuki method. Indeed, the confidence and assurance that developed in rhythm with her musical skills helped to ignite Condlin's yen for the stage.

"My parents never overshadowed the fact that I loved theatre and the arts. Their only caution to me was that I not close any doors for my future."

After high school, Condlin's future unfolded at the University of Windsor where she received a bachelor of fine arts degree in theatre.

The four-year program was quite a grind.

"Between classes, studying, auditions, workshops, rehearsals and performances, it was a 50- to 60-hour schedule each week for four years. The days and weeks were long, but ultimately so rewarding."

During our conversation, Condlin's enthusiasm never waned, even when she recalled the "sheer exhaustion of the schedule of putting to work on stage in the afternoons and evening what we learned in class during the day."

When Condlin described some of the formative experiences in her early life, she dwelled especially long on her bat mitzvah, which was a shared ceremony with other bar and bat mitzvah celebrants at her Hebrew school.

Laura Condlin

The dvar Torah, she recalled, "was about how important my Judaism was to me." It is part of her identity that she proudly affirms.

As with other interviewees, I also asked Condlin if she had any words of advice to impart to *CJN* readers of her generation and younger, who are curious but hesitant perhaps about pursuing a career on stage or any of the far-off dreams that animate their souls.

"My life is a lucky, beautiful thing," Condlin said. "If it's in your soul," she unhesitatingly offered, "you have to do it. Don't be shy. Make sure you try."

Stratford, it seems, offers us a great deal this year. – ***MBD***

Jonathan Gould

Jordan Kanner

Oooops! Last week in this space, I inadvertently exchanged the identities of these two young Stratford actors. They are properly identified above. I apologize for any embarrassment that may have resulted. ***MBD***

SeeJN

HONOURING THE TEACHERS: Ten Toronto teachers from day schools under the Board of Jewish Education (BJE) were awarded a Teacher of Excellence Award last month for demonstrating excellence, respect, integrity and innovation in the classroom. More than 90 letters of nomination were received from students, parents and colleagues for the award, which is sponsored by a group of parents with children in BJE-affiliated day schools. Seen are nine of the teachers honoured: from left, Rabbi Shmuel Rabi, Peter Komlos, Eli Honig, Marsha Razin, Tobie Franklin, Aviva Hermannoff, Jill Fruitman, Yelena Kastelyanets and Noa Schwartz. The 10th was Faye Rodzynek.

Markham struck by anti-Semitic graffiti

'York Regional Police regards any hate crime with abhorrence'

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Three months after unknown vandals daubed Nazi graffiti on homes and cars in Vaughan, the Town of Markham was subject to a similar attack last week, with police recording more than 25 anti-Semitic messages and symbols in the Kennedy Road/Highway 7 area.

Businesses, residences, vehicles, fences and roadways in the largely non-Jewish neighbourhood were hit, York Regional Police said. The initials "RNC" were also painted inside a gazebo located at Main and Victoria streets and railway property was also defaced.

York Regional Police Chief Armand La Barge said the force takes the incident very seriously.

"York Regional Police regards any hate crime with abhorrence," he said in a news release. "We take great pride in the diversity of our region and I am saddened when such incidents undermine one of our greatest strengths. We will continue to work diligently to identify the authors of this crime and bring them to justice. I am urging members of the public to come forward with any information."

Bernie Farber, executive director of the Ontario region of Canadian Jewish Congress, said last week's acts of vandalism are similar to the ones in Vaughan that took place between March 14 and 15 and could be the work of the same people or copycats.

As was the case in the spring, a swastika was drawn improperly, he said.

"This was a crime of hate. It was an attempt to intimidate. The Nazi swastika is the worst and most evil of symbols. Whether Jews are in the area is irrelevant."

Farber said said some of the victims in Markham were Chinese and Iranian, and they "feel as vulnerable to attack as anyone else. We understand their pain."

Farber said Congress will "reach out to other communities" in an upcoming meeting of York Region's Police Chief Advisory Board. Congress, along with other multicultural communities, is represented on that board, he noted.

Anyone with information about the vandalism in Markham or the earlier acts in Vaughan is asked to call 1-866-876-5423, ext. 7441 or ext. 7541, or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

A $10,000 reward remains in effect for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the March incidents.

Jewish leaders 'saddened' by decision not to renew Fantino's contract

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Jewish community leaders say they're "saddened" that the Toronto Police Services Board has decided not to renew Police Chief Julian Fantino's contract when it expires next spring.

Joel Richler, Canadian Jewish Congress' Ontario region chair, said the chief has been a "very good friend of the Jewish community" and "more importantly, the community has confidence in him."

Fantino was personally involved in the investigation into the murder of David Rosenzweig two years ago, and played a prominent role this past spring when Jewish graves were desecrated and community sites were hit with anti-Semitic graffiti, Richler said.

"He was sensitive to the needs of minority communities and to anti-Semitism in particular. We are sad to see him go," Richler said.

Bernie Farber, executive director, CJC Ontario region, said he met Fantino when they sat together on the old North York race relations committee about 20 years ago, and since then have they been friends "on a number of levels."

"I believe him to be a true 'cop's cop.' He brought a sense of security, comfort and support to the Jewish community at a time when we needed it, and he has done a great deal to improve inter-ethnic relations. He was well-respected."

But Farber said that "police chiefs have come and gone, and we have always had their support. There has never been a police chief [with whom] we did not have good relations."

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Greater Toronto Area

Toronto woman grieves for 'miracle' nephew

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

When Ruthie Zahavi, a resident of the southern town of Sderot, Israel, altered her daily routine one morning last week, her whole life changed.

After taking her son, Afik Zahavi-Ohayon, 3½, to the doctor before dropping him off at kindergarten, Zahavi was seriously wounded and Afik was killed when four Qassam rockets exploded near them. Also killed in the attack was Mordechai Yosopov, 49.

Afik's aunt, Eti Ohayon, who has lived in Toronto for 25 years, says that if it were not for that routine doctor's appointment, "they would have been walking to school one hour earlier, and maybe none of this would have happened. It was fate."

Afik, the only child of Zahavi and Ohayon's brother, Itzhik Ohayon, was a "miracle child" says Ohayon. "My brother had been married previously, and could not have children. After meeting Ruthie, Afik came along. He was their whole life.

"He was a sweet boy. He was bright and smart, and was always smiling and laughing. He was one of the favourites in his kindergarten class."

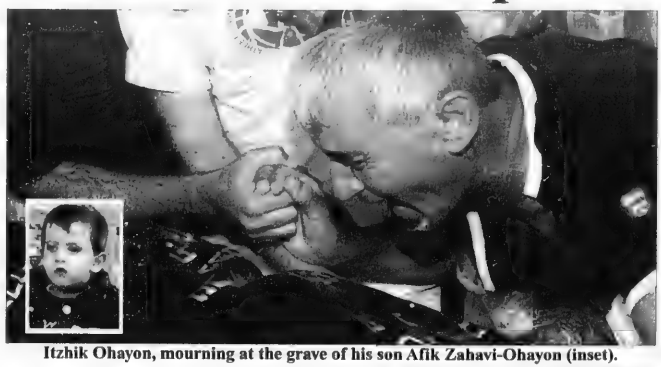
When the rocket exploded, says Ohayon, Afik told his mother he loved her. "It was as if he knew what was happening. We wonder what went through his mind."

Zahavi is still in a coma, says Ohayon, and knows nothing about what occurred.

"She has had several surgeries, and she is still fighting for her life. We don't know how she'll react when she hears about it. A team of [professionals] is standing by to break the news to her," says Ohayon.

"The whole thing is unbelievable. I saw something about it on television and I felt like it was a story."

When her brother heard a child had been killed in a nearby explosion, she says he went straight to the hospital without knowing it was his son.



Itzhik Ohayon, mourning at the grave of his son Afik Zahavi-Ohayon (inset). [Israel Sun photo]

"Except for his face, Afik was completely burned. I can't imagine what went through my brother's mind when he saw him. That last picture will remain with him for the rest of his life."

After getting up from shivah for his son, says Ohayon, her brother planned on spending all his time at the hospital praying that Ruthie will make it.

"My hope is that she will wake up to hear the news, and will somehow learn to live with it," Ohayon says.

Afik's grandmother, 74, who lost a son to cancer about three years ago, is not taking the news well at all, she says. "She does not know how much more she can take."

Most of her family is in Israel, and they are all afraid, "but where are they going to go? They adjust to the situation and they hope nothing will happen.

"I plan on visiting in August and I am feeling quite optimistic. If something is going to happen to me, it will happen no matter where I am."

It is not an easy life for anyone in Israel, says Ohayon, "but it is their land and they are staying. The bottom line is that it is our country for good or for bad."

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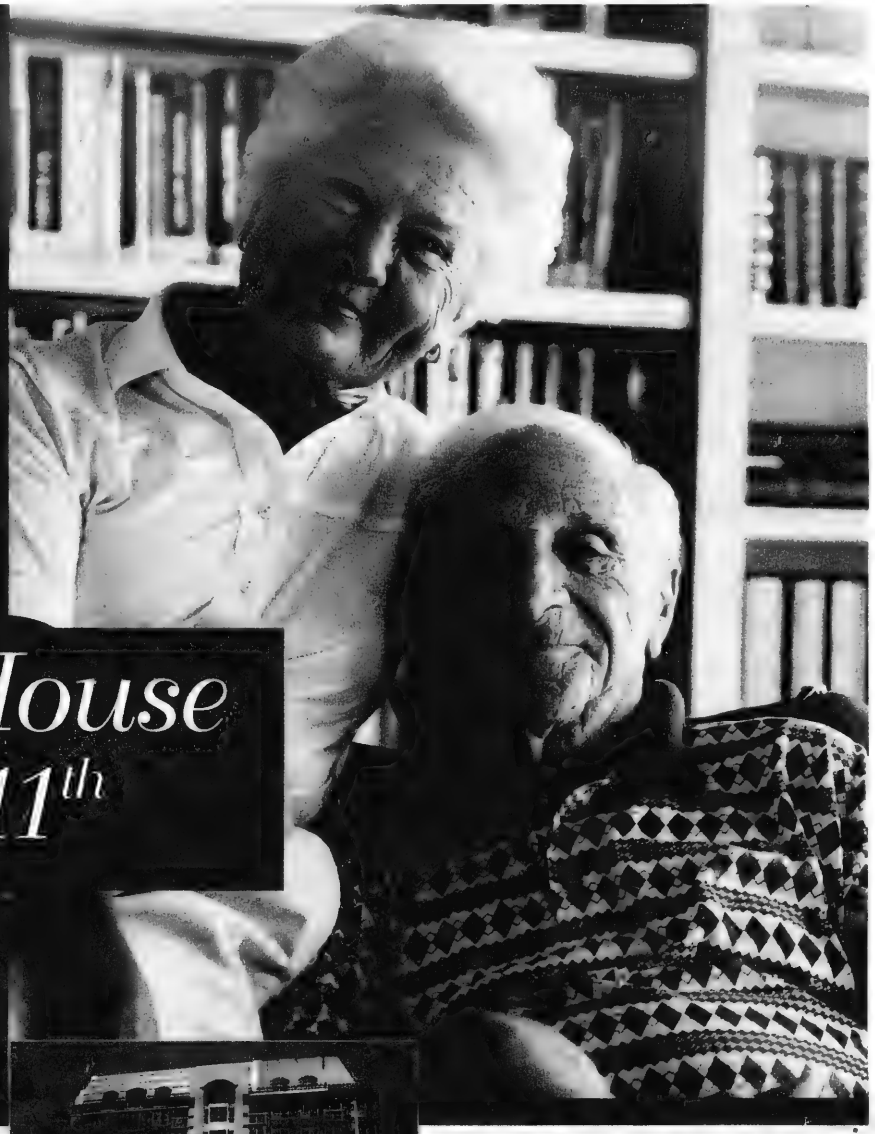

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And now, govern

Last month's federal election was one of the most rancorous in recent memory. But it was not only the candidates and party leaders whose characters were tested and whose emotions were strained. The countless legions of partisan supporters, too, were run through the ringer of bitter resentments and simmering animosities.

But the campaign is over. The results are in. Rhetoric and anger must be set aside. It is now time for all of us – elected, defeated and members of the public – to respond to a higher loyalty than that of party and of ideology. We must now give our full devotion to the well-being of the country.

The parties must try to achieve a legislative agenda in the House of Commons that more accurately respects the will of the electorate. We do not expect parties to abandon the fundamental principles of their respective political doctrines. But we do expect them to walk a considerable distance to try to find a reasonable compromise before fundamental principles and beliefs are jeopardized. In a situation of minority government, it is ever more vital that they do so, though ironically, it is ever more difficult as well.

That is, however, Prime Minister Paul Martin's mandate. Out of the disparate patches of voter and party allegiances, as reflected in the House, he must fashion a quilt of good government. Canadians look to him to lead the way. He will determine the substance and set the tone, though the leaders of the opposition parties share this responsibility with him.

In the spirit of constructive concern and in furtherance of our sense of civic duty, we offer the following suggestions to the prime minister in the discharge of his duties. Among the many pressing social, economic, foreign and other policy initiatives his government must consider, three are essential.

• *The state of the health care system.* Canadians have indicated that this is our pre-eminent concern. The prime minister must respond accordingly. His first step might be to consult with Roy Romanow, who recently investigated and authored a special report on our health care system.

• *Democracy.* The government must nurture and affirm Canadian democratic values abroad, even as it strives to improve democratic structures at home.

• *Example.* Cynicism about the political process among the younger generation is at a dangerously high level. Many have disengaged from the process and that bodes ill for the future. The surest way of abating the cynicism is for politicians to set a better personal example of comportment in the execution of their responsibilities. A good beginning point would be for the prime minister to wash away – *in full public view* – the unseemly grime of the ad scandal by letting the trail of accountability run its important course.

It is true that elections are hard-fought contests, but they are also occasions for renewal that are part of democracy's sustaining energy.

May God grant all of our newly elected members of Parliament, and especially their leaders, the wisdom and the courage to seize that energy and jointly channel it for the betterment of the lives of all Canadians.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

MIAs: Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz.

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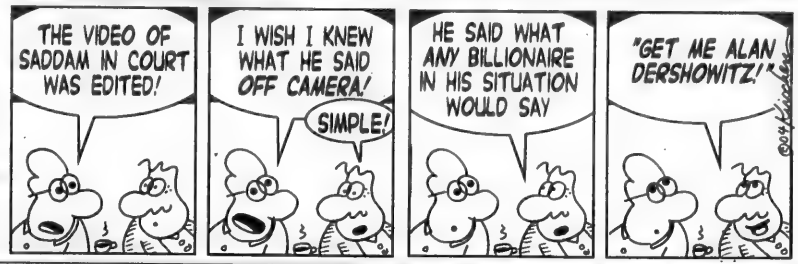
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God's hand at work with Herzl

I was delighted to read Rabbi Shlomo Jakobovits' edifying and dramatic account of the life of Theodor Herzl ("Remembering Theodor Herzl on his 100th yahrzeit," *CJN*, July 1). Approximately 10 years ago, Rabbi Jakobovits spoke about Herzl at a Shalosh Seudot meal at Beth Jacob synagogue. He referred to Herzl's remarks made at the first Zionist Congress in 1897: "Here at Basel, I founded the Jewish state, and the world will recognize this within 50 years."

Rabbi Jacobovits writes, "History proved him right..." The United Nations declared Israel to be a state exactly 50 years later, in 1947.

After his brief address at Beth Jacob, I approached Rabbi Jacobovits, and suggested that Herzl's words were remarkably prophetic – even in the strictest biblical sense.

As Rabbi Jacobovits so ably recounts, both Herzl's story and the man himself were extraordinary. An assimilationist Jew, his Jewish identity and journey began in his early 30s. In his mid-30s this man of royal bearing already had heart problems and he died at age 44. Without Herzl, there would be no Jewish state today – something our post-Holocaust age cannot imagine.

History proved Herzl to be right, but even more, so did God. Surely no religious Jew, from the most liberal to the extreme right (yes, Satmar itself), can fail to recognize God's hand at work in the life of Theodor Herzl. Our brethren of the right should know that, if not for Herzl, the great yeshivot of Israel and many of their religious communities would not exist. And liberal Jews should pause to reflect on the biblical-like episode of Herzl's life, and whether his remarks above were merely a coincidence.

Rabbi Abraham Cohen
Thornhill, Ont.

* * *

Should not tolerate the UN

In his letter to the editor ("Ad was fact, interview was fiction," *CJN*, July1), Bert Raphael expresses displeasure at the fact that "there were a staggering 113 UN resolutions condemning Israel" and Canada voted or abstained on all of them.

Perhaps Raphael can tell me what country has a different or better record in this matter. Canada, like all the other countries in the United Nations, is continually guilty of sacrificing principle on the altar of expediency.

Raphael's criticism should be directed, not at Canadian policy, but at those who are tolerant of the UN and believe this corrupt, useless and ineffectual organization should continue to prosper, despite its glaring flaws, pretending all the while that it stands for something other than graft, patronage and chicanery. The UN votes to condemn Israel. So, who cares? Indeed, in a way, given the composition of the body, criticism from that quarter can be viewed as a badge of honour.

Nathan Pila
Toronto

Democracy at work

It doesn't matter what side of the Israeli-Arab conflict you are on. It doesn't matter whether, in your mind, the West Bank wall is needed for security or is a reminder of past ghettos. If you are a democrat at heart, you should stand up and applaud the recent ruling by Israel's Supreme Court to move the wall. Israel's Supreme Court has the right to determine whether matters of security or of politics infringe on fundamental human rights. When the U.S. Supreme Court rules that permanent detention without charge is not legal in Guantanamo, that's a victory for the democratic process. Regardless of the outcome, the very right of the U.S. Supreme Court to deliberate on such a matter is the victory. It is during the toughest, most charged issues that we should value our checks and balances the most – even if we're on the "losing" side. In the United States, we often remember to celebrate that victory.

Frequently, though, during the perpetual propaganda wars and finger-pointing and historical claims, we Westerners forget this point about our distant cousins in Israel. As the Supreme Court ruling has demonstrated yet again, Israel's democracy is ever-present, and Israel's democracy works, despite more than 50 years of violence and conflict. I can think of no other democracy worldwide that can make that claim.

This is why the democratic world should support Israel as a shining light. Stand up and applaud the Jewish state, regardless of where you stand on these challenging issues.

David Ain
Toronto

* * *

Closing Mary Robinson episode

The story of Mary Robinson being awarded an honorary degree has been blown out of proportion across Canada. The McGill senate, which represents over 20,000 students and 7,000 staff members, made a balanced decision and voted democratically to award the degree. Furthermore, Robinson was invited more than six months ago to a widely advertised meeting at McGill, where listeners were impressed by her directness in presenting the modern world's neglect of the poor by affluent nations. This was probably the first instance of somebody, after being selected for the nomination, discussing such controversial topics openly with an audience.

Awarding the degree to Robinson was a way of publicly recognizing her intelligence and humanity. I often talk about a greedy world promoting violence, and I defend the senate's decision and denounce Gil Troy's carping, because Robinson shares my views on this divided world of rich and poor. Money and greed are driving ever-deeper divisions between people, and I applaud any attempt to honour those who draw attention to these rifts and defend human rights. I think it is more constructive to reward the good that a person has done than to dwell on any imperfections.

Slawomir Poplawski
Montreal

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Chaim Nachman Bialik: A Tribute

By MENACHEM D. ROTSTEIN

Chaim Nachman Bialik wore the crown of national poet of Israel reluctantly but with great dignity. On the 21st of Tammuz (July 10), we commemorate the 70th anniversary of his death.

An appreciation of the Bialik phenomenon requires a closer examination of the era in which he lived – not only a period in Jewish history filled with dramatic events, but one that was marked by several social, religious and political currents.

The biographical particulars of Bialik's life are significant, not just as a key to a better understanding of his poetry, but also as a paradigm for a generation whose imprint upon the history of the late 19th and early 20th centuries was critical.

Born in 1873, Bialik, like many of his eastern European contemporaries, lived in abject poverty in Czarist Russia and was tutored in early childhood by a stern and bitter grandfather in the strict Orthodoxy that had little tolerance for inquisitive minds.

The child, who was orphaned at a young age, would seek solace in nature to get away from the ordeal of the cheder and its *melamdim*. The vast Ukrainian wheat fields and deep forests provided shelter and respite for the boy, whose sensitive spirit and active imagination drew sustenance from the sunshine and silence of their natural wonders.

The poet's childhood and intimations of his own literary promise are beautifully captured in such poems as *Zohar* (*Splendor*), *Immy Zikhrona Livrakha* (*My Mother, of Blessed Memory*), *Shirati* (*My Poetry*), and *Im Yesh Et Nafshekha Lada'at* (*Should You Wish to Know*), as well as in the short story *Meahorey haGader* (*Behind the Fence*).

When he came of age, the teenaged Bialik was sent off to study at the Yeshiva of Volozhin. His admission to the prestigious school was an indication of his early promise and the esteem with which his elders must have regarded him. In the age-old tradition of European yeshivot, the students, some as young as 10, led a monastic, Spartan existence, living in crowded, often unheated dormitories, getting up at the crack of dawn, eating meagre meals – consumed at the table of a different family each day – and studying for endless hours well into the night.

In his epic poem *Hamatmid* (*The Scholar*), Bialik pays tribute to the generations of dedicated young men who literally laid down their lives in pursuit of learning. While he no doubt found such selfless dedication to Torah very admirable and praiseworthy, Bialik knew intuitively that he would not be able to sacrifice his own physical health and social well-being to such a cause.

Like many of his generation, Bialik found the siren call of the Enlightenment irresistible. Hebrew literature, which had begun to flourish almost a century earlier in Prussia and Galicia to the west, had already produced an impressive body of work, both in prose and poetry: dramas, essays, romantic novellas and epic poetry. By the time Bialik tried his own hand at writing, many works of the French, German, British and, of course, Russian canon had been translated into Hebrew or Yiddish. To someone as talented, hungry and ambitious as he, these were exciting times to be Jewish.

Ironically, it was within the yeshiva itself that Bialik was to be introduced to the infectious ideas of Zionism through the pamphlets of Leo Pinsker, Moshe Hess and, most significantly, Asher Ginzburg, also known as Achad Ha'am. The yeshivot were hotbeds of revolutionary agitation: many clandestine societies would be hatched within the seminary's walls, and heated debates would result in some being expelled for heresy and for challenging traditional authority.

After a number of warnings were issued and ignored, Bialik's days in Volozhin were numbered. He soon found himself back home, where he no longer belonged. But before departing for Odessa, where he would assume a significant position in the world of Hebrew letters, Bialik composed one of his best known poems, *Levadi* (*Alone*), in which he bids a tearful farewell to the old world, commiserating with the abandoned Shechina, who is left forlorn after the young have left her and gone off to seek their fortunes elsewhere.

Odessa in the 1890s was a hub of Hebrew and Yiddish cultural life. Newspapers and journals in both languages, as well as in Russian, flourished. Zionist organizations, such as Hovevey-Zion, had their head offices there. Shalom Aleichem, Achad Ha'am, Mendele Mocher Sforim, Zev Jabotinsky, Y.D. Bercovitch, and a host of others were drawn to the city to test their skills and sell their talents.

> 'Like many of his generation, Bialik found the siren call of the Enlightenment irresistible'

Bialik was recognized as a prodigy by Achad Ha'am, who signed an exclusive contract with him and published his works in the prestigious monthly *Hashiloach*.

It is not surprising that Bialik's poetry reflected his patron's politics and ideology. He served as delegate to a number of Zionist congresses where his views were sought and expressed. But the event that may have made Chaim Nachman Bialik a household name and given his poetry a reach well beyond the literary circles of the Hebrew intelligentsia was the pogrom in the spring of 1903 in Kishinev, a major city in Bessarabia.

The wide-scale killing and looting of Jewish neighbourhoods, which took place for several days with the tacit approval of local public security authorities, outraged the Jewish world. Bialik was picked to join a fact-finding committee dispatched to the scene to assess the damage and consider how to provide relief to the devastated community. While there, he learned how ill-prepared the local leadership was to face such an onslaught and how vulnerable and helpless was its citizenry.

Poet Chaim Nachman Bialik, seen here in the 1920s. [WZPS photo]

The poems *B'ir Haharegga* (*In the City of Massacre*) and *Al Hashechitah* (*On the Slaughter*) were a poetic response to a condition Bialik found intolerable. As much as he accused the perpetrators of the riots for their vicious hatred and inhumanity, he cast blame upon the community for not resisting physically and for exposing itself to the violence that was so predictable. The subtext of the poems contained a challenge to religious authorities to begin facing reality and step out of the insular environment that was detrimental to their very survival.

The outrage voiced in these poems was almost biblical in tone. Readers, especially the young, responded viscerally to the call to defend Jewish dignity and property everywhere. They found in Bialik a bold and coherent spokesman for their Zionist aspirations. His poems have been credited with promoting the emergence of clandestine self-defence associations in a number of cities and towns in Czarist Russia and in the growth of membership in the ranks of Zionist youth movements.

It is therefore understandable how, within a relatively short period between 1900 and 1910, Bialik became the arbiter of the cultural agenda for the Zionist movement.

Assuming the prestigious position of literary editor of *Hashiloach* allowed him to nurture and promote an entire generation of up-and-coming writers, most of whom were the beneficiaries of a better secular education than his, but who stood in complete awe of his prodigious talent. Bialik was peripatetic, moving back and forth between Odessa, Warsaw and Berlin, launching new publishing enterprises, giving readings and holding court at his hotel for the multitude of admirers who sought his advice and his blessings.

A short, heavy-set, bald figure, Bialik, by today's standards, was far from the image of a media celebrity. And yet, at the height of his career, Bialik required a phalanx of bodyguards to surround him and prevent the crowds from crushing him when he made his frequent public appearances in Europe and North America. He obliged a number of painters and sculptors by posing for his portrait, and most schools in Israel displayed his photo, usually next to that of Theodore Herzl.

One can hardly imagine today a literary figure – other than J.R. Rowling perhaps – who can inspire public adulation to the same degree than Bialik did during the late 1920s and early 1930s.

In 1924, as Russia was about to become a vast prison under the dictatorship of Joseph Stalin, Bialik and his wife Mania, along with a handful of Jewish intellectuals, managed to secure safe passage from Odessa to Palestine. There, in the newly established city of Tel Aviv, the Bialiks were given a royal welcome. In a quiet street named in his honour, Mayor Meir Dizengoff built an oriental villa surrounded by a magnificent garden, to inspire and pamper the poetic soul.

Bialik was to live there for the last decade of his life, assuming the role of editor and publisher. He envisioned Dvir publications as a national enterprise that would eventually collate and publish the works of past generations in poetry and prose. He and his partner, Y.H. Ravnitzky, completed work on the seminal *Sefer Ha'aggadah*, the non-legal literature of the Mishnah and the Talmud.

Beit-Bialik, as his home became known, was a centre of cultural life in Little Tel Aviv, and in some respects its owner was revered as a secular "rebbe." Bialik's contributions to the revival of the Hebrew language were numerous, most importantly, by writing children's ditties and songs for the nursery – a generation was raised on his poetry without realizing it. He died childless in Vienna in the summer of 1934 while recuperating from an operation, and was buried in a state funeral in the old cemetery of Tel Aviv, a few blocks from his home. The house serves now as a museum and learning centre.

M.D. Rotstein teaches Hebrew language & literature at Concordia University and at Bialik High School in Montreal.

The point of it all

"It's all pointless; who cares what I do?"

It was the first crisis of my young rabbinic career. I was 22 years old and a summer intern at a California shul. I was on the phone with J.K., a young man who had attended my classes, when he started to tell me his life was awful, his finances disastrous and his family dysfunctional. He was planning to swallow a bottle of aspirin, and he was confiding in me, an inexperienced rabbi to-be, about his grisly plan. (A call to the psychiatric hotline ultimately prevented J.K.'s suicide).

Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz in Montreal

To this day, his words haunt me. With all my rabbinic training, I wasn't able to answer a basic question: Why not commit suicide?

So let me try again.

A long philosophical tradition endorses suicide for the distressed. The Stoic philosopher Epictetus writes: "Above all, remember that the door stands open. Do not be more fearful than children. Just as when they are tired of the game they cry, 'I will play no more,' so too when you are in a similar situation, cry, 'I will play no more' and depart". Voltaire, Hume and Schopenhauer all supported suicide. Today, Dr. Jack Kevorkian and others advocate the "right to die."

Philosophy aside, I have the feeling that a cavalier attitude toward suicide is often based on the nihilistic belief that "it's all pointless." If there's no point to it all, there's no reason to bother with a difficult life.

In Judaism, there is no right to die. Life is a sacred gift, and we must survive, even in hellish conditions. Rabbi Ephraim Oshry, the rabbi of the Kovno ghetto, was asked if someone may commit suicide rather than watch his family be murdered. His response, while filled with compassion, was, "Absolutely not." Indeed, Rabbi Oshry took pride in the fact there were few suicides in the Kovno ghetto, despite enormous suffering.

Life in the ghetto was pure torture, so why was he so resolute about suicide? Because he realized the value of life. The economics of suicide says life is less valuable than suffering, but that's simply not true. If there's one lesson in Jewish history, it's that a life filled with ideals is worthwhile, even at the cost of suffering. That's why there are Jews today, despite generations of persecution.

So, this is my belated response to J.K.

Rabbi Oshry and his compatriots suffered more than anyone else in history. Yet, they persevered, because they knew the future of humanity depends on people who follow their ideals, no matter the cost.

J.K., that's the point of it all: idealism. Because life in service of ideals is worthwhile, despite the suffering.

The urgent situation in Sudan

Sudan has become a symbol to good people around the world who are fed up with the United Nations. That Sudan has a seat on the UN Human Rights Commission strains incredulity, and one's vocabulary, especially after the United States was recently voted off the commission.

Gil Troy in Montreal

More than hypocritical or farcical, it is evil to entrust the lofty ideal of universal rights to such a bestial dictatorship as Sudan. And it is equally unconscionable that the commission, like the UN's General Assembly, has chided democratic Israel so many more times than genocidal Sudan.

The Sudan tragedy results from modern Islamicist evil, Arab expansionism, Muslim complicity and Christian passivity. Jews can better understand why so few non-Jews help us if we contemplate the overwhelming Christian silence while their co-religionists were uprooted, enslaved, raped, branded and slaughtered for 20 years. That much of the murder is ideologically motivated, and related to the broader clash of civilizations misleadingly labelled as the "war on terror," makes it all the more unnerving – and the silence even more unacceptable.

There are two major Sudanese tragedies. The latest crisis in the northwest takes place against a blood-splattered backdrop of two decades of civil war in the south. The Sudanese civil war is winding down, after two million died and countless others were maimed and enslaved – yes, slavery still exists today in the Arab world. The victims were mostly Christians or animists who were targeted by Sudan's Islamic government. The heart-rending silence during that conflict is a matter of historical record, a blot on all of us who were passive.

Now, in the northwestern Darfur region, Arab Janjawid militias are targeting black African tribal farmers in a push for Arab supremacy. The conflict is racial and ethnic, not religious, as the killers and the victims are Muslims. Thus far, the Janjawids have murdered 30,000 and displaced 1.2 million – note how casually we throw around these mind-numbing figures.

The brutality is systematic. Men are murdered as their wives are raped, then branded, to make the emotional trauma physical and permanent. The murderers sometimes throw corpses into the local water sources to poison the water supply.

An ugly ideology and vicious strategies link the two conflicts. A column in the *London Times* reported that eyewitnesses from Darfur "consistently describe genocidal tactics honed during the war in southern Sudan. Before and after, the Janjawid destroy, plunder, rape, kill and burn their way through a village, the civilians are hit by [the] Sudanese air force to ensure nothing and nobody is left standing. This gargantuan crime requires a high level of co-ordination."

Torrential rains are about to begin, rendering these displaced villagers even more vulnerable to disease and starvation. Then, the Arab Muslim militias will be facilitating genocide by famine – letting nature do their dirty work.

New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof, who has written searing pieces from the Sudan, notes that Jewish and Christian charities have helped, but "one of the big gaps has been Islamic charities, which have tended – inexcusably – to show sympathy for Sudan's Arab government. So the sad and ironic outcome is that the people of Darfur, who are virtually all Muslims, are getting significant help from Christians and Jews but almost nothing from fellow Muslims."

Sudan must be more than a punchline in the tragicomedy the United Nations has become. The Sudan must be more than a truncheon swung against an expansionist, delusional, lethal Islamicist ideology and push for Arab supremacy. We ignore it at our peril.

Our professoriate would denounce it more consistently and passionately, were such a xenophobic, toxic and illiberal ideology embraced by westerners, let alone Jews, rather than Third World countries. The tragedy is too vast, the needs too great, for us to rest on our debating points and our self-satisfaction.

We must do something – as Jews burdened by the world's silence during the Holocaust; as Zionists proud of Israel's role in trying to help ease African pain; as human beings embarrassed by our silence during the Rwanda massacres, the Congo famine and the first Sudanese civil war; and as liberal democrats committed to justice.

The challenge is pressing. The opportunity is ours. How dare we sit, drinking our morning coffee, tut-tutting over evil without trying to fight it?

Forgetting to remember, remembering to forget

Come summer, come travel. Suddenly airport security scanners become more familiar to me than my own front door. During the weeks immediately preceding the federal election, my knees spent more hours wedged tightly against the seat in front of me than my feet did on terra firma.

Sara R. Horowitz in Toronto

Out of the country just as Canadian politics was heating up (in a Canadian way), I pored over Canadian newspapers wherever I could find them – in airports, on airplanes, on the web – and huddled with other Canadians in transit to exchange intelligence.

One particular newspaper article that ran just prior to the election stuck with me well after the votes had been tallied. The article featured an interview with a man now in his 70s, one of several closeups of "average citizens." This interview lingers in my mind, because it has resonances well beyond the election.

The man interviewed stated that under no circumstances would he ever vote Liberal – not in this election, nor in any election, come what may. In fact, he had not voted Liberal, he asserted, since World War II. He explained that he had been drafted to fight in that war, and he has never forgiven the Liberals – for the war, the draft, the upheaval to his life. He did not claim to be a pacifist, he was simply dismayed that his life was, as he saw it, inconvenienced by politicians.

I was struck by the interview because one does not often come upon a Canadian or American who lived through that era and who speaks about that war in those terms. Other wars, later wars, are viewed with more contention. For Americans, the war in Vietnam was a watershed, shifting the opinion of large numbers of people about what military force can accomplish and bringing a heightened awareness of the ills of war, the moral ambiguities entailed in declaring war and the mixed motivations of powerful nations.

But World War II is largely regarded as the good war – not in a machismo sense that fighting is good in and of itself, but in the sense of a war fought for a good cause. While researchers have deepened our understanding of the dynamics of World War II and of the complicated and ambivalent motivation of many North American politicians in engaging in it or resisting engagement, the Second World War is still seen as a just war – horrifying in many ways, but necessary.

Even now, that war is invoked as a paradigm to argue in favour of a proposed military action, just as the United States' involvement in Viet Nam is invoked as a paradigm for misguided, ruinous or corrupt military intervention.

Most Jews see World War II in stark terms: the war necessary to stop Nazi Germany from carrying out its planned murder of Europe's Jewry. But the Canadian man who – even decades later – could never make his peace with the Liberal party for launching him into battle remembers only the very personal impact of war on his own life. One imagines that, in his eyes, a battle fought on some other continent was (and remains) someone else's business. Inherent in his memory is a kind of forgetting – of a history replete with the suffering of others, who, but for the intervention of the Allied forces on the battlefield, would have perished in horrible ways.

It was with this fellow countryman in mind that I recently visited the newly erected monument to World War II veterans in Washington, D.C. Ironically, this memorial – though august and expensive – also fails to remember the very war it was designed to commemorate.

Replete with fountains and reflecting pools, positioned between the monuments of two great statesmen of democracy, the memorial does little to help one remember. Pillars represent each state and territorial possession that contributed soldiers, and walls bear basreliefs depicting fighting men and generic, clichéd quotations about war, sacrifice and victory. But one walks away with no impression of the Second World War – neither the nature of the battle, nor the nature of the enemy.

As we emerge from the elections – our collective engagement in shaping our future – it may be time to remind ourselves to remember the past. For it is through that lens that we see and understand the present moment.

The Kirshner File

Holocaust marked the children of survivors

The aging baby boomers in the crowded reception room, which was abuzz with the drone of multiple conversations, were mainly in their mid-40s to late 50s.

The majority of the men had thinning hair flecked with strands of gray. Some had already turned snow white, while others were pretty much bald. Not a few sported paunches.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Most of the women were somewhat matronly, though several exuded a faint aura of glamour.

Come to think of it, they looked a little like my parents must have when I was a boy in Montreal.

Cold drinks in hand, they talked about everyday subjects and seemed perfectly normal and at ease in their skins.

These middle-aged Torontonians were almost uniformly the children of Holocaust survivors. They gathered at the Park Hyatt Hotel last month at the invitation of the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem, which had launched its Holocaust Education Legacy Fund. The fund plans to send Canadian teachers to participate in Holocaust educational programs and seminars at Yad Vashem, the memorial centre and museum in Jerusalem.

The sons and daughters of Holocaust survivors, myself included, form a unique generation. We know this in our heart of hearts and in the marrow of our bones.

The Final Solution, conceived and implemented by the Nazis and their collaborators throughout Europe, was an unprecedented event until the genocide in Rwanda a decade ago. The Jews, like the Tutsis in Africa, were expressly singled out for mass extermination, and the world was mainly indifferent.

As I mingled with my contemporaries, three overlapping questions passed through my mind.

How had they been marked by their parents' horrifying ordeal?

What had their mothers and fathers endured before Hitler's Third Reich finally crumbled into dust, and how had they been touched by the Holocaust?

I explored these topics with three offsprings of survivors: Renate Krakauer, a 63-year-old retired administrator and maybe the only person in the room born and hidden during the Holocaust; Dr. Joel Dimitry, a 58-year-old dentist and board member of the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem, and Erika Kirschner, a 56-year-old interior decorator.

Krakauer's parents, William and Charlotte Tannenzapf, were born in Stanislawow, then in Poland but now in Ukraine. He was an electrical engineer and she was a pharmacist.

Still alive and spry, they are now in their 90s. "I guess they must have good genes. They are very strong, both physically and emotionally."

A pharmacist who went on to become an acting assistant deputy minister in the Ontario Ministry of Health, Krakauer was born in March 1941, five months before the Soviet army retreated from Stanislawow in the face of a German offensive.

The first German *aktion*, known as Bloody Sunday, took place on Oct. 12, when Jews were ordered to pack their valuables and assemble in front of city hall.

"They were chased with whips and bayonets into the cemetery, where they were pushed into pits and shot," said Krakauer.

By nightfall, approximately 10,000 Jews had been killed by rotating firing squads. "Luckily, my parents, waiting for the banging on the door, were somehow passed by in this *aktion*." In the wake of this unspeakable slaughter of innocents, the surviving Jews were herded into a ghetto, which was separated from the rest of the population by a high fence. The ghetto was subjected to frequent *aktions*, but Krakauer's parents survived as workers in a recycling factory.

Renate Krakauer

In the autumn of 1942, her mother escaped from the ghetto, Krakauer in her arms, and found refuge in a nearby village with a Polish widow.

A few months later, following Germany's defeat at the Battle of Stalingrad, her father, posing as a peasant and commandeering a horse and wagon, also escaped and was reunited with his family.

"We spent the next year-and-a half in the attic, in the cow shed, in a hole in the ground covered with straw, and in the woods."

Liberated in the summer of 1944, they returned to Stanislawow malnourished and in rags, only to discover that its Jewish population had been murdered and that its Polish inhabitants were none too pleased to see them back. They left Poland and arrived in Montreal at the end of 1948.

Although Krakauer has no personal recollections about the Holocaust, she was made acutely aware of the period whenever her parents talked about it.

"Perhaps living with the stories of the Holocaust gave me the perspective that no disaster in my life can compare to what my parents went through."

As a youngster, Krakauer tried to suppress her Holocaust connection. "I wanted to blend in and be like everyone else. But as an adult, I learned it is an important legacy and an integral part of who I am. I feel a strong responsibility not to allow it to be forgotten."

Her relationship with her parents is unusually close. "My feelings of protectiveness for them may be greater than those of most other adult children whose parents are not Holocaust survivors."

She recalls that, in their home, food could be a contentious subject. "I was seriously berated as a child when I didn't finish everything on my plate. How could I not appreciate all this good food after they had been reduced to eating potato peelings?"

She believes her parents' financial success in Canada stemmed, in part, from their harrowing experiences. "They had to be very resourceful and self-reliant. I was always told, 'You can't depend on anyone but yourself and your family.'"

Indeed, family has been very important to Krakauer, who missed having grandparents and relatives. "When I first met my aunt – my father's only surviving sister who went to Israel – I couldn't believe she was really my very own relative."

Krakauer, who attended Labour Zionist summer camps in the Laurentians as a teenager, feels exceedingly close to Israel. "I sent my kids to Camp Shalom. My youngest daughter lived in Israel for three years and served in the army for 18 months. My children have definitely been touched by their grandparents' experiences. They are familiar with the history and have heard many stories from their grandparents over the years."

Dimitry's parents, Norma and Nathan, hail from Lithuania. Interned in the Vilna ghetto, Norma managed to escape through the sewers as it was being liquidated. Nathan was a partisan after his family was wiped out. He and his wife immigrated to Canada in 1948, two years after Dimitry's birth.

"Their whole lives were affected by the Holocaust. They were reserved, but spoke to me about their experiences, good and bad. I heard about them from the moment I learned to speak."

His friends think he is too intense. "But I find most children of survivors are more focused and determined. My generation is lucky to be alive. Had the war gone a few more years, I probably would not be here. We feel our lives are privileged, and I thank my parents for their strength and courage."

Dimitry, who has immersed himself in the literature of the Holocaust and has spoken about it at memorial events, has deep respect for his parents. "I am awed by my father's heroism as a partisan. He claims he had nothing to lose, yet he still had a desperate will to live. My mother was 19 when she went into the sewer system under Vilna."

"They saved and planned for the future," he added, referring to their lives in Canada. "My father took chances in business and real estate and was successful. He was not afraid of anything or anyone. He used to say, 'No one could be as bad as the Nazis.' My mother took advantage of schooling in Toronto, and still today is an active reader."

A member of Canadian Jewish Congress' Holocaust committee, Dimitry has a special bond with Israel. "A Jewish state, in 1933 would have stopped the Holocaust. Israel must be preserved at all costs as a free country for Jews."

Kirschner's parents, Eva and Laszlo, are from Budapest and Bratislava, respectively. She obtained false identity papers as a Christian and thus was able to save her family from the gas chambers. He was a forced labourer who almost died of malnutrition.

"They were very much affected by the Holocaust," she said. Her mother turned into "a very hard person," while her father suffered from a debilitating malady.

"I am very much part of a unique generation, a tragic generation," said Kirschner, a divorcée and ex-Montrealer who has been battling cancer for the past four years.

Asked if she feels emotionally burdened as a child of Holocaust survivors, she replied, "On the one hand, it is a great burden. But on the other hand, I consider myself lucky that I made it into the world at such a difficult time."

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Jewish Life

A question of family

By RACHAEL TURKIENICZ

Midrashic Moments

Within the Torah portions of the next few weeks is the passage in which two of the tribes of Israel ask to remain outside the borders of the land. The tribes of Reuben and Gad negotiate a deal with Moses wherein they can remain across the Jordan to establish themselves in fertile ground.

The first time they make the request, Moses responds with a pointed question: "Your brothers are to go to battle and you are to remain here?"

Moses is pointing out the issues of family that were ignored in the tribal request. The two tribes were concerned about their future livelihood. They mentioned the fertile pastures they could see, but they did not mention their own children or their extended family, the other tribes.

The second time they turn to Moses with their request, it seems they have better understood that family must enter the picture. In the second attempt, they mention that they intend to build structures for their sheep and cities for their children. Although their mention of children is welcomed, it seems that as yet they do not understand that the primary blessing of covenant is children. Surely the cities built for their children should take precedence over the structures for the sheep.

Interestingly, the tribes commit themselves to accompanying the rest of Israel and helping to settle the land. They propose to leave their children in the territory across the Jordan while the able men accompany the army of Israel. In other words, they are beginning to express the responsibility brethren shoulder for each other: the commitment to extended family.

Moses responds by agreeing to their proposal, and he restates it. He begins by emphasizing that they are to accompany the other tribes into Israel and assist in establishing safety for all. He continues by talking of the cities they will build for their children and then the structures for the sheep. Moses reverses the order of the priorities by showing that children come before livelihood.

Finally, the two tribes affirm what Moses has said. They now state clearly that they will build cities for their children and their women. Mention of their flocks comes only at the end.

The progression of the negotiation speaks directly to the issues of covenant. Before Moses can agree to have two of the tribes live away from the other tribes, outside the border of Israel, Moses needs to hear that they have understood the importance of covenant. In their first request, it was clear that they did not yet comprehend that children must be their first concern.

Moses directs them to understand that first we learn to love within our homes. The people within our homes then become our extended family, but our love and responsibility for them continues. Once that is strong, we can love within the new families we build. Covenant directs us forward, and therefore we must focus on our children. Only once the tribes are able to articulate this is Moses willing to accept their suggestion.

In fact, these two tribes later create a crisis within the nation of Israel when they build an altar on foreign land, something forbidden at the time. When confronted by the other tribes, the two explain that the altar they built is non-functioning. They constructed it as a symbol that would connect their children and their culture with the Israelite children of the other tribes living within the land of Israel. They were creating common symbols, common language and common values so that geography would never be a divide between their children and the children of the other tribes.

Moses taught them well that the practice that begins in our homes will quickly extend beyond. The midrash would later teach us the same lesson: "If a man sins against those of his own household, he will inevitably come to sin against his neighbour."

Drildzer celebrates 70th anniversary

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Some 120 people recently celebrated the Drildzer Congregation and Society's 70th anniversary, including a number who were among the group's early founders.

The second, third and fourth generations were also represented at the banquet, held at the Pride of Israel Synagogue, with Rochelle Sufrin, daughter of Jack Stopper, as the evening's chair.

After meeting informally for three decades, the Drildzer was formed in 1934 by eight founders, whose children and grandchildren have remained active in the society. The congregation began in a shul on Huron Street, then moved twice more before settling into its current location on Wilson Avenue.

Honoured at the banquet were second-generation Drildzer members Jack Bliman, Sam Bongard, Hy Goldstein, Max Hain, Jack Silverman, Jack Stopper and Sol Zigler.

On display were banners, photos, original ledgers and other memorabilia, some dating back to 1934.

Drildzer president Mae Waese reported that an archival video of the society's senior members, who are now in their late 80s and 90s, is being completed by the video committee co-chaired by Sam Hoffer and Harvey Golombek. Rough cuts of the video were presented at the banquet.

"In the video, the members tell the story of what brought them to Toronto from Drildz, how they started the society and why it became a significant part of their lives," Waese said. "The video is a treasure.

Drildzer officers, pictured from left, include, standing, Harvey Golombek, Jamie Golombek, Sol Zigler, Willie Silverman, Sid Greenberg, vice-president Burnie Bongard, Gerry Morris and Irving Lefler. Seated are Rochelle Sufrin, Jack Stopper, president Mae Waese, Jack Silverman and Debbie Cowitz.

Waese, daughter of the late Joe Rutman, one of the early founding members, announced that to commemorate the 70th anniversary, the members have formed the Ilza Historical Cemetery Restoration Project to restore the Jewish cemetery in Drildz, in south-central Poland, 75 miles south of Warsaw.

The Jewish cemetery of Drildz, established in 1837, was almost totally destroyed during World War II. In 1942, the Germans forced the Jews to transport the *matzevot* (stones) to swampy areas for road building near Radom. The few shards remaining are now part of a forest on the outskirts of the town.

Brenda and Barney Dales, who have visited Drildz, are the co-chairs of the restoration project, for which the committee has established the groundwork in North America and Poland.

"This will allow us to turn our cemetery into a place that will honour the memory of our ancestors buried there and those Jews who were buried in at least one mass grave during the Shoah," says Brenda Dales.

"The cemetery restoration will be under the supervision of the chief rabbi of Warsaw and Lodz and donations to the restoration are tax deductible in Canada and in the United States."

For information on the restoration, visit www.ilzacemetery.org or contact the Dales at 416-482-2233.

Jewish Life

Claims Conference gets $174 million more for slave labourers

NEW YORK — A new agreement will bring $174 million (US) more to Holocaust-era slave labourers, the Claims Conference announced last week.

The new money represents slightly more than half the interest earned from the original slave and forced labourer settlement reached in 2000 with German government and industry. It will go to meet a funding shortfall in payments to former Holocaust-era slave and forced labourers created when more slave labourers were documented than originally estimated.

The announcement came after a year of talks in Berlin among the Claims Conference; the German foundation in charge of the settlement, Remembrance, Responsibility, and the Future; groups representing non-Jewish slave and forced labourers in Poland, the Czech Republic, Russia, Ukraine and Belarus; and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

The Claims Conference documented more slave labour cases than had been originally estimated, which led to a shortfall in funds needed to pay former slave labourers the maximum amount allowed under the German law governing the foundation. The latest agreement will enable the Claims Conference to make the maximum payments to former slave labourers. More than 141,000 Jewish former labourers have been approved for payment.

The German foundation will turn over the rest of the interest, about $169 million, to seven other groups, including the IOM and those representing non-Jewish slave and forced labourers.

"We have been pressing this issue for a long time. This major success paves the way for us to complete processing so that the final payment under this program can be made to more than 140,000 Holocaust survivors around the world," said Claims Conference executive vice-president Gideon Taylor, .

The new funding will affect the following groups as follows:

• The German foundation will soon release funds to the Claims Conference that will enable it to pay the promised second instalment of 2,500 euros (originally denominated as 5,000 deutschmarks) to most living former slave labourers by the end of August. (This is in addition to the first instalment of DM 10,000.)

• This month, the Claims Conference will make payments to 710 Holocaust survivors who endured medical experiments. These payments are in addition to the ones made in January 2004 to 1,778 survivors under this program. The payments to these additional survivors will total some $3.6 million (US).

• Processing of heir claims will start after final payments to living Holocaust survivors. Heir application packages will be mailed by the end of August. The German foundation says payments to heirs should begin in December, when the amount for each heir will be determined by the amount of funds available.

The Claims Conference represents world Jewry in negotiating for compensation and restitution for victims of Nazi persecution and their heirs. It administers compensation funds, recovers unclaimed Jewish property, and allocates funds to institutions that provide social welfare services to Holocaust survivors and preserve the memory and lessons of the Shoah.

With files from CJN news services.

Remembering Naomi Shemer

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

When Naomi Shemer died, lovers of Israeli music lost one of the most beloved and prolific songwriters the country has ever produced. Almost immediately, heartfelt appreciations and articles begin to appear on the Internet about the "First Lady of Israeli Song." Today, we remember Naomi Shemer.

Her introduction to music was at singalongs at Kibbutz Kinneret. Gid Avivi and Sagui Ben-Nun have written a wonderful biography that traces Shemer's roots from kibbutz to Jerusalem's Rubin Academy of Music to eventual stardom. Along the way, she was able to connect her songs to her childhood and give them "a charm and innocence… Shemer's music linked the ordinary to the festive, the landscapes of Lake Kinneret to the white city of Tel Aviv, her own biography to the history of Israel between war and peace." **[www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/443642.html]**

Michael Palti points out in *Ha'aretz* that Shemer also had the ability to provoke political debate and inspire national passions. When she wrote the line "The market square is empty" in *Jerusalem of Gold*, Shemer was criticized, since Arabs lived there. Shemer's response was: "As long as there were no Jews there, in my eyes it was empty."

Even though Shemer may have identified herself with the Gush Emunim movement and settlers in the territories, some of her best friends were artists on the left like singer Hava Alberstein. "Each of us knew the other's position, but we were two Israeli women living here for better or for worse." **[www.haaretz.com /hasén/spages/443668]**

Shemer herself emphasized that although many of her songs were commissioned by the army, "it is important to note that I wrote for the army and not about the army… My songs, like *Machar* (*Tomorrow*), were written for the young people in the army; this is a song about being young and full of hope for peace. If you read carefully, you will see that I made sure my songs were full of colours like green and blue not khaki, because, personally, I do not have such fond memories of being in the army." Read the rest of Shemer's 2000 interview at the *Jerusalem Post* website. **[http://tinyurl.com/33pl3]**

Not surprisingly, there's an entire website devoted to *Jerusalem of Gold*. **[www.jerusalemofgold.co.il/]** The sites points out how close the song came to not being written. In 1967 (prior to the Six Day War,) Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek asked that songs performed in that year's Independence Day Song Festival be related to Jerusalem. Incredibly, a search of the archives of Israel Radio revealed that no songs composed after 1948 mentioned the divided city where Jews were forbidden to visit the Kotel. Five composers were commissioned to write songs for the festival, but only Shemer (after considerable coaxing) delivered a song.

And then there was the question about who would perform it. Shemer had heard a young soldier named Shuli Natan sing on the radio and decided she would be perfect. Shemer faced opposition to her choice of an amateur but stuck with Natan. The rest is history. You can hear a large excerpt of Shuli Natan's rendition online. **[www.cdbaby.com/mp3lofi/shuly3-21.m3u]** You can also listen to a complete instrumental version, read the lyrics **[http://tinyurl.com/2tewa]** as well as download sheet music for the song. **[http://tinyurl.com/2qor8]**

Naomi Shemer is remembered for much more than one song. She is loved for her hundreds of other songs, many of which have become Israeli folk standards. Song like *Lu Yehi* which started off as a Hebrew version of The Beatles' *Let it Be*, *Lo Ahavti Di* (*I Have Not Loved Enough*), and *Al Kol Aleh* (*For All These Things*) that become associated with the campaign against the evacuation of the Yamit settlement in the Sinai. **[http:// tinyurl.com /39ct2]** You can listen to excerpts of 45 of Shemer's greatest hits online. **[http:// tinyurl.com/3f6n8]**

The death of Naomi Shemer has touched her admirers around the world. I'll leave the last word to one of the people who left messages of condolence at the *Jerusalem Post* website. **[http:// tinyurl.com/2ggab]** "For all of us who came on Aliyah during those sad years following the Yom Kippur War, Naomi Shemer's songs helped lift our spirits – as those of the entire nation as well. Naomi was an icon to this country and to Hebrew verse put into song. May her sweet memory inspire all who love and cherish this land as she did." Maurice Picow, Netanya.

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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Send your response to: **"Jackie Mason" Contest**, The Canadian Jewish News, 1500 Don Mills Road, Suite 205, North York, Ont. M3B 3K4 or fax to: 416-391-0949.
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Greater Toronto Area

'Everyone pitches in to raise funds for local needs'

Continued from page 3

Jackson, who, among other things, is responsible for planning and allocating funds to federation-sponsored agencies in the Toronto area, and acts as the community's continuity resource, said the Jewish community began to organize as soon as Jews came to Canada in sufficient numbers.

"The concept of organizing the community was complicated, yet obvious. At the core was the next generation. Structures had to be put in place so the next generation would have more."

Despite all the work that is done formally, such as improving the educational system and building synagogues and community centres, "the community is not about a bunch of paid people doing work. It is about volunteers, about individuals. That ripples out to the entire community," Jackson said.

"What is special about an organized community is that everyone pitches in to raise funds for local needs. The word passion becomes an important piece of this puzzle. Each person involved does it for the love of the community."

Rosensweig, a weekly columnist for *The CJN* and co-host of a weekly talk show on CFRB radio, launched Ve'ahavta in 1997.

Since its inception, the organization has spearheaded medical and education missions to Guyana's rainforests, sent its "Jewish Peace Corps" to Zimbabwe to work in a Salvation Army hospital, and responded to natural disasters in Honduras, El Salvador, Argentina and Turkey.

It has also established a homeless program in Toronto in partnership with the native community, and has recently launched a program in Israel to assist youth in distress.

Rosensweig said he is impressed with the work of the local Jewish community, but added that we must ask ourselves if we are doing a good job as individuals.

"Our organizations flourish, but as individuals we have started to lock ourselves away. [As we have become more successful], we have insulated ourselves.

"We have to ask if we are playing a role in the betterment of the world around us. I don't believe we're doing a great job.

"We send kids to Poland, and every time there is a movie about the Holocaust, we fill rooms, but we are not responding to Holocaust education in the way we say we should."

In Sudan, he said, two million people have been killed since 1984, and "as we speak, ethnic cleansing is going on in western Sudan. In 1984 there was a massacre in Rwanda, only a few hours away by plane, [and] in Cambodia millions disappeared and were murdered in the '70s.

"Even though we say 'Never again,' few people are responding to what is happening in Sudan. [We do not stand up as individuals] and say 'I feel the pain.'"

Rosensweig stressed, though, that this is not a negative critique.

"I see what the Jewish people have done and I see the possibilities. If we decided that there were to be no more homeless, and we stood up and gave of ourselves, I know we could do it. I have great faith in our potential to step outside ourselves and make the world shine.

Ve'ahavta's work has helped to eradicate a lot of anti-Semitism, Rosensweig said. "[By introducing] ourselves to others, we have to become friends with the world and allow them to become friends with us.

"We must teach our [children] to open their door and be empathetic to [other people's] pain. We have to educate them to reach out and be courageous and helpful."

He praised students at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT) for collecting vitamins and sending them on a Ve'ahavta mission to the rainforest.

One of the problems, Rosensweig said, is that we have turned our biblical figures into near-deities, instead of looking at them as role models. "They are unreachable. We should teach Torah so [students] learn from these people. They have to emulate them and mimic them."

Asked how people can volunteer in the community, Jackson said there are many opportunities listed at www.doingjewishtoronto.com, a website operated by UJA Federation.

EDUCATORS STUDY IN ISRAEL: Toronto teachers, principals and supervisors representing congregational and community schools that receive UJA Mishpacha grants, went on a mission to Israel in June, where they engaged in text study, related excursions and discussion aimed at helping families connect more meaningfully with Israel. Members of the group are seen at the Supreme Court Building in Jerusalem. The study mission was sponsored by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, the Jewish Agency for Israel and Partnership 2000.

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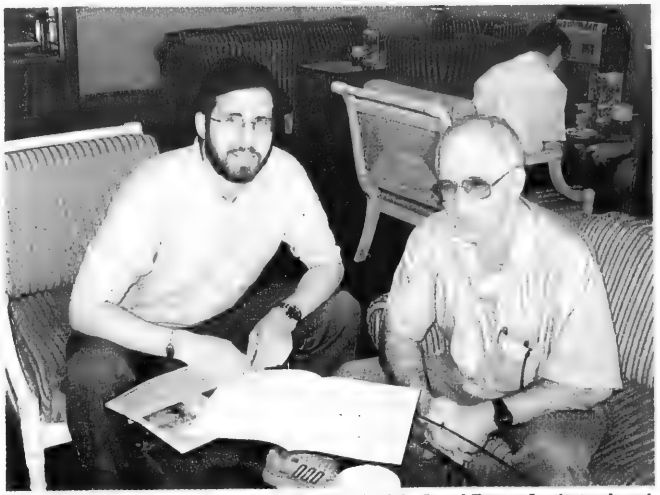

Torontonian Shai Spetgang and Avraham Israel, of the Israel Export Institute, shared ideas on environmental issues at a recent Israeli conference.

Canadian forges environmental ties at conference in Israel

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Shai Spetgang needed 30 seconds – give or take – to decide to accept the Israel Economic Mission's offer to send him to Tel Aviv for an environmental technology conference.

In his job as membership services and program development staffer for the Ontario Environment Industry Association (ONEIA), a non-profit business association with a membership of 140, the 28-year-old Torontonian liaises mainly with Ontario businesses that deal with environmental issues.

Sometimes, however, his work extends beyond local bounds. Once, he said, a pig farmer who'd seen the ONEIA website e-mailed him from Russia, requesting advice on turning pig waste into fertilizer.

The meeting in Israel – the 3rd International Exhibition for Environmental Studies – combined Spetgang's interest in environmental and business issues with his connection to Israel. His parents were born there and he attended Yeshivat Dvar Yerushalayim before spending a semester at the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies while he was working toward his BA in environmental studies at York University.

In mid-May, after learning about the conference, Spetgang contacted the Toronto offices of the Israel Economic Mission – an offshoot of Israel's ministry of industry and trade – and discussed the possibility of furthering co-operative efforts between Canada and Israel, using the environmentally related technologies of both countries.

Within days, he received a call offering him an opportunity to cover the event as a journalist. Coincidentally, the mission had just received a request to arrange for a journalist to attend the conference as a guest of the ministry and of the Israel Export Institute, a semi-governmental organization. Spetgang, who had already written for trade journals, was delighted to have the opportunity.

"It was bashert," he said, using the Yiddish word for "meant to be." Along with journalists from more than a dozen countries, Spetgang – to the best of his knowledge the only North American there – joined 100 Israeli exhibitors and delegations from four countries, including Rwanda and Malawi, for the three-day event last month.

The conference included tours to six environmental sites including Beit She'an National Park, where participants learned about innovative heating and structure in ancient Roman bathhouses.

Spetgang also toured the Israeli company Arrow Ecology's waste treatment plant, a pilot project in which technology is used to separate and process recyclable and non-recyclable waste.

Ormat Industries, one of Israel's largest environmental companies, has one of its 200 facilities in Canada, said Spetgang. In Israel, he toured an Ormat plant that manufactures equipment to turn "waste heat" ("leftover" heat generated by industrial processes such as making cement) to create electricity.

Environmentally, at least in some respects, Israel is where Canada was two decades ago, said Spetgang. Although Israeli technology, like Canada's, is cutting edge, and the country is advanced in the area of water conservation, many Israeli companies exceed their legal pollution limits, he noted.

Canada and Israel, he said, can learn a lot from each other.

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LifeStyle

On Campus

93-year-old graduates from U of T

By CARA EDELL
CJN Intern

As a recent graduate of the University of Toronto's Woodsworth College, Saul Goldstein, 93, has proven that his mind is still young and full of potential.

"I feel very elevated," said Goldstein, who received a bachelor of science with distinction in psychology on June 16. "Throughout my studies, I didn't realize the importance of it all. It's wonderful what I have achieved. I'm very proud of my B.Sc., and I understand from people that it's an amazing accomplishment."

Saul Goldstein

The grandfather of seven said the convocation ceremony was both moving and exciting. "When I was called up to receive my diploma, the whole audience stood up and applauded. It was an extraordinary feeling."

Barbara Track, executive director of advancement, alumni and communications at Woodsworth College, said Goldstein is the second-oldest student to have ever graduated from U of T.

But as the eldest of the seven seniors who took part in his convocation ceremony, Goldstein was the centre of attention.

"The crowd went wild for him," Track said.

Aside from realizing he has been a role model for fellow students, Goldstein said he has successfully followed in the footsteps of his children – daughter Vivian Tankus, a French teacher; son Roger Goldstein, a respiratory specialist and professor of medicine at U of T; and daughter-in-law Rose Geist, a psychiatrist at the Hospital for Sick Children and associate professor of medicine at U of T.

"No wonder I take to learning. I have to keep up with them all! I'm surrounded by graduates," he said.

The German-born Goldstein fled his adopted home of Hungary in 1938 at the urging of his father, a rabbi, as the Nazi threat grew. He settled in England, and his father, brother, mother-in-law and brother-in-law were later killed in the Holocaust.

He worked in a British button factory for most of his adult life – he and his wife moved to Canada in 1983 to be close to his children and granchildren – and had never attended a post-secondary institution. That made his decision to attend U of T nerve-wracking, he said.

"I was worried in the beginning. There were younger children [in the lectures] – well, young to me at least, 17 and 18 years old. I wondered how they would treat me."

To Goldstein's surprise, he said, his teachers and classmates were more than welcoming. Some offered to help him get from his car to lecture halls with his roller walker, while others assisted him with course material. One student even gave him a stuffed ladybug on Valentine's Day.

He completed his degree with a spot on the dean's list, but Goldstein stressed the experience would not have been possible without the help of his daughter-in-law Geist.

He said that after his wife Sidonie died a number of years ago, he was "obviously desperate" and needed a distraction from his sorrow.

Geist suggested university could fill his lonely days.

"She encouraged me and was very supportive. I am very grateful to her."

Goldstein said he has always loved psychology and could find no better way to occupy his time than studying the subject for almost four years.

While his age made him a novelty in the classroom, Goldstein said it posed certain burdens when assignments rolled around.

He said his main problem was using the computer to do research and type essays.

After looking up information for an essay on suicide, Goldstein told his professor he had found all but one reason for why people consider killing themselves.

"I said to him, 'When you're 93 years old, and you have to use a computer, that makes you think of suicide!'" he laughed.

For technology training, Goldstein turned to his 16-year-old granddaughter, Emily. "I'm jealous of my grandkids who know everything about computers. Emily knows all the answers. She always helped me and came to my rescue."

So what's next for Goldstein? He said writing his memoirs should keep him busy for a while.

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Winnipeg's first Jewish mayor 'humbled' by win

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Sam Katz, newly elected as Winnipeg's first Jewish mayor, says he feels "humbled" that so many people have shown such trust and faith in him.

"It is one of the most humbling experiences that I have ever had," he said last week, adding he is sure his late parents, Chaim and Zena Katz, are "kvelling with pride" right now and "shepping a lot of naches."

Katz, a businessman who is best known in the city as the owner of the Winnipeg Goldeyes minor league baseball club, easily won the mayoralty contest on June 22. He replaces Glen Murray, who resigned mid-term to run for the Liberals in the federal election and was ultimately defeated. (Under the city's system of fixed election dates, the mayoralty and 15 city council positions are up for grabs every four years, meaning Katz's first term will end in 2½ years.)

Sam Katz

Katz defeated eight other candidates, including two sitting city councillors (who both resigned their council seats to run), two former city councillors, a former provincial cabinet minister (who also resigned her seat to enter the race) and a former Saskatchewan MP who moved to Winnipeg a few years ago.

Even though Katz had no political experience and was the last candidate to enter the race, he received close to 100,000 votes, nearly double the tally of his closest rival. His success was based largely on name recognition and the personal popularity he built up over the years as a baseball team owner and entertainment impresario.

Now that he is inside City Hall, Katz said he is looking forward to working closely with council. "I have assured all the councillors that my door will always be open to every one of them," he said. "I have made a point of meeting with every one of them individually."

He admitted he is still being brought up to date on the issues.

Politics is actually the new mayor's fourth career. He was born in 1951 in Rehovot, Israel, to Holocaust survivors. The family, including older brother David, moved to Winnipeg in the early 1950s.

After graduating from university, Katz's first business venture was a clothing store in Brandon, Manitoba's second-largest city. A couple of years later, he opened a branch in Winnipeg.

After selling his clothing stores, he began dabbling in real estate.

He ended up owning a building that he turned into a social hall. He began booking acts for it, and a few years later, he formed Showtime Productions, which grew into one of Winnipeg's major concert promoters. Katz brought in such big names as the Rolling Stones and Paul McCartney, as well as touring Broadway musicals such as *Evita* and *Phantom of the Opera*.

Always a sports fan, Katz was determined in the early 1990s to bring professional baseball back to Winnipeg. His successful and much-publicized efforts highlighted an ability to persevere despite intense opposition and numerous stumbling blocks.

He first tried to bring a Triple A team to the city, but no league wanted a team in Winnipeg, so he hooked up with the new Northern League, an independent league that develops young players and gives veterans a second chance.

The Goldeyes played their first few seasons in the home of the Blue Bombers football club while Katz fought tooth and nail to build his own ballpark. He faced strong opposition at the time from the mayor and some city councillors, but he was eventually able to build his ballpark. Since the 7,000-seat Canwest Global Park opened in 1995, the Goldeyes have been the hottest summer ticket in town, regularly selling out every home game.

In the Jewish community, Katz has been honoured by the local chapter of the Canadian Associates of the Ben-Gurion University and the YMHA (now the Rady Jewish Community Centre). He has been actively involved with both.

Katz is married to Baillie and they have a young daughter named Ava.

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Federal Election '04

Montreal Jews stay faithful to the Liberals

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

Jews in Montreal stuck to their traditional Liberal vote, as did most anglophone and ethnic voters.

Mount Royal returned Justice Minister Irwin Cotler to Parliament with a 76 per cent majority, the highest for a Liberal candidate in the country, and the third-highest overall, behind two Conservative candidates in Alberta.

The two other Jewish Liberal incumbents in Quebec, government House leader Jacques Saada and backbencher Raymonde Folco, were re-elected in, respectively, Brossard-La Prairie, on the South Shore, and Laval-Les Iles, north of Montreal.

Cotler not only won all 192 polls, he garnered a majority in each of them, which is an accomplishment, he said, considering there were seven candidates. Nevertheless, his showing was a drop from his 82 per cent majority in the 2000 election.

The turnout in Mount Royal was 52.7 per cent, said Mount Royal Liberal Association president Mark Leiter.

Although it takes in such largely Jewish areas as Cote St. Luc and Hampstead, Mount Royal is not as Jewish as it used to be. According to the 2001 census, 36 per cent of the population is Jewish, but Cotler believes it is more like 30 to 35 per cent today.

Cotler receives third highest majority in Canada

Assessing his victory, Cotler stressed the multicultural nature of the riding and the support he received from all communities. He calls it a "rainbow coalition." (Mount Royal has the seventh-highest number of Muslims among Quebec ridings, representing 5.5 per cent of the population.)

Despite having a safe seat, Cotler said he campaigned "flat out… I think it is my most satisfying victory because the wind was blowing the other way [against the Liberals] in the province."

Cotler said he met "head-on" criticism from Jews about the Liberal government's record on Israel. "When I met Jewish groups, I didn't wait for the issue to be raised. Some of that criticism was based on incorrect information," he said, referring to an advertisement on the issue in *The CJN*.

"It spoke of Israel receiving zero dollars in aid from Canada and the Palestinians $250 million, but didn't say that Israel is ineligible, as a developed country, for aid and that the money to the Palestinians is humanitarian assistance."

As for Canada's voting record at the United Nations (UN), Cotler said an "empirical study" shows that under the previous Progressive Conservative government "it was even worse" in voting for or abstaining from resolutions denouncing Israel.

Over the Liberals' 11 years in power, "I believe that it is being incrementally improved… And we are committed to the larger issue of UN reform to ensure no state is singled out."

He defended Liberal policy of supporting both the security for Israel and the "legitimate right of the Palestinians to a democratic state… There is no contradiction in that."

Asked if he expects to be re-appointed to cabinet, Cotler, 64, said if Paul Martin calls, he will gladly serve. "I was very happy being justice minister and attorney-general. For a human-rights lawyer, it was a kind of dream."

Folco, 64, who was first elected in 1997 (her riding was previously called Laval West), said she has cabinet aspirations. "I was the only Liberal elected north of the Island of Montreal. There is always hope," she said, "but I don't like to tempt the devil."

Laval-Les Iles takes in a part of Chomedey, where the great majority of the area's Jews live. (The 2001 census found 3,760 Jews lived in the Chomedey district.)

Folco said she had the support of much of the Jewish community in the heated battle she fought to keep the Liberal nomination, which she won in March. She was challenged by Barbara Mergl, a member of the riding's Liberal association executive. In February, Folco filed a complaint with the RCMP that her phone had been tapped.

Folco took 48 per cent of the vote. Runner-up Micael Poirier, a CEGEP student with no political experience, finished more than 5,000 votes behind Folco. Laval-Les Iles is about 60 per cent francophone, and has a significant ethnic population, especially Greek.

Because of the nomination battle, Folco said she was, in effect, campaigning for almost nine months and she believes that made the difference against rising support for the Bloc Québécois.

Saada, 57, who was also first elected in 1997, managed to hang on to Brossard-La Prairie on Montreal's South Shore by a 2,500-vote margin over the Bloc's Marcel Lussier. The riding is about 70 per cent francophone, with a significant ethnic population. There are perhaps a couple of hundred Jews. (The 2001 census identified 750 Jews in all of the South Shore.)

Early in the campaign, several of Saada's posters were daubed with swastikas.

In Outremont, chassidic and haredi Jews there may have been the deciding factor in the election of Jean Lapierre, Prime Minister Paul Martin's Quebec lieutenant, according to Alex Werzberger, president of the Coalition of Hassidic Organizations.

Lapierre, the former Bloc MP who ran for the first time as a Liberal, won by 3,000 votes, which is about the number of votes the chassidic and haredi communities delivered, Werzberger said.

Overall voter turnout in the riding was 59 per cent, but among chassidim and haredim, it was about 85 per cent, he said.

The communities are traditionally Liberal, but Werzberger said Lapierre made an effort to reach out, visiting some of the synagogues, and that helped shore up support for him.

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Coast to Coast

'Wait and see mode' on Liberal minority

Continued from page 1

Canadian Jewish Congress, meanwhile, noted the re-election of key pro-Israel MPs while taking a wait and see attitude to future government policy towards Israel and on national security issues. Congress, along with other Jewish advocacy organizations, had been critical of Canada's voting record on UN resolutions affecting Israel. Candidates canvassed by *The CJN* acknowledged Jewish voters brought up that issue – among others – during the campaign.

Kadis, a former school trustee, said her campaign stressed strong support for Israel."I will encourage more balanced resolutions. That will be a priority for me," she said.

Kadis said she expects to join Liberal Parliamentarians for Israel, a group of MPs and senators who have pushed for a more pro-Israel stance. The group includes Bennett, Peterson, Volpe, Folco, Marlene Jennings, Bernard Patry, Cotler and Senator Leo Kolber. Neville and senators Richard Kroft of Winnipeg and Jack Austin of Vancouver are also members.

Kadis said she would condemn manifestations of anti-Semitism and other forms of racism when they occur and she would push for a change in the way Ontario funds religious schools. Only Roman Catholic schools currently receive government funds and "we definitely have to right that wrong," she said.

During the campaign, Kadis encountered many voters angry at the Liberal sponsorship scandal. "The prime minister will fix the problems to ensure that it doesn't happen again," she said.

But it was the "Liberal core values of inclusion, respect and equal opportunity" along with the party's focus on health care that, in the end, swayed voters, she said.

According to Elections Canada's preliminary results, Kadis won the riding with 54.6 per cent of the votes. Her nearest competitor, Conservative Josh Cooper, came second with 34.5 per cent of the ballots.

Despite the 20 per cent difference, Cooper said, "I think we did very well for our first time out. Eighteen thousand [voters] wanted me as their MP. For the first time out, that's fantastic."

Cooper said the Tories polled five per cent more votes in Thornhill than the party's national average and increased the Tory vote by 5,000 over the combined Progressive Conservative and Alliance tally in 2000.

"At the end of the day," however, "the message of our national campaign versus their national campaign was lost."

The Liberals, he said, relied on "fear-mongering, which was unfortunate. But people bought it. We ran an honest campaign."

Still, he said, his early review of the results suggests that in polling stations in heavily populated Jewish areas – the riding is 46 per cent Jewish – "we did very well." Part of that can be attributed to the Conservatives' message on "the Israel issue" but "I don't think Israel is a main issue for Jewish voters… There are other issues."

As for his future, Cooper said he had caught the political bug but will regroup and consider his options. "We've got a solid base. Had the national campaign been different…

"There's no doubt the riding is winnable."

In Winnipeg South, meanwhile, Neville increased her margin of victory over her showing in 2000. She received 46.6 per cent of the vote, eclipsing her Conservative opponent, Raj Joshi, by almost 20 per cent.

It was the largest margin of victory in Manitoba, she said.

Neville said Jewish voters in the riding were concerned about Canada's UN voting record, "and I explain that you can't look at the UN resolutions in isolation, you have to look at the other initiatives and the fact that Israel views Canada as one of its best friends."

Neville said local issues, including the planned shut down of an army base, as well as the sponsorship scandal were the main focus of the campaign in Winnipeg South.

She said she hopes Parliamentarians for Israel, where she served as co-chair, will resume its activities, particularly lobbying the foreign minister to moderate Canada's policy towards Israel.

Back in York Centre, meanwhile, Conservative Michael Mostyn was putting a positive spin on his 11,000-vote loss to Liberal Ken Dryden. The riding, he noted, has sent Liberal MPs to Ottawa for more than 40 years. "Basically, they had a Liberal support base of 71 per cent and that was cut down to 55 per cent."

With 21,385 votes, Dryden polled 54.6 per cent of voters. Mostyn received 10,308 votes, or 26.3 per cent of the total. In 2000, however, Liberal Art Eggleton won the riding by 20,000 votes.)

"We made tremendous headway," said Mostyn. "We had to build support from scratch. We had no money and we went up against a Liberal juggernaut with unlimited funds."

Mostyn suggested the short campaign did not allow him to get his name out in the community and match the name recognition of Dryden, an all-star goalie with the Montreal Canadiens and a senior executive with the Toronto Maple Leafs.

Mostyn said that in addition to making inroads in the Jewish community, which is concerned over the Liberal's record on Israel, his views on government waste, scandals and crime resonated with the Jewish and other minority communities in York Centre.

"I think the members of the Jewish community we were able to reach understood our message and we received their support."

Ed Morgan, president of Canadian Jewish Congress, said the absence of a majority government or even an obvious minority configuration will make coming months uncertain.

"I am very heartened that some of the strongest Israel supporters were elected," particularly Cotler and Conservative Stockwell Day, he said.

"In terms of a minority government, we're still in a wait and see mode at the moment. I'm hopeful that the Jewish outcry at the government's voting record at the UN has been heard loud and clear in Ottawa."

While it was unclear which party the Liberals will tap for support, Morgan said "I'm hopeful that on foreign, national defence and security matters, [the Liberals] will rely more on the Conservatives."

"On anti-Semitism and domestic security, the Liberals have been relatively strong… On national security, I hope they stand behind their anti-terrorism legislation."

Morgan said Congress is hopeful the incoming government will agree to the Jewish community's request for funding for security measures that have been implemented at institutional buildings in the wake of a recent surge in anti-Semitic incidents.

B'nai Brith Canada spokesperson Frank Dimant said the Jewish community should be concerned if the Liberals look to the New Democratic Party for support on issues related to Israel.

Supreme Court ruling backs condo sukkot

Continued from page 1

The court's role is only to determine the sincerity of a claimant's belief, it says.

The Supreme Court says freedom of religion under the Canadian and Quebec rights charters "does not require a person to prove that his or her religious practices are supported by any mandatory doctrine of faith," and any distinction between "obligation" and "custom" is "unduly restrictive."

In this case, the Supreme Court says there is no doubt about the appellants' sincere belief that they must fulfil the obligation of "dwelling" in a sukkah throughout the holiday and that any restriction on that "constitutes a non-trivial interference with and thus infringement of their protected rights…"

The high court did find that, even though the obligation may not be to have a sukkah on one's own property, it sided with the appellants' contention that having to, for example, go to a relative's home or make use of a "communal" sukkah on the condominium property interfered with their enjoyment of the holiday.

The intrusion on the other co-owners' rights to peaceful enjoyment of their property and to personal security guaranteed by the Quebec charter are "at best minimal" and therefore limits cannot reasonably be placed on the appellants' exercise of their religious freedom, the judgment says.

Although part of the common property, the court notes that the balconies are for the exclusive use of the owners of the units.

"The potential annoyance caused by a few sukkahs being set up for the period of nine days each year would undoubtedly be quite trivial," the judgment says.

Nor is asking the appellants to waive their freedom of religion because they signed the declaration of co-ownership justified, according to the Supreme Court.

"They had no choice but to sign the declaration of co-ownership, if they wanted to reside at that complex. It would be insensitive and morally repugnant to intimate that the appellants simply move elsewhere if they take issue with a clause restricting their right to freedom of religion."

The six appellants live in Place Northcrest, two buildings that are part of Le Sanctuaire du Mont-Royal. The dispute goes back to 1996, when two of them, Moise Amselem and his wife, Gladys Bouhadana, were told by the Syndicat Northcrest, the co-owners' association, to remove it, citing the bylaws in the declaration of co-ownership.

The following year, Amselem requested permission from the Syndicat to set up a sukkah on his balcony and was turned down. The Syndicat suggested a "communal" sukkah in the Sanctuaire's gardens as a compromise. The appellants did not accept this proposal, claiming that their personal religious beliefs called for individual sukkot or that it would be a hardship to not observe the holiday in their own homes.

When the appellants went ahead and erected their own sukkot, the Syndicat filed for and won a permanent injunction in June 1998, in Quebec Superior Court, prohibiting the erection of sukkot on balconies.

In 2002, Rochon's decision was upheld by Quebec Court of Appeal in a 2-1 split.

The Supreme Court majority was composed of chief justice Beverley McLachlin and justices Frank Iacobucci, John Major, Louise Arbour and Morris Fish. The dissenters were justices William Binnie, Louis LeBel, Marie Deschamps and Michel Bastarache.

B'nai Brith lawyer Steven Slimovitch said the verdict "sets an important precedent for the exercise of sincerely held religious beliefs. The high court has upheld B'nai Brith's argument that the state should not be the final arbiter of religious dogma. Rather, this must be a private matter set by each individual."

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Family Moments

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Mazel Tov to...

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or email them to:
cblackman@cjnews.com

Mazel tov to Rebeca Bookman on your graduation from Associated Hebrew School. Love, Mom, Dad and all your mishpachah.

Bonnie & Stan Arbus & Nancy & Arthur Amos
take pleasure in announcing the engagement of their children
Stephanie & Mark
Proud grandmother is
Babe Arbus
Happy siblings are
Michael & Julie, Kim & Marc, Jennifer & Brent and Ezra

Congratulations to Rosalyn Laiken on receiving your B. Comm. with high honours from Carleton University. Your parents, Rebecca, grandmother and John all wish you much success.

Arnold & Frances Heisler announce the engagement of their son Frank to Yamit, daughter of Rabbi Moshe & Jaclyn Elbaz of Valdosta, Ga.

Sam & Irina Kleiman, Joseph & Freda Naiman are thrilled to announce the engagement of their children Dina & Alan.

Happy fourth birthday to Melanie and first birthday to Lesley, daughters of Lori & Perry Zosky. With all our love Grandma Myrna, & Papa Hy Schwartz.

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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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What's New Deadlines: There is no issue July 22. The July 15 issue will include community events that take place from July 15 to 28. Monday, July 12, is the deadline for the July 29 issue and Monday, July 26, is the deadline for the Aug. 5 issue. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Sunday, July 11

JEWISH SINGLES EVENT

Join a social evening of board games and bingo for singles ages 21-39 and 40-69 at Beth Torah Synagogue, 47 Glenbrooke Ave. 7:30 p.m. $6. For information, call **Mollie** at 416-733-3634.

DEDICATED TO THE LIGHTS

A plaque recognizing the contribution **Herbert and Edith Light** have made to the community will be unveiled at the Anshei Minsk Synagogue. Light was a ba'al koreh at the Minsker shul and very involved in its chevrah kadishah. Davening takes place at 8:30 a.m., followed by the dedication and a celebration brunch at 9:15 a.m. 10 St. Andrew St., Kensington Market. All welcome. 416-595-5723.

Tuesday, July 13

WOMEN'S LECTURE

Neve Yerushalayim and its seminaries hosts an evening with **Rabbi David Refson,** speaking on the topic of "Celebrating Individuality in a World of Conformity." All women welcome. 8 p.m. BAYT, 613 Clark Ave. W., 905-886-3810.

Other news

CONCERT IN THE PARK

Enjoy a free outdoor concert in the theatre at Earl Bales Park, featuring **Mitch Smolkin** performing Broadway and Yiddish hits. Thursday, July 15, 7 p.m. Rain location is inside the Earl Bales Community Centre. For further information, call 395-7873.

ART FOR LIFE

Summer portrait drawing classes take place on Thursdays, July 15, and Aug. 5, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Antibes Community Centre, 140 Antibes Dr. $20 per class includes the model fee. Additional classes include "Using Pastels" on Thursday, July 29 and "Painting Trees and Flowers" on Thursday, Aug. 19. 6:30-9:30 p.m. $15 per class. Register now by calling **Henry** at 416-495-0704.

VOLLEYBALL FOR 20 &30s

Adath Israel Young Business and Professional Network for 20- and 30-somethings presents "Volleyball at Beach Blast," 15 Leswyn Rd. Thursday, July 15 at 8 p.m. Reservations must be made by Monday, July 12. $10. Call **Rachel** at 416-635-5340 or e-mail rachel@adathisrael.com.

YARCHEI KALLAH

The 10th annual Yarchei Kallah in Toronto will take place July 20-22 at Yeshivat Or Chaim, 159 Almore Ave., with **Chana Henkin**, the founder and dean of Nishmat: The Jerusalem Centre for Advanced Jewish Study for Women. The topic is "Narratives of the Land of Israel: Cities and Sites in Tanach." There are four sessions: mornings 9:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m and afternoons 1-3:30 p.m. Sessions are: Tuesday morning, "Where is Rachel Buried and Why is She Mourning?"; Wednesday morning, "Ruth and Itai: Covenants of Chesed"; Wednesday afternoon, "Between Zor'a and Eshtaol: Manoach's Wife"; and Thursday morning, "Why was Jerusalem Chosen?" For more information, call 416-789-4883.

FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

JRCC Institute of Jewish Studies presents **Chavi Rosenzweig** and **Orna Welman** sharing their personal stories of growth in the shadow of tragedy. Sunday, July 25 at 7:30 p.m. 18 Rockford Rd. 416-222-7105 ext. 230.

VENDORS WANTED

National Council of Jewish Women is looking for vendors for a huge flea market Sunday, July 25 at 4700 Bathurst St. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sell new or used items or hold your own garage sale. For information, call 416-633-5100.

Continued on page 23

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What's New

Continued from page 22

Shuk in the Park 2004, Sunday, Aug. 29, is looking for musical acts, vendors and volunteers. To get more information, contact the hotline at 416-485-7007, ext. 200, or visit www.shukinthepark.com.

WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT

On Thursday, August 5, more than 300 women will participate in the 8th Annual Henry's Tournament "Fore" Health at Angus Glen Golf and Country Club in Markham. This all-women's tournament supports the Marvelle Koffler Breast Centre at Mount Sinai Hospital. Created in 1997 by **Anne McIntosh**, a two-time survivor of breast cancer, this annual event has raised more than $1 million to date. For information and registration, contact **Amy** at 416-941-0560 or amystein@henrys.com.

YIDDISH SEMINAR 2004

The First Annual Yiddish Seminar at the Miles Nadal JCC takes place at the end of August. The event is modelled after programs offered in New York, Vilnius and Oxford. The programs include intensive study of Yiddish language for beginners and advanced students and a cultural component with guest lecturers, music workshops and films. A one-day Yiddish marathon for absolute beginners takes place Sunday, Aug. 29, from 10 am.-2 p.m. Beginner's Yiddish one-week seminar, Aug. 30-Sept. 3, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.-noon, Tuesday and Thursday conversation class 1:30-3 p.m. Three-week advanced Yiddish seminar, Aug. 16-Sept. 3, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to noon. Conversation class, Mondays and Wednesdays 1:30- 3 p.m. Cultural programs includes guest lecturers, music and film, Aug. 30 to September 3. Call 416-924-6211 for information and registration.

FOR SENIORS

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Dances every Saturday night through July and August; Cruise and Casino, Wednesday, Aug. 11; Casino Niagara, Thursday, Aug. 26. Call 416-395-7881, Mondays to Thursdays 9 a.m-1 p.m.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the boardroom at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Call 416-630-9444.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. July 8, lecture; July 15, discussion; July 22, movie. Call **Menachem Wallach**, 905-731-7748, or **Malka Colla**, 416-630-5771.

Chai Shalom of Beth Emeth Synagogue theatre excursions: *Cats*, Thursday, July 29 and *Oklahoma*, Thursday, Aug. 26. Both shows 2 p.m. at the Orillia Opera Playhouse. $48 per show includes transportation. To reserve with payment, contact **Tema Wasserman**, 905-770-0355, or **Marlene White**, 905-731-2515.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

"Leadership in Difficult Times: What Makes a Good Leader" with **Prof. Hugh Innis**. Tuesdays, July 13, 20 and 27 between 10 and 11:30 a.m. Members $1.50, non-members $3.

"The ABC's of Fraud" Thursday, July 8 at 1 p.m.

Israel Day Festival, Wednesday, July 21, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew-speaking seniors meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. July 13, picnic at Earl Bales Park; July 20, lecture. Call **Galit Osadtsuk** at ext. 115.

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

Advanced computer course to learn about Microsoft Word, Explorer and more. Begins Wednesday, July 14, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Members $40, non-members $60. Space limited. For information, call **Mara** ext. 2275.

The Seniors Support Program is holding its Annual Tea on Thursday, July 22 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the recreation room, main floor, hospital at the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care. It's an opportunity for clients of the Seniors Support Program and their friends to meet face to face with the volunteers that they converse with over the telephone each week. In addition, there are openings for new people in the community who could benefit from telephone support. If you are interested in registering for the Seniors Support Program, call ext. 2247.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

The Koffler School of Visual Arts is offering summer classes in ceramics, stone sculpture and painting and drawing.

The Koffler Gallery presents **Mitch Robertson**: "S & P 100," July 15 to Sept. 26. Reception, Thursday, July 15, 6 to 8 p.m. Artist's talk at 6 p.m. Robertson questions what constitutes authentic experience. As travellers, are we privy to the true culture of another country, or do we see a version which was designed for us? He will convert the gallery into a site in which travel souvenirs are manufactured and sold, exposing the mechanisms that transform mass-produced objects into cherished "keepsakes."

The BJCC and Mount Sinai offer a prenatal class Aug. 8 and 15 from 10-4 p.m. The cost is $136 per couple. To register, call ext. 390.

The BJCC School and Daycare has day-care spaces available for September 2004, a new extended Tic Tac Two morning program from 9-11:30 a.m. and new preschool, nursery, junior kindergarten and senior kindergarten, morning options of 9-11:30 a.m. or 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Call ext. 248 to book a tour or for more information.

The Koffler School of Music registration for fall classes open for babies' and toddlers' music, preschool music, piano, guitar, violin, flute, saxophone, ensembles, Suzuki piano and violin, Nashir Children's Choir, opera master classes, opera appreciation and Resa's Pieces Band.

Cirque Du Soleil's *Alegria*, Sept. 9, 8 p.m. at Ontario Place. Tickets are $180. With the purchase of every ticket, you are entered into a draw to win a weekend for two to Las Vegas. Call ext 271.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or wwwmilesnadaljcc.ca

Summer programs for children: Bell Raptor Ball, a youth league that provides children ages 5-14 years old the opportunity to enjoy basketball. Begins Thursday, July 8. Registration required.

CORRECTION

In the photo "AvivBreakfast" (*CJN*, June 24), the names of committee members Sharlene Wiseman and Barbi Benjamin Levitt were incorrect. We regret the errors.

HEART TO HEART: Doctors from Shaare Zedek Medical Centre in Jerusalem and Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre met recently to discuss medical breakthroughs related to heart care in Israel. From left are Bradley Fox and David L. Smith, co-presidents of Canadian Shaare Zedek Foundation; Dr. Dani Bitran and Shuli Silberman, of Shaare Zedek; Kurt Rothschild, executive chair of Canadian Shaare Zedek; and Dr. Bernard Goldman of Sunnybrook.

GOLF TOURNAMENT: The 8th Annual Zareinu Golf Tournament raised funds that will go toward providing Zareinu's students with therapies and education. From left, top row, are Darrell Gold, Linda Sone, Gail Bergman, Stephanie Caplan, Dayle Levy, Marni Dicker, Andrea Kriedstein, Shaindy Fischer and Randy Katzman. From left, bottom row, are Brian Bossin; Robin Steinberg; Jeff Lanys, committee co-chair; Barbara Lanys; Evan Sone, committee co-chair; Julie Davis, event co-ordinator; Stephen Offenheim; and Mark Kaplan.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 20

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OBITUARIES and Related Notices

To place any other family related notice, please call at least 10 DAYS prior to the issue date

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Ettie Zweigman	Jun 17/04	1 Royal Orchard Blvd
Honey Shapiro	Jun 19/04	35 Canyon Ave
Ethel Rosenthal	Jun 18/04	10 Seniac Rd
Betty Silver	Jun 19/04	15 Fraserwood Ave
Dr. Jeff Sherkey	Jun 20/04	434 Lytton Blvd
Jerry Gladman	Jun 21/04	101 Old Surrey Lane
Albert Glazer	Jun 23/04	565 St. Clements Ave
Art Feldman	Jun 23/04	56 Overbrook Place
Buddy Perlove	Jun 23/04	6040 Bathurst St
Ruth Goodman	Jun 25/04	205 Cummer Ave
Martin Abrams	Jun 26/04	7 Bruce Farm Dr
Harry Ungerman	Jun 25/04	2600 Bathurst St
Freda Winnick	Jun 26/04	37 Collinson Blvd

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Glass, Annette	June 22, 2004	1303 Wilson Ave
Greenspan, Nathan	June 22, 2004	Private
Parl, Mary Edith	June 21, 2004	2 Westover Hill Rd
Izen, Joseph	June 23, 2004	Private
Lehberg, Robert Leonard	June 22, 2004	4005 Bayview Ave
Zarnett, Anne	June 23, 2004	1925 Steeles Ave E
Lockhart, Betty	June 23, 2004	Private
Weiss, Josef	June 25, 2004	10 Trench St
Banks, Hyman	June 26, 2004	4001 Bayview Ave
Padro, Benny	June 27, 2004	1085 Steeles Ave W
Zimmerman, Berta	June 27, 2004	Private
Malkina, Berta	June 28, 2004	11 Goldfinch Crt
Goodman(Golosky), Pearl	June 28, 2004	Private

In loving memory of my dad

Mihail Daichik (Misha) ז"ל

August 19, 1946 – July 11, 2003

Dad, I can't believe a year has already passed, since you were suddenly taken from us. We miss you so much, your grandchildren, even though so young have not forgotten you, they talk about you all the time. They miss you so much and wish you were physically here with them, as do we all. We love you more than words could say. We will meet again, but for now you are our angel watching over us.

Love always, Natalie and T.E.A.M. Tony, Enrico, Anthony and Matthew

בה

Card of Thanks

Adolf Abraham Rosenzweig - ז"ל

Passed away on May 21, 2004 in Montreal.

The family of **David Rosenzweig** and **Yegal Rosen**, want to thank all the Clergy, the extended family, the close friends and the staff of the Montefiore Residence, who participated at his Funeral at Paperman's and the Shiva. Thank you for your words of comfort and support at our time of grief and loss.

Thank you also for celebrating Adolf's birthday and life on Feb. 15, 2004 and for making donations, in his memory, to many charities. May all those that knew him be blessed by his memory and his selfless tzedakah.

Watch this space each week for obituaries and related notices. When placing unveiling notices, please ensure the ad is booked at least **15 days** prior to the date of the unveiling. To place any family related notice, please call 416-391-1836

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QUALITY MONUMENTS... FACTORY PRICES

There will be no issue of The Canadian Jewish News the week of July 22nd, 2004.

Volunteering...For Life!

Betel Centre recognizes over 600 volunteers

Summer is a great time to be a volunteer at the Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, which recently held its annual banquet acknowledging over 600 volunteers, ranging from 16 to 90.

"Volunteers in their later years are no less energetic than younger ones," says Volunteer Co-ordinator Sharon Chapnick.

(l-r) Carol Sahian and Esther Ship at the Ticket Sales Desk

Esther Ship volunteers several days a week on the Ticket Sales Desk, serves as Chair of the Centre's Wellness Committee, sits on Members' Council as well as serving as an alternate on the Board of Directors, volunteering at the Centre for twelve years in total. "Volunteering here has helped me enjoy my life."

Volunteer librarian Molly Novak pitches in at a book sale fundraiser

Sadie Rose celebrates a recent birthday at the Betel Centre

"I gradually became much more active. I found very, very good friends here, who have helped me through rough times."

Chapnick says members enjoy volunteering on committees where they can be part of the decision-making for the Betel Centre. "They're an integral part of how the Centre works."

Volunteers, both Centre members and non-members, help in every aspect of the Centre, from ticket sales and computers to home visits or meals on wheels deliveries.

Many volunteers join the Centre first, says Chapnick. "They enjoy coming so much, they decide they want to give back to the Centre, both of their time and their expertise."

"I'd never had the opportunity to volunteer before," says Molly Novak, Betel Centre librarian, who has been volunteering for 22 years

Molly is among the Centre's many longtime volunteers. Recently, member Sadie Rose received the Queen's Jubilee Medal for lifelong community service, including her dedicated work at the Betel Centre.

At the volunteer dinner, Sadie read her own poem about volunteering at the Centre. Part of that poem appears below, Sadie's tribute to her wonderful experiences at the Betel Centre.

I awaken in the morning
And my day has just begun
Wouldn't it be great, I think
If I could have a little fun?

My friends are all so busy
That they have no time for me
They're all involved with doing things
To join in or to see

I think I'll join the Centre
To which they all belong
They tell me I can join with them
For as little as a song

The programs are so interesting
They're right for any taste
You may be sure you should attend
'Cause time's not there to waste

So don't sit home and wonder
If there's something you can do,
Just come right in and volunteer,
The Centre welcomes you!

And remember:
Work is for a living
Volunteering is for life!

Volunteer Mary Spring at work in the Computer Learning & Resource Centre

Meals on Wheels volunteers and others are always needed. For information on voluntering at the Betel Centre, please call Sharon at (416) 225-2112, Ext. 127.

A rare glimpse of Betel Centre volunteers at leisure

Computer Workshops

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Register with Jennifer at x128

For more information, please call (416) 225-2112 or visit any Wednesday at 11 for a tour!

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4-year-old Benny seeking bone marrow transplant

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Once again, the Jewish community is being asked to come forward to help one of its children. Or someone else.

Benny Fulton is a four-year-old Toronto boy who loves Spiderman, Superman, Power Rangers and fighting with his older brother, Max. His favourite activities are going to the cottage, climbing and dressing up as his superheroes.

He also loves cheesecake, pickles, chicken noodle soup and his 10 stuffed dogs, all named Molly.

Benny used to have rosy cheeks and curly blond hair. He doesn't anymore. He has been diagnosed with acute lymphatic leukemia.

Therapy has been ineffective, and now his only hope is to receive a bone marrow transplant. None of his family is a match, and he must depend on the Unrelated Bone Marrow Donor Registry (UBMDR), a service of Canadian Blood Services.

Benny's aunt, Sheila Levy-Bencheton, said that last winter, his parents became concerned when they found bruises all over his body. He was diagnosed in March, and only aggressive chemotherapy has kept him in a stable enough remission to allow him to receive a bone marrow transplant. Provided one can be found in time.

He has developed a gallstone and other stomach problems as a result of his therapy and medication. He has lost his hair.

Benny Fulton in healthier times.

Still, Levy-Bencheton said, "he has shown his own, amazing feats of bravery, and truly puts a smile on the face of anybody who meets him."

Bone marrow, the Canadian Blood Services website explains, is the tissue found in the soft centre of the bones. It manufactures blood cells, including red blood cells, which carry oxygen, white blood cells, which fight infection, and platelets, which help stop bleeding.

In a transplant, a patient's diseased marrow is replaced with healthy marrow from a volunteer donor. Outcome depends on such factors as the level of compatibility between the donor and the recipient, and the stage and type of the disease.

A needle is used to remove bone marrow from the large bones of the donor's pelvis. This procedure is carried out under either general or spinal anesthetic. Most people need only a mild pain reliever after the procedure.

The marrow is replaced in two or three weeks. Complications are extremely rare.

Bone marrow matches are determined according to the compatibility of six genetic markers, called human leukocyte antigens. The best chance for a match is from a person's immediate family. If nobody in the family is a match, as in Benny's case, the next best chance is someone from the same ethnic group.

That is one of the reasons the UBMDR wants to have as diverse a potential donor base as possible.

To join the registry, donors must be between 17 and 50 years of age, meet specified height and weight criteria, and be free of most cancers, heart disease, insulin-dependent diabetes, kidney disease and certain infectious diseases, such as HIV/AIDS and hepatitis.

You may join the registry by filling out the form on the website at www.bloodservices.ca or calling 1-888-2-DONATE. You will be called to give a small blood sample for testing. The information is then added to both the Canadian and international registries.

It must be stressed that you cannot be tested specifically for one particular person. You may be a match for anyone, not only in Canada but all over the world. You may be called soon or over time.

Similarly, the international registry may find someone in England, Israel or Russia, for instance, who is a match for a patient in Toronto.

The Talmud says that he or she who saves one life is as if he had saved the whole world. Joining the registry may mean you can save Benny, or someone else.

KOFFLERS HONOURED: At a recent gala held by the Israel Cancer Research Fund (ICRF) and the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation, Marvelle and Murray Koffler and their family were recognized with the ICRF Humanitarian Award, and Dr. Pamela Goodwin was honoured with the ICRF Scientific Award. Proceeds from the gala will fund a digital mammography machine at Mount Sinai Hospital. Picture at the gala, from left, are honorary gala co-chairs George Cohon, chief executive officer of McDonalds Restaurants of Canada, and Nancy Paul Tsai, founder of the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation; Lawrence Bloomberg, director of the National Bank of Canada; and Marvelle and Murray Koffler.

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Chief Rabbinate: Jewish law bars violence on political issues

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The Chief Rabbinate of Israel announced Monday that Jewish religious law (Halachah) prohibits settlers from using violent means to protest the evacuation of any settlements in the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

In its announcement, the Rabbinate stressed that the political dilemmas currently facing the country cannot be resolved by violence. At the same time, however, the Rabbinate fiercely objected to any attempt to accuse Israel's rabbis of incitement to violence.

The announcement came in the wake of statements made by several rabbis recently permitting resistance to the evacuation of settlements.

On Sunday, Shin Bet security services director Avi Dichter also warned the weekly cabinet meeting of growing extremism among some far-right activists and opponents of the government's disengagement initiative.

Cabinet minister Gideon Ezra, responding to Dichter's remarks, said security forces should track down in advance potentially violent opponents of disengagement, and keep them from carrying out "insane acts."

Ezra also warned against forces among the far-right who carried out terror acts against Arab citizens and were not apprehended. He said these people are now likely to act against Jews in their struggle against the disengagement and planned evacuation of settlements.

MK Effi Eitam, leader of the strongly pro-settler National Religious Party (NRP), on Monday called for the arrest of extremists if the Shin Bet has evidence against them. He added that this must be done in order to lift the dark cloud hanging over an entire sector.

Earlier, Rabbi Daniel Shilo, spokesman for the Committee of Yesha Rabbis of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, criticized Dichter's warning.

Rabbi Shilo also said that when the civil rights of settlers are trampled by the government that first sent them to the settlements, one could expect "irregular responses."

But, he added, "it is unacceptable to me that the head of the Shin Bet should speak like this. Either he has solid evidence or he would be better off not speaking, because this [spreading rumours without evidence] is incitement, rebellion, and stirring up fights."

Referring to Dichter, Rabbi Shilo said, "First of all, the spreading of rumours must stop. The propagation of hatred must stop. Solid evidence must be related to, not these sorts of flimsy things. I know no one who says that it is permitted to shove or strike security forces personnel."

He said when opponents of evacuation discuss resistance, "they speak of 'fierce passive resistance.' Expulsion of people from places where they have lived for dozens of years, and who were directed there by the government, this is an act that is the crudest form of trampling of civil rights. So there's no need to be amazed if among the people condemned to this terrible act, there will be irregular responses as well. One can expect this."

Dichter's remarks led Attorney General Menachem Mazuz to call a meeting to discuss the policy of filing indictments on the issue of incitement to violence. The meeting is expected to take place this week.

Mazuz said he called for the meeting because some rabbis have recently called on Israelis to refuse to participate in the future evacuation of settlements.

He also called on rabbis and other public leaders to avoid remarks on political issues that could be misunderstood, and "to refrain from unnecessarily radicalizing conflicts in this sensitive time."

The meeting will be attended by Dichter, Israel Defense Forces' Judge Advocate General Menachem Finkelstein, police representatives and senior officials from the justice ministry and the state prosecution's office.

Ezra recently stirred a storm of controversy by suggesting during a Knesset speech that Gaza Strip settlers should inform on anti-disengagement militants they believe could act with violence.

"With the Israeli government's disengagement plan, we are facing a phenomenon of remarks against the disengagement," Ezra said. "There is liable to be a situation where someone among the settlers, or people outside of the settlements, will interpret incorrectly the comments of rabbis and others concerning resistance. These people must be located ahead of time, and prevented from carrying out any insane acts."

NRP's Eitam said that if Dichter knows of specific individuals likely to commit violence, he should arrest them, rather than effectively casting aspersions over all Israelis opposed to the disengagement.

"I urge the head of the Shin Bet to do his job. If there are things that he knows, it's preferable that he act, rather than to create this cloud hovering over an entire public," Eitam told Israel Radio. "There is an enormous public of religious and secular people who oppose the decision and the process under which the decision was made. This public will struggle for its views in every legal, democratic manner.

"If there are people on some right-wing or left-wing fringe who do not intend to play under these rules, it is the job of the General Security Service [Shin Bet] and the police to arrest them." However, he added, "to sweep a gigantic public and its leaders into a situation of sanctions against free speech is a grave step."

Dichter told the ministers that right-wing extremists recently attacked a lieutenant colonel as he walked through Jerusalem with his wife, because he had helped dismantle the synagogue at the illegal West Bank outpost of Tapuah.

Justice Minister Yosef Lapid said in response that the far-right currently feels as though it can do whatever it wants, after the police failed to arrest the former director of the Prime Minister's Office, Uri Elitzur, who called on settlers to violently resist the evacuation of outposts and settlements.

UN nuclear watchdog visits Israel

By YOSSI MELMAN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Mohamed El Baradei, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), was in Israel this week for an official visit of less than 48 hours, but the Dimona nuclear facility was not on his itinerary.

He certainly wanted to see the plant where, according to foreign reports, Israel is developing fissile materials for producing nuclear weapons, but his wish was to remain unfulfilled. The Egyptian diplomat, who has worked for various UN agencies for 30 years, was also not scheduled to visit the research-oriented nuclear reactor in Nahal Soreq. Israel would actually be willing to allow such a visit, but El Baradei was set to make do with the memories of a previous visit to that site in 1997.

El Baradei's schedule did, however, include meetings with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom and the director general of the Israel Atomic Energy Commission, Gideon Frank. He was also scheduled to meet with Health Minister Dan Naveh to discuss Israel's research applications vis-a-vis nuclear medicine.

El Baradei was also to be taken on a flight over Israel to see the country's "narrow waist" – the pre-1967 border - between Tulkarm and Netanya.

The architects of Israel's security policies, almost regardless of party affiliation, assert that before Israel discusses its nuclear capabilities, it must have peace agreements with its neighbours, while Arab countries must be stripped of their chemical and biological weapons and Iran must be prevented from obtaining nuclear weapons.

The Arab countries and Iran, on the other hand, demand that there be discussion of Israel's nuclear disarmament before any other steps are taken. The IAEA finds itself in the middle, and under El Baradei, supports the establishment of a Nuclear Free Zone (NFZ).

Israel has already given its agreement in principle to such a zone in the Middle East, but demands that talks take place within the framework of a "non-binding" seminar, based on the model of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, Mexico, where in 1966 the first agreement of its kind was signed, creating an NFZ in Latin America. Since then, accords have been signed in Asia, the South Pacific, and Africa.

However, the Arab countries and the IAEA want the basis for discussion to be the Palindaba Treaty of South Africa, which resulted in an African NFZ. South Africa was also a party to this treaty, and after it agreed to nuclear disarmament in 1989, it allowed the IAEA to visit its facilities and it signed a nuclear non-proliferation treaty. Israel refuses to adopt this model out of concern it will be held to the South African precedent.

El Baradei knows he won't budge Israel from its insistence on the Tlatelolco model. He also knows he will not change Israel's policy of ambiguity – whose logic, El Baradei told *Ha'aretz* six months ago, he understands completely.

A sense of Israel's attitude to this visit can be ascertained from the Israel Atomic Energy Commission website (www.iaec.gov.il), which states that Israel welcomed El Baradei's visit and pledged to listen closely to him, "within existing and well-known policy parameters."

Nevertheless, El Baradei sees his well-publicized visit and his talks with senior Israeli nuclear officials as an achievement of no small importance.

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Canadians mark Jerusalem tragedy that hit close to home

By JENNY HAZAN
CJN Israel Bureau

JERUSALEM — When members of the Canadian Jewish community heard that 27-year-old Limor Ben Shoham had been killed in a terror attack at Café Moment in Jerusalem on March 9, 2002, they were even more shaken than usual to hear the news about one of the casualties of terrorism in Israel.

"It didn't feel as though it happened thousands of kilometres away from Canada, like a flash in the news," said Maxyne Finkelstein, executive vice-president of UIA Federations Canada in Toronto. "This was real. This was about a real family. It was a tragedy that occurred to people we care about – part of our larger family here in Jerusalem."

Finkelstein said many officials from the Canadian Jewish community knew Limor through her father, Shlomo, and her brother, Nir, who operate a taxi service out of Gilo for Canadian visitors to Israel.

"They often drive people from our organization when they are visiting from Canada, so we connected closely with them over the years," he said.

"When Limor died so tragically, we wanted to respond in a concrete way, to support the family and to help them through the difficult time."

That's why UIA Federations Canada, along with FEDERATION CJA Montreal and UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, decided to pool their resources with the New Jerusalem Foundation to create a memorial dedicated to Limor, near her parents' house in the Jerusalem neighbourhood of Gilo. Of the 591 attacks on Jerusalem since September 2000, 180 have taken place in Gilo.

"The family wanted to put a little bit of her memory here," said Finkelstein. "So, we created this nice little place for them to come and sit, and feel like there is still a little bit of Limor in the neighbourhood."

The $100,000 Cdn, six-pillared Limor Ben Shoham Observation Point, which overlooks the Arab neighbourhood of Beit Saffafa, was unveiled last week at Vardinon and Shabtai Ha'negbi streets. Two hundred friends, family and representatives from the Canadian Jewish community gathered to honour Limor's memory.

"Two years have passed, but the pain is still hard to bear," said Limor's sister, Orit Ben Shoham, at the unveiling. "There are no words to describe the emptiness, the sorrow and the pain that we experience. Every day, every holiday, every event, we feel her loss. Dad would always say, 'Limor is home, the light is home.'

"The house was always open and friends who came to ask for advice found a sympathetic ear when they shared their experiences with her."

Orit said, tearfully, that on the morning of the day she was murdered, Limor went to the beach, where she spent the whole day before going to Café Moment to join her friends.

"Limor found the unique thing about everyone and more than that, she accepted us as we really are, even when it was hard for us to accept ourselves," Orit continued.

"At this monument, we wish to commemorate her. We will always remember

Canadians in Israel attend the unveiling of the Shoham monument in Gilo.

and never forget."

Orit's son, Roi, recited a poem.

"Everything seems like a dream, like the morning will come and you shall smile again with your warmth," he said.

"But reality penetrates and it is very difficult to accept. It is very difficult to understand and move forward. The sound of your laughter was silenced, and the freezing silence penetrates the blood. It is very difficult to forget your smile and your good heart that caused everybody to fall in love with you.

"They say you have to accept the good, the bad and the hurting, even when somebody who you love departs. But it is so difficult when it is about you. We go back home without you now. But we will never forget and always love. You are in our hearts as you were always and you will remain with us in the future."

Limor's best friend since childhood, Dikla Mizrachi, said, "I never imagined that I would have to say things in your memory, to try to describe you to people who never knew you, to describe the loss of you to the world."

Mizrachi recalled that Limor was "a beautiful redheaded girl with a redhead character, always with a big, shiny smile on her face, always willing to help others. She was a star made out of stardust. She had this glowing light that lit up the people who surrounded her. She was full of life and full of joy, and she lived a full life, as if she knew she didn't have all her life to live."

After Limor's father recited Kaddish, Zvi Raviv, director general of the New Jerusalem Foundation, read from a letter sent by Israel's Deputy Prime Minster Ehud Olmert.

"I know that there are no words of comfort that could ease the pain," Raviv said. "But, I congratulate you on the way you find the strength to overcome the great loss and work to eternalize the memory of Limor."

Jerusalem's mayor, Uri Lupolianski, sent his political advisor Jacob Rosen in his place. "I hope that this observation point, which many people will be able to enjoy on behalf of Limor's family, will bring them some comfort and ease some of the pain," Rosen said.

"This dedication ceremony of the Limor Ben Shoham Observation Point represents a deep and special bond between the Jewish communities in the Diaspora and their brothers in Israel. Limor was a Jerusalem resident. But her tragic death in the Moment Café touched the hearts of the Canadian community."

Finkelstein said, "We are here today to honour a beautiful young woman and her memory, and to say to the people of Gilo, 'We are here with you. Your friends in Canada are part of you and stand strong beside you.'"

Orit Ben Shoham thanked the Canadians in attendance. "Your profound connection to Israel is shown through your support of aliyah to Israel and your contributions to hospitals, educational institutions and community centres," she said. "In our difficult situation, Canadians continue to come to Israel and we bless you for that."

Executive vice-president of FEDERATION CJA Montreal, Danyael Cantor, said that the "UIA family is a tight one and the Ben Shohams are part of that family.

"When this tragedy befell them, we had to do something positive, not only to memorialize Limor but [also] to push back the sadness and the loss by doing something positive.

"That's why we are here today. It's a modest token of our feeling and sentiments, but I think it speaks to the Jewish spirit of trying to take the hurt and the pain and turn it into something positive."

YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

יידיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פון: אַלעק סילווער

פּרילינג קאָנצערט פון טאָראָנטער יִדישן פֿאָלקס כאָר

פון אַלעק סילווער

אַ שפּריכוואָרט זאָגט: „אייך שוואַלב ברענגט נישט דעם פרילינג". מען קען אבער מיט זיכערקייט זאָגן, אז דער טאָראָנטער יִדישער פֿאָלקס כאָר ברענגט יאָ דעם פרילינג. איך וויים, אז דער קאָנצערט קומט פֿאַר אין מאַי, וואָס אין שוין פרילינג. עס זעט אָבער אויס, וי דער עולם וואָלט געוואָרט אויפן קאָנצערט, כדי אפּיציעל אַראָפּצוואַרפן די וינטער געפילן און אַריינלאָזן דעם פרילינג אין זייערע הערצער.

האָט טאַקע אַ הפֿשער עולם געשטראָמט צום זאַל פון קאָנצערט אין דעם שיינעם נאָכמיטאָג פון זונטיק, דעם 16טן מאַי, 2004, און צוריק זיי — מיין פרוי און איך. און דער כאָר האָט אונדז נישט אנטוישט, נישט מיט זיך פרילינג שטימונג און נישט מיט זיך פֿראַגאַם. דער זאָל איז געוואָרן פּמעט פול זייער פרי און עס האָבן זיך געהערט פריילעכע אויסרופן, וען פּיימד האָבן זיך באַגעגנט נאָכן לאַנגן, קאַלטן וינטער.

וי האָט אויסגעזען דער קאָנצערט? . . . וי שטענדיק זייער גוט! עס איז געווען אייגעטלעך אין צוויי טיילן. דער ערשטער טייל האָט אריינגענומען אַ צאָל לידער אין פאַרשידענע שפּראַכן, פון פאַרשידענע קאָמפּאָזיטאָרן און אַראַנזשירערס. עס האָט זיך אָנגעהויבן מיט אַ זייער שיינעם ניגון אָן ווערטער: „דער ניגון פון די פֿלימיד בעל שם טוב", אַראַנזשירט פון בען שטיינבערג, און האָט זיך בעגעריקט מיט דרייַ טעאַטער לידער אין יִדיש: „רייזעלע", „דער אַלטער ציגיינער" (פאַלא: מרים עסקין, פידלער: באַזאַן זיסקיטש) און „אַבי גזונט" (פאַלא: הערמאַן ראָמבאָוטש). און דאָ האָט דער יִדישער צוהערער אויפגעלעבט. פאַקע דערפאַר וויל'אויך צוגעבן עטלעכע פאַקטן.

דאָס ליד „רייזעלע" איז פון מרדכי נעבּיק־טיג — וועראַטער און מחיק. דער יִדישער קאָמפּאָזיטאָר אברהם (אייב) עלשטיין האָט אראַנזשירט דאָס ליד און בעשאַפֿן די מחיק פאַר די אנדערע צוויי. איך דערמאָן עס, וויל וען דאָס יִדישע טעאַטער איז געווען אין די בלי־יאָרן איז עלשטיין געווען פאַרבעכט וי אייגער פון די פּיר גרויסע אויף „סעקאַנד עוועניו" (דער יִדישער טעאַטער נעבּגעס). די אַנדערע דריי זיינען געווען: אלעקסאַנדער אַלשאַנעוסקי, שלום סעקונדא (דער קאָמפּאָזיטאָר פון „ביי מיר ביסטו שיין") און יוסף רומשינסקי („שיין וווי די לבנה"). עלשטיין האָט אויך געשאַפֿן מחיק פאַר יִדישע פילמען, ספּעציעל פאַר מאַלי פּיקאָן: „מאַמעלע" און „יִדל מיטן פידל".

„אמאָל איז געווען". . . האָט זיך דערהערט די קלעזמערקע שטימע פון טעאַטער מאַרק פאָקס און מיט דעם האָט זיך אָנגעהויבן דער צווייטער טייל פון קאָנצערט: „מסעות בימין השלישי" (די ייִדע פון בימין דעם דרייסן), באזידט אויף דעם ווערק פון מענדעלע מוכר ספרים. די מחיק איז געשאַפֿן געוואָרן פון מאָקס העלפמאַן, לויטן טעקסט פון יהודי סגל און אַראַנזשירט פון דזשיענוס אַלעקסאַנדער וועפּריסקי. דער נאַראַטאָר איז געווען לערער סאַלוועי.

דאָ וויל זיך אויך צוגעבן עטלעכע פאַקטן פאַר דעם יִדישן עולם. עס זיינען שוין אריבער 125 יאָר זינט מענדעלע האָט אָנגעשריבן דאָס בוך. עס איז שוין איבערגעועצט געוואָרן אין אַ צאָל שפּראַכן. די ערשטע איבערועצונג איז געווען אויף פּויליש. דער פּוילישער שרייבער קלעמענס יוזעפֿאַ האָט זיך ספּעציעל אויסגעלערנט יִדיש צו קענען איבערועצן דאָס בוך. עס איז דערשינען אין 1885 אונטערן נאָמען *דאָנקישאָטסקי* (דער יִדישער דאָן קיכאָט).

אין דעם טייל איז געוצט געוואָרן דער קלעזמער אנסאַמבל „בּיאַנד טהי פּעל", וועלכער האָט זייער אויסגענומען בייַם עולם און באַקומען שטאַרק אַפּלאָדיסמענטן. עס איז נאָר אַ שאַד, וואָס דער קלעזמער אנסאַמבל האָט נישט באַקומען אַ ביסל צייט צו קענען שפּילן פאַרן עולם באַזונדער. אין דעם טייל האָבן זיך אויך אויסגעצייכנט די סאָפּראַנאָ מרים עסקין, דער טענאָר מאַרק פאָקס און דער באַס הערמאַן ראָמבאָוטס.

אויב איר זענט געווען אייגער פון די, וואָס זייַנען נישט געווען בייַ דעם קאָנצערט — האָט איר דוכגעלאָזט אַ גוטע געלעגנהייט צו מאַכרענגען אַ שיינעם נאָכמיטאָג. מאַכט זיכער נישט אינעווזנדן דעם זעלבן פּעלער קומענדיקן יאָר. דער כאָר מאַשאָפּט פאַרגענגן פּאַרן יִדישן בּוזאָנג ליבהאָבער און ער דאַרף אין מוז האָבן אומדזיר אותעוושיצונג.

Lower taxes in Israel

The Knesset last week approved second and third readings of a bill that will reduce income tax for lower and middle-bracket wage earners and offer them a gradual reduction of other taxes. The tax reductions went into effect July 1.

Sharon heeds High Court

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon ordered the defence establishment to reroute the 30-kilometre stretch of the separation fence between Modi'in and Jerusalem that the High Court of Justice declared illegal, and to examine whether other parts of the fence also should be rerouted in light of the ruling. Sharon said that in areas where there are no legal problems with the route, construction work should begin "immediately, at full speed. As for the rest, in areas where we cannot compromise on security, don't make concessions. But in places where we can, we need to do as little damage as possible to the Palestinians' way of life, and we can move [the fence] a little closer to the Green Line."

Sees through walls

An Israeli company has developed a device that sees through walls. A small, startup company, Camero, based in Herzliyah, has built a radar system that, from 65 feet, can produce three-dimensional images of what's behind a wall, *Ha'aretz* reported. Such images, using ultra wide-band technology similar to ultrasounds, could be used by troops hunting terrorists.

Study: Israeli children poor

The rate of children's poverty in Israel is higher than in other western nations, a study said. The study done for the Taub Center for Social Policy Studies in Israel by Israel's National Insurance Institute found 600,000 children, 30 per cent of Israeli youth, belong to poor families, the Israeli business newspaper *Globes* reported. The rate of children's poverty is 26 per cent in Mexico, 22 per cent in the United States, 20 per cent in Turkey, 12 per cent in Greece and Spain, and 3 per cent in Sweden.

Barak contradicts Clinton

Ehud Barak denied a claim in former U.S. president Bill Clinton's autobiography that Syria was ready to make peace with Israel. In *My Life*, Clinton writes that the former Israeli prime minister could have made peace with Syria in early 2000. At a conference in Netanya, however, Barak said Syria did not agree to new borders but continued to demand the eastern shore of the Kinneret, Israel's main reservoir and an asset Barak had made clear he could not surrender.

Hezbollah extorting money?

Hezbollah is making millions of dollars from the West African diamond business, U.S. diplomats charged. Some of the money comes from extortion, Associated Press reported. Hezbollah allegedly has funnelled money to the Palestinians' Al-Aqsa Brigades for terrorist attacks during the past few years.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz.

World Jewish population growth flat: study

By DINA KRAFT
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

TEL AVIV — For many Jews, the results of a new report on world Jewry represent a case of both good news and bad news.

On the one hand, the number of Jews in the Diaspora is on the decline, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is emboldening anti-Semites worldwide, and Jewish and Israeli morale is down.

On the other hand, Jews worldwide are relatively affluent, educated and politically involved.

The findings are among many in a report on the state of the Jewish people in Israel and abroad, which was presented to the Israeli government Sunday by the Jewish People Policy Planning Institute. The institute is a think tank chaired by former U.S. Middle East peace envoy Dennis Ross and funded in part by the Jewish Agency for Israel.

Worldwide Jewish population is approaching zero population growth at 13 million people, the report says. It found that between 1970 and 2003, the world's total population increased by more than 70 per cent, while the total Jewish population increased by only two per cent.

The bulk of Jewish growth has been in Israel.

"The survival of the Jewish people is not assured, though there are great opportunities for a thriving future," the report states. "Therefore, determined and large-scale efforts are needed to maximize the opportunities and ward off the dangers."

Jewish population figures in the Diaspora are declining because of low birth rates, a rise in interfaith marriages and an aging population, according to the 60-page report, which was co-ordinated by well-know demographer Sergio Della Pergola.

The report recommended that Jews take a long-term approach to the future by improving Jewish institutions, leadership and decision-making processes on issues affecting world Jewry.

It also said that improving the security and Jewish uniqueness of Israel should be done in part by encouraging immigration to Israel, spending money from Diaspora Jews on long-term projects aimed at building Jewish identity, and demanding that Israel increase religious pluralism by normalizing the status of non-Orthodox movements in the country.

To counteract the demographic decline in the Diaspora, the study recommends making Jewish education more financially accessible.

Among the report's key findings:

- At the beginning of the 21st century, 92 per cent of the world's Jewish population lived in the top 20 per cent of countries ranked by standard of living.
- Turmoil in the Middle East tarnishes Israel's image in the world.
- The United States' pro-Israel leanings antagonize other countries and generate hostility against Jewish communities.
- Anti-Semitic motifs, including the denial of Israel's right to exist, are gaining currency, particularly in the Muslim world.
- The new anti-Semitism demoralizes Diaspora Jews.
- In the last 20 years, enrolment in Jewish day schools in the Diaspora has grown.

The report is the first to be released by the institute, which said it intends to release the report annually.

Diaspora Jews to help with new constitution

By YUVAL YOAZ
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Jewish legal experts from the Diaspora will take part in the drafting of a constitution for Israel.

Co-operation between overseas and Israeli jurists in the drafting of the constitution – which is being prepared by the Knesset's constitution, law and justice committee – will have significant impact on clauses that relate to issues of religion and state, citizenship and "Who is a Jew."

The co-operation agreement between overseas Jews and Israelis was worked out last week at a meeting in the offices of attorney Alex Hartman, president of the International Association of Jewish Lawyers. Likud MK Michael Eitan, who chairs the Knesset's constitution, law and justice committee, former justice minister Dan Meridor, and Prof. Arik Carmon, president of the Israel Democracy Institute, were among those at the meeting.

Former Supreme Court president Meir Shamgar, Jewish Agency Chairman Sallai Meridor, and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's bureau chief Dov Weisglass have been involved in other consultations sponsored by the Democracy Institute's "Constitution by Consensus" project.

"You can't ignore the fact that the state of Israel has a crucial connection with world Jewry, and the constitution refers to topics about which the opinion of Diaspora Jews is germane," Hartman said. But he stressed that the overseas Jewish jurists will not play an active role in the drafting of the proposed constitution, but will help clarify certain professional-legal issues and discuss topics of special import to world Jewry.

Participants at last week's meeting agreed to hold a workshop on key issues of interest to world Jewry that relate to the Jewish and democratic character of the State of Israel. The participants emphasized that the overseas jurists' role will be purely advisory, and that the ultimate decision on constitutional matters will be made by Israeli citizens.

Specific items to be discussed in these consultations are citizenship eligibility, anti-Semitism, and religion and state matters.

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Arts & Travel

Hairspray actress appreciates standing ovation

By CARRIE BRODI
Special to The CJN

At the end of a recent performance of the musical *Hairspray*, Jewish actor Caissie Levy stands grinning, side-stage, as the wildly appreciative audience rises to its feet.

The 35-member cast, festooned in mile-high wigs and garishly playful 1960s garb, has just nailed the rousing finale of a fast-paced yet seamless show.

"We don't expect a standing ovation every night," Levy says, "but we get one most nights and it sends everyone offstage on such a high. It feels wonderful."

Caissie Levy

Like those onstage, the audience at the Princess of Wales Theatre in Toronto is a veritable rainbow nation of old and young people of varying ethnicities and persuasions. Most are equipped to get every double and triple entendre, delighting in the unending camp, kitsch and spectacle that is *Hairspray*.

In devotion to the show, more than one young girl in the audience has done her hair up in a sticky bouffant, with a blue (or red or fuchsia) streak painted down the back.

Who knew a cute little story about a chubby teenager, who dreams of singing and dancing on national television in 1960s Baltimore alongside her African American friends, would resonate so strongly in 2004?

"At the core of the show is a longing to be accepted. Everybody can relate to that and everybody loves to root for the underdog," Levy says. "I like to think that people leave the show with a deeper message of integration and race relations, hopefully realizing that people are all the same at heart."

Based on the 1988 John Waters film, staring a hefty-at-the-time Ricky Lake, the Broadway play opened in New York in 2002 to rave reviews and garnered eight Tony awards including best musical. Mounted in Toronto last April with a predominantly Canadian cast, *Hairspray* is sold out most nights and is generating a lot of positive publicity.

But Levy, 23, who grew up in Hamilton, Ont., is no stranger to adulation. Shortly after graduating from the American Musical and Dramatic Academy (AMDA) in New York City, she toured the United States in the Tony Award-winning musical *Rent*, and received enthusiastic reviews for her portrayal of one of the principle characters, Maureen, a lesbian performance artist.

"Studying in New York – physically being in the city – was pivotal to my getting the part," she says. "I auditioned once and didn't get it, and then auditioned four months later when they were re-casting the show. I was very lucky."

Acting in *Rent* meant schlepping around the country on a bus, performing eight times a week and facing some unpleasant situations, such as the odd stage-door protest in the American South in response to the show's gay and AIDS-related subject matter.

"It was very much like a Jewish person experiencing anti-Semitism," she says. "When it happens, it knocks the wind right out of you."

Joining the cast of *Hairspray* in a supporting role has been a different kind of education for Levy. For one thing, she's dancing for almost two hours each night, something that took a major physical adjustment. Also, instead of playing a lead role (her character, Tammy, has very few lines), Levy's job is to make the company as a whole look good and support the lead character, Tracy Turnblad, played by Vanessa Olivarez, a former *American Idol* finalist from the show's 2003 season.

"This is the first cast I've been in where everybody gets along," Levy says. "There aren't any riffs in relationships and there are no divas. That has a lot to do with our leadership. Mirvish Productions is a really welcoming place to work and they create an atmosphere of companionship."

Growing up in a kosher, Conservative Jewish home, attending Jewish day schools until Grade 8 and acting in plays at Ontario's Camp Ramah, Levy said she knew very young that she wanted to act, sing and dance. Her parents are both avid theatregoers and art collectors, and they always encouraged Levy and her two older brothers to pursue their desires. Both of Levy's brothers are also in the arts, working in film and television.

"My parents get a lot of joy out of knowing that I am happy and that I pursued what I wanted," she says. "They always told us that they didn't want us to have any regrets in life."

Focused on acting on the Broadway stage in the future, Levy can think of a few dream roles she'd love to take on, including 16-year-old Laura in Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie*. But she remains focused in the moment, something she says actors have a hard time doing.

"This is what I always envisioned my job to be," she says. "Not a day goes by that I don't realize how lucky I am – even on the days when I don't feel like smiling for two hours. It's an amazing life to lead."

For tickets, call TicketKing at 416-872-1212 or toll-free at 1-800-461-3333.

Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

CHATELAINE EDITOR MAYNARD TURNS THE PAGE

Rona Maynard, editor of the 76-year-old Canadian publishing institution known as *Chatelaine*, is leaving that hallowed dowager at the end of the year, the magazine announced recently.

There are "a lot of other things that I'd like to experience... I'm a restless person," said Maynard, 54, adding she would likely continue her monthly column for the lucrative women's publication, which is owned by Rogers Media Publishing.

Maynard said she would also like to do some editorial consulting work and take on some speaking engagements. She is contemplating writing a book, she said – which is not surprising, given her family's strong literary background.

Her mother, **Fredelle Bruser Maynard**, wrote several books, including the two biographical works *Raisins and Almonds* (1972) and *The Tree of Life* (1988). And sister **Joyce Maynard** has also penned numerous titles, none more famous than *At Home in the World* (1998), her sensational and widely excerpted memoir of her youthful relationship with the reclusive literary legend **J. D. Salinger**.

If Rona Maynard is only half as successful at writing books as she has proven to be at editing a magazine, her contemplated book is bound to be a best-seller.

* * *

Sean Cullen, left, and Michael Therriault won awards for their performances in *The Producers*.

Dept. of Theatrical Irony: Although the final curtain fell this week on **Ed** and **David Mirvish's** ambitious and entertaining production of *The Producers*, *The New Mel Brooks Musical*, it goes out in a burst of glory and recognition in the form of six Dora Awards.

Although the show grossed revenues of about $32 million after 258 performances, thus earning back every penny put into it, its investors were nervous about declining audience numbers in a tourism environment that still hasn't fully recovered from last year's SARS scare.

At the Dora ceremony on June 28, cast members **Michael Therriault** and **Juan Chioran** won outstanding performance awards, **Rick Fox** won for outstanding musical direction, **Steve C. Kennedy** won for sound design, **Susan Stroman** won for outstanding direction of a musical, and **Ed** and **David Mirvish** won for outstanding production of a musical.

Speaking of the Doras, Tarragon Theatre's production of the **Jason Sherman** play *Remnants* won for outstanding production of a play, sharing the honour with *The Syringa Tree*, a tying production from CanStage. *Remnants* also took awards for lighting and direction (**Richard Rose**).

* * *

Casting Call: Teatron, the Jewish-friendly theatre company, is holding auditions this summer for the acclaimed plays *The Chosen* by **Aaron Posner** and **Chaim Potok**, and *The Sisters Rosensweig* by **Wendy Wasserstein**.

Based on the bestselling Potok novel, *The Chosen* tells the story of two boys, two fathers and two very different Jewish communities "five blocks and a world apart." Five male actors of varying ages are required. Performance dates are Nov. 26 to Dec. 12.

The Sisters Rosensweig is a thought-provoking comedy that tells the story of three sisters, originally from Brooklyn, who search for love, self-definition and fulfilment. Performances are planned from March 10 to 19, 2005, in co-operation with Amicus Productions. Four female and four male actors of varying ages are required.

For more details or to book an audition, visit www.teatrontheatre.com, e-mail teatron@sympatico.ca or call Ari Weisberg, 416-781-5527.

* * *

Musical Theatre in Markham: Brian Goldenberg, an accomplished Markham musician and recent graduate of York University's music department, has penned *Seven of Us*, a musical that tells the story of seven friends who finish university and must decide what to do with the rest of their live:

The Markham Youth Theatre production is being presented at the Markham Theatre, July 15 to 17. Part of the proceeds to be donated to the Herbert H. Carnegie Future Aces Foundation, an organization that helps young people. 905-305-7469.

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Arts in Brief

- The Toronto Arts Coalition hosts "Under the Radar: Where are the arts in local media?" a discussion with six guest panelists. Takes place in the Fringe Tent or, if raining, at the Fringe Club, 292 Brunswick Ave. Thursday, July 8, 5 p.m. 416-966-1062.
- MAD Pride Day, for Marginalized and Disadvantaged communities, is July 14. In tribute, the **Friendly Spike Theatre Band** presents the MAD Pride Theatre Festival, July 9 to 18 at 2466 Dundas St. W., Studio 210. Information, 416-516-4740 or e-mail friendlyspike@globalserve.net
- Due to high interest, Beckett Fine Art Ltd. (120 Scollard St.) is holding over the **Ethel Rosenfield** Exhibition until July 17.
- Mirvish Productions presents "Tasty Thursdays," 45-minute showcases of the popular musicals *Hairspray* and *Mamma Mia!* in Nathan Phillips Square, as 10 restaurants offer their fare in the square. Begins July 15, at noon.

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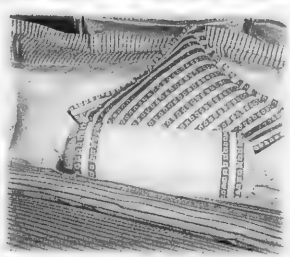

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AIR CANADA

Nathan the Wise preaches religious tolerance

By DAVID SILVERBERG
Special to The CJN

Art is timeless when its message resonates through the ages.

G.E. Lessing's *Nathan the Wise,* written in 1779, is still relevant as a didactic play preaching religious tolerance in a world of hate and ignorance.

Produced by the Soulpepper Theatre Company and running until July 31 at Harbourfront Centre Theatre, *Nathan the Wise* is a mesmerizing tale set in Jerusalem during the Crusades.

The first act begins with the moneylender Nathan comforting his daughter Rachel after she is saved from a fire by a mysterious man.

Her knight in little armour turns out to be Conrad, a Knight Templar who belongs to a Christian military order. After befriending Nathan, Conrad falls in love with Rachel, although Nathan is hesitant about offering his daughter's hand in marriage.

The subplot of this drama revolves around the problems of Saladin, the Sultan of Egypt. With dwindling finances, the sultan seeks advice from Nathan the Wise, a name given to him for his Solomon-like wisdom and problem-solving ability.

When Saladin asks Nathan to name the better religious man – Jew, Christian or Muslim – Nathan regales him with a parable that concludes with a non-answer. No religion is holier than the other, he says, but faith is the common denominator that spiritually nourishes a man.

In the first act, director Tim Albery takes us on a journey into intolerance, but later uncovers the warmth within compassionate people.

The second act moves faster than the first, and in it, the play seeks to answer theological questions: Can one can be Christian in blood but Jewish in life? Does the truth cause us to do terrible things to other human beings?

Nathan the Wise explores the themes of anti-Semitism as a weapon, duty versus ethics, fatherhood and religious violence.

The message of *Nathan the Wise* is to love your neighbour. In tumultuous times, Lessing sees cross-cultural relationships as the key to unlock the door to peace – Jew befriends Christian, Christian shakes hands with Muslim, and Muslim hugs Jew.

William Webster, a Soulpepper veteran, portrays Nathan – a man thought to be modelled after Moses Mendelssohn, a German Jewish philosopher Lessing befriended.

Behind grimaces and thoughtful sighs, Webster digs deep to open his acting arsenal and fully envelops himself in a Jewish thinker trying to right the wrongs in a hateful world.

Dusan Dukic, in the role of Conrad the Knight Templar, stands out. As handsome as he is, Dukic appropriately turns ugly when his thoughts turn to anti-Semitic rage, but he softens when he thinks of the beautiful Rachel.

Cara Pifko plays the lead role in CBC-TV's *This Is Wonderland,* but in *Nathan the Wise* she forgoes the spotlight as Rachel. She practically glides across the sand-strewn set, her eyes deep pools of emotion and her smile speaking volumes. The conversations she has with Nathan are especially memorable.

What succeeds best is the play's language. *Nathan the Wise* is a didactic poem in the purest sense.

For tickets, call 416-973-4000.

Cara Pifko as Rachel and William Webster as Nathan in *Nathan the Wise*, a mesmerizing tale set in Jerusalem during the Crusades.
[Guntar Kravis photo]

The Battle of Algiers: classic cinéma vérité

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Although *The Battle of Algiers* was released in 1965, it is as fresh and relevant today as it was almost 40 years ago.

Rereleased by Rialto Pictures, Gillo Pontecorvo's classic documentary-style film will be screened at the Art Gallery of Ontario by Cinematheque until July 10.

Nominated for three Academy Awards, and the winner of the Grand Prix at the Venice Film Festival, *The Battle of Algiers* vividly recreates the Arab uprising against France in Algeria.

The Algerians, led by the National Liberation Front, fought for their independence in a brutal, no-holds-barred guerrilla war that erupted in 1954 after 124 years of French colonial rule.

Through a sustained campaign of terrorism in Algeria's white-washed capital city, Muslim rebels waged a successful war.

In 1962, eight years after the French prime minister, Pierre Mendes-France, vowed to crush the rebellion, Algeria gained its sovereignty.

There are chilling parallels between pre-sovereign Algeria and contemporary Iraq, which was occupied by the American and British armies in the wake of the 2003 allied invasion.

In both cases, insurgents resorted to terrorism – random bombings and shootings – to achieve wide-ranging political objectives.

No wonder the Pentagon recently screened *The Battle of Algiers* for military personnel.

The Algerian model of resistance has also been adopted by the Palestinians in the current intifadah, though the historical circumstances are far from identical and Israel and Algeria can hardly be compared.

The black and white film, which is 123 minutes in length, opens in October 1957, when a grizzled Algerian nationalist breaks down under torture and reveals the hiding place of the last surviving guerrilla leader in Algiers' casbah, Ali La Pointe (Brahim Haggiag).

His interrogator, Col. Mathieu (Jean Martin), modelled after the French general who mercilessly crushed the revolt, is a cool and cerebral soldier who has no illusions about his mission.

Flashing back to 1954, *The Battle of Algiers* chronicles the fighting in a remarkable succession of taut scenes punctuated by fiery explosions.

Filmed in Algiers, it unfolds against the backdrop of relentless violence as the rebels take their unconventional war into the city's chic European quarter.

After launching a series of attacks that terrorize the civilian population, France calls in the paratroopers, commanded by Mathieu.

He and his men are ruthless as they systematically destroy the rebel network. They win the immediate battle but lose the long-range war for hearts and minds.

Pontecorvo, an Italian Jew, tells the story in a measured fashion, and thanks to his balanced style, *The Battle of Algiers* remains a shining example of cinéma vérité.

***The Battle of Algiers* is still fresh and relevant.**

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Books & Authors

Modigliani largely unappreciated during his brief life

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Amedeo Modigliani, the great Italian painter and sculptor, was insufficiently valued in his own lifetime.

Critics, art dealers and gallery owners all too often brushed him aside as a minor talent, failing to appreciate the ethereal beauty and historic significance of his work.

Amedeo Modigliani

A Sephardi Jew whose tragically brief life was framed by extreme poverty, substance abuse and chronic ill health, he was one of the most misunderstood artists of the 20th century.

Modigliani was influenced by a hybrid of western and non-western styles, from early Renaissance and Cubist paintings to Japanese prints and Cambodian reliefs.

But at heart, he was a trailblazer whose independent bent of mind yielded an impressive, indelible body of portraiture and sculpture.

Eighty-four years after his untimely death, The Jewish Museum in New York City has mounted the first major exhibition of Modigliani's work in decades, "Modigliani: Beyond the Myth," which explores his development within the context of European modernism.

Indeed, there has not been a show like this since the 1951 retrospective at the Museum of Modern Art in Manhattan.

The current exhibition at The Jewish Museum – which moves to Toronto's Art Gallery of Ontario on Oct. 23 – consists of more than 100 paintings, sculptures and drawings.

They are on loan from collections in Canada, the United States, Israel, Europe, Asia, South America, Japan and Australia.

The catalogue of the exhibition, *Modigliani: Beyond the Myth*, a hard-back book, was officially published on June 28 by Yale University Press in association with The Jewish Museum.

This handsomely crafted coffee-table volume, edited by Mason Klein, the curator of The Jewish Museum, is made up of erudite essays by Klein and an assortment of Modigliani experts.

But as edifying as their pieces may be, the colour plates of Modigliani's paintings and sculptures leave the most singular, lasting impression.

Modigliani's *Portrait of a Young Woman* (1916) and *Young Seated Girl with Brown Hair* (1918) are models of portraiture.

His erotically charged nudes, from *Nude* (1917) to *Reclining Nude with Loose Hair* (1917), are also included, as are his stylized sculptures of heads – all obviously marked by African and Egyptian influences – and his unobtrusive drawings of the human form.

Modigliani left only four landscapes, and two, redolent of the Impressionist school, are reproduced – the sombre *Small Tuscan Road* (1898) and the brighter *Landscape at Cagnes* (1919).

Born in Livorno (Leghorn) in 1884, he was the fourth child of Flaminio Modigliani and Eugenia Garsin.

The family, which could trace its ancestry to the philosopher Baruch Spinoza, was prosperous until a series of business failures forced them to declare bankruptcy.

If not for the generosity of Eugenia's affluent brother, the Modiglianis might have been far worse off.

Flaminio, being away much of the time, exerted little or no influence on his youngest son. Eugenia, however, imparted imperishable values.

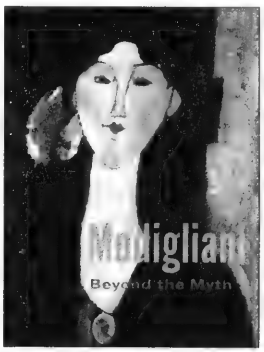
Mother and son, in 1900, visited Rome, where they feasted their eyes on the Borghese Gallery, the Sistine Chapel and various Roman ruins, and Florence, where they saw museums, galleries and churches.

The wealth of these cultural treasures had a tremendous impact on Modigliani's imagination and sensibility.

In 1902, when he was still a teenager, he had the good fortune of meeting the Chilean painter Manuel Ortiz. He regaled Modigliani with stories about Impressionists such as Claude Monet, Camille Pissarro, Paul Gaugin and Vincent van Gogh.

Modigliani studied art in Florence, but soon expressed a desire to move to Paris, where, he was convinced, he could learn more, develop his own esthetic language and fulfil his ambitions.

Arriving in Paris in 1906, Modigliani enrolled at the Academie Colarossi, two of whose graduates were Auguste Rodin and James Whistler.



Paris, the epicentre of the European avant-garde, was fresh and exciting, and Modigliani took full advantage of the city, visiting museums, monuments and churches and making friends and acquaintances. These included Marc Chagall and Chaim Soutine, who would achieve fame.

In Paris, where the Jewish army officer Alfred Dreyfus had recently been falsely convicted of treason, Modigliani was largely perceived as an Italian rather than a Jew. Nevertheless, he faced anti-Semitism there for the first time in his life.

Proud of his Jewish background, Modigliani coped with this age-old animus by regularly introducing himself as a Jew.

"I am Modigliani, Jew," he would say.

One wonders what effect this historically laden declarative sentence had on the people who crossed his path.

Modigliani enjoyed a measure of success, but he was largely ignored by mainstream newspaper critics, and gallery owners and art dealers took little interest in him.

At one point, in desperation, he tried to sell his drawings door to door.

The archetypal bohemian struggling artist, Modigliani drowned out his frustration in the consumption of alcohol and drugs. He was pale and thin, and his health took a turn for the worse.

An island onto himself, he resisted standard artistic practice by more or less eschewing landscapes and still lifes and concentrating on portraitures.

His paintings of nudes, in particular, were alluring.

"Modigliani's nudes reject the traditional western European manner of representing the female figure," Klein observes. "The figures are displayed boldly, with only the faintest suggestion of setting. Languorously outstretched, neither demure nor provocative, they are depicted with a degree of objectivity."

Through all his trials and tribulations, he persisted, and at long last, found a dealer, Paul Guillaume, willing to buy and promote his art.

In a further stroke of fortune, he was introduced to Leopold Zborowski, a fervent art lover from Poland who became one of his closest friends.

Independently wealthy, Zborowski provided Modigliani with a regular weekly salary that enabled him to carry on.

By now, Modigliani's health had deteriorated. On Jan. 24, 1920, he died of tubercular meningitis.

Hearing the news of his death, his pregnant girlfriend, Jeanne Hebuterne, committed suicide, throwing herself out of a fifth-storey window.

Maurice Berger, a senior fellow at the Vera List Center for Art and Politics at the New School University and one of the essayists in *Modigliani*, believes his legacy is intact.

"Modiglaini is far from an insignificant figure in the history of modern art," he writes in an understatement. " He was an iconoclast who pushed himself to challenge the status quo."

To say the very least.

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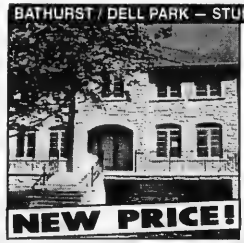

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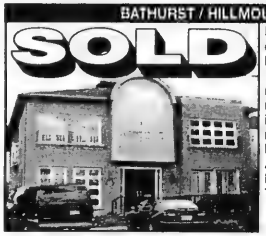

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5 HOUSES FOR SALE

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$2,495K. Elegant residence by Joe Brennan! 5 bdrms, 4 frplcs, gorg mldngs, Italian marble, wr. iron, 11' clngs on mn, 6 car undergr gar. Elise Kalles** & Chantal Rosenthal* ext. 291/505

HOGGS HOLLOW $1,695,000
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MAGNIFICENT CUSTOM BUILT HOME
$1,649,000. Located on prestigious child-safe crescent @ York Mills/Bayview. Builders own home. 5 bedrooms (3 with ensuite bath), family room & library. Stunning park-like lot. Don't miss! Corinne Kalles* & Marion Alberga* ext. 555/287

RAVINE OASIS IN CEDERVALE!
$1,299,000. Spectacular 2 storey addition & complete reno. W/o lower level to sumptuous spa-like inground pool. Superb taste & quality throughout! Michele Rosen* ext. 294

349 DOUGLAS AVENUE
$1,249,000. As if 5 bdrms & 5 baths aren't enough...Let's add walk to TTC, shopping center, schools...There's more! Professionally landscaped. Perfect loc. Maziar Moini* ext. 233

SPECTACULAR FAMILY HOME
$1,100,000. Redesigned & rebuilt for present owners. Magnif yard/pool make this the perfect home for fam liv/entertain. Don't miss! Cheryl Graff* 416-441-3778 & Corinne Kalles* ext. 555

HEATHDALE – RAVINE LOT**
$999,000. Elegant 5 bedroom home, beautiful mahogany trim, huge living room, oversized updated kitchen. Master with ensuites, walk-in closet & fireplace. CAC, parking, walk to subway. Chantal Rosenthal* & Phyllis Keller** ext. 505/246

EXECUTIVE FAMILY HOME!
$949,900. Huge pool size lot on lovely part of Franklin Ave. 4+2 bedrooms, 6 baths, finished basement, herringbone wood & marble flooring, custom kitchen, main floor study & more. Michelle Noik-Schipper** & Michelle Kahn* ext. 289/612

73 BARRYDALE – OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY 3-5
$799,000. York Mills/Banbury South. Renovated kitchen, updated baths, hardwood floors, skylight, walk-out from kitchen /family rooms. Great rec rm. Cheryl Graff* 416-441-3778

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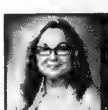

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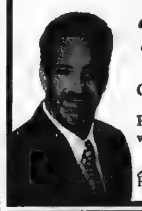

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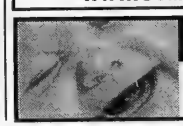

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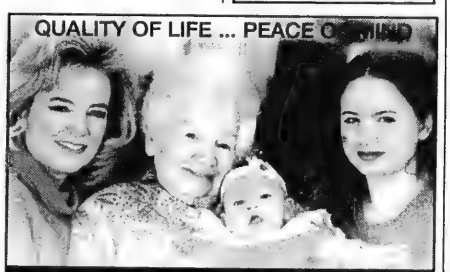

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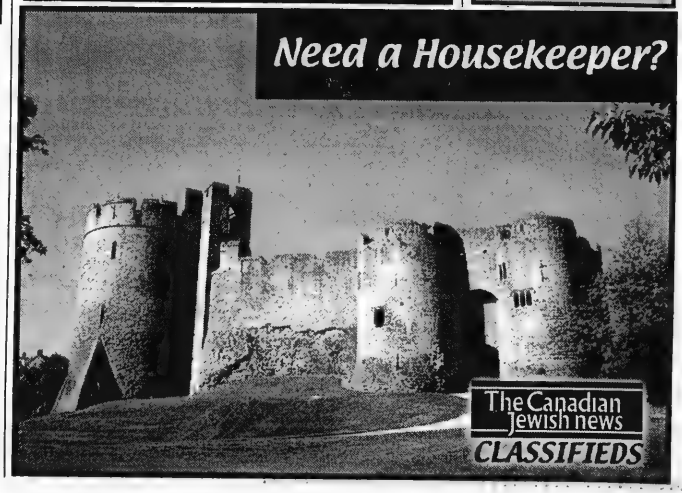

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Ex-artistic gymnast excels at power tumbling

By CARA EDELL
CJN Intern

At four foot six, Loni Maxwell can jump well above her own height.

As an athlete who is younger than most in her sport, the 10-year-old has skyrocketed in the world of power tumbling.

Since joining Markham Gymnastics in September 2003, Loni has won, individually, five power-tumbling medals, including one gold and four silver, at various Ontario competitions, said her coach, Chris Hanley.

"Loni has had a fantastic year. She's very dedicated and effort-wise has put in quite a bit," he said.

Flipping diagonally across a strip of floor 60 feet long, tumblers are required to complete the number of passes, or skills in a row, that their level demands. In Loni's division, she must complete eight passes – each gaining more tempo than the previous, with her last skill being "the most dynamic," said Hanley.

Loni Maxwell, 10, has won, individually, five power-tumbling medals, including one gold and four silver, since she took up the sport in September 2003.

At her most recent meet – the Eastern Canadian Championships in Montreal, May 1 and 2 – Loni said she scored higher than any of the 21 tumblers she was up against.

"The Eastern competition was my favourite," she said. "I got to go out of town and I won two gold medals [individual and team] and I got a plaque.

"It was actually the competition that freaked me out the most, but getting gold was really exciting. All year, this one girl kept beating me over and over and over. She came in third this time."

Hanley said he was "surprised" at Loni's achievement. "I was just hoping she would place in the top five," he said.

Being an ex-artistic gymnast, Loni has taken to power tumbling naturally, Hanley said. The sport is dominated by athletes who have retired from gymnastics because it is less time consuming and not as physically rigorous.

Loni said she quit artistic gymnastics at nine years old. "I was in this tough program at Sport Seneca, and gymnastics before and after school was just too much for me," she said.

Hanley said Loni came to his club with "a sour taste in her mouth from gymnastics," but she immediately qualified for power tumbling.

"It only took two minutes to assess Loni's skills," he said. "We normally set aside an hour for testing."

He said working with Loni has been both fun and rewarding. "Personality-wise, she's quite a kid, full of spunk. She's not shy in any fashion. She really entertains me."

Loni said her biggest goal as an athlete is for power tumbling to be included in the 2012 Olympic Games, in which she hopes to compete in the future.

"I think Loni will go quite far," said Hanley. "She just has to stay healthy and motivated and have a little bit of luck. But she definitely has the talent."

Now, a Grade 5 student at Willowbrook Public School, Loni said she can balance her studies and sports. Training three times a week in power tumbling may seem like a handful, but for Loni, it's only a sliver of her schedule.

"I train in trampoline, synchronized trampoline and double-mini trampoline at Skyriders," she said. "But that's only two times a week."

Loni's father, Randy Maxwell, said his daughter has won four gold, seven silver and three bronze medals at tumbling and trampoline provincial competitions since November 2003.

While regular trampoline calls for a 10-trick routine, synchronized involves a set of partners on separate trampolines "doing the same moves at the same time," and double-mini "is when you run, jump, do a trick on and a trick off the trampoline," Loni said.

On top of tumbling and trampoline, there are the jazz, hip hop and acrobatics lessons that fill Loni's Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

"My friends still can't believe I do it all 50 million times a week, but I don't get tired," she said.

"Sometimes, I slack off in tumbling when it's hot or it smells bad. Other times, I really push myself."

Squeezing dinner into her evenings can be a bit tricky, but when it comes to her diet, Loni said she isn't too picky.

"If I eat something bad, I'll just burn it off at the gym. I only weigh 63 pounds. I don't really have to watch my weight."

When Loni is not in the gym or on the dance floor, she can be found watching *The Simpsons* and *American Idol*, listening to "anything but ballet or jazz music" or hanging out with her friends and four siblings.

This summer, Loni travels to Halifax for her fifth summer at Camp Kadimah. In the fall, she will attend Baythorn School for the Arts.

Israeli-Palestinian team treks for peace

By PAULA AMANN
Washington Jewish Week

WASHINGTON — Some analysts believe it will take drastic action to forge an Israeli-Palestinian peace. A few adventurers from both sides of the conflict recently took that advice literally. They headed for Antarctica.

Breaking the Ice, a group of four Israeli Jews, one Israeli Arab and three Palestinians, crossed by boat from Chile to the South Pole region and scaled a previously unclimbed mountain in January. The team dubbed the Antarctic peak, "Mountain of Israeli-Palestinian Friendship."

Team members were recently in the Washington, D.C., area to receive a 2004 Common Ground Diplomacy Through Sport Award from the Search for Common Ground, a non-profit agency devoted to conflict resolution.

Also honoured was the Pontanima Choir from Sarajevo, Bosnia, which includes Orthodox Christians, Muslims and Jews. Drawing on all three religious traditions, the eight-year-old choral group uses music to heal the wounds of war.

One moment of the gruelling Antarcticta trek stood out for Doron Erel, 44, a professional climber and travel writer who helped guide the group.

"We roped together on the glaciers," Erel recalled. "We were navigating pretty dangerous terrain and at a certain point I turned back and saw three Palestinians behind me."

He knew by then that two of the Palestinians had spent years in Israeli prisons during the first intifadah and a third had lost a brother in an Israeli air force strike in 1982.

Yet trust grew between them.

Physical education teacher Olfat Hedar, a Muslim from Haifa, said she found it hard to spend some 40 days in the close quarters of their small sailboat. Yet, as the travellers faced the ice and snow together, they overcame the gulfs of culture and religion.

"In difficult moments, people forgot their political point of view and the differences that divide them back home, and they started to work as a team," said Hedar, 33, who had Erel translate for her. "When there's a big storm at sea or you're climbing a mountain, the only thing that matters is the person."

Her friends and family backed her participation, she said. Erel noted that Hedar, who had injured her back during the voyage, received a lot of attention from Israel's Arab media.

Haifa real estate developer Heskel Nathaniel drew a political lesson from the joint expedition.

"Where we had a clear and defined target in front of our eyes – in our case, getting to the summit of the mountain – all other things lost their importance," said Nathaniel, 41, who initiated the venture. "The moment we got up to the summit and made one step to go back… all the other differences came up."

Nathaniel said the expedition had prompted 39 TV reports, 121 radio interviews and more than 500 press articles worldwide, including in Arab nations.

Back in Israel, however, the project seemed to evoke cynicism more than anything else.

"Nobody really believes it's going to change anything," Erel said. "People are very tired and don't believe in co-existence any more."

But in at least one city, Breaking the Ice appeared to live up to its name. The 300,000-strong Palestinian community of Santiago, Chile, invited the city's smaller Jewish community to co-host a joint welcome ceremony at the airport, Erel said.

This overture yielded three days of events for the trekkers, sponsored by both communities.

"It was the first time the two communities had any connection," Erel said. "That was the moment we realized we had touched people's hearts not just on the boat [to and from Antarctica], but outside the boat."

The Antarctic trip took place under the auspices of the Berlin-based NGO Extreme Peace Missions, which uses outdoor sports to "fuel a sustainable form of conflict resolution," according to www.breaking-the-ice.de.

Such world leaders as UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, European Parliament president Patrick Cox, the Dalai Lama, Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat and Israeli Labour leader Shimon Peres have signed on as patrons.

Nathaniel, noting that Erel and some of the other Israelis planned the expedition's logistics, including stores of food and water, recalled the ultimate tribute from the Arab participants.

"It's a fantastic compliment from our Palestinian colleagues that they literally placed their destiny in our hands and trusted us without questioning that we would have taken care of them," he said.

Walking to make a difference

Caring people taking proactive approaches in life and working to make a difference are an inspiration. Tamara Truster is one of these people.

From Sept. 10 to 12, Truster, along with three of her closest friends, will be walking 60 kilometres through the neighbourhoods of Toronto during the Weekend to End Breast Cancer. The four young women formed "Team Chai" and are collectively aiming to raise $14,400. Truster, 27, has a personal goal of $3,600.

She explains, "I was staggered to learn that one in nine women will get breast cancer in her lifetime. But for myself and the team, this cause is not simply about compassion. We are four healthy young women who recognize that we could be next. It could be our sisters, our mothers, and our friends. We know it is in all of our best interests to help eradicate the disease before it strikes someone else we care about."

Truster graduated from York University's film and video production program. She recently produced a short film that her sister, Gillian, directed and edited. The film is currently doing the festival circuit. The sisters were raised in a close-knit family in the suburbs of Toronto. Truster says, "My parents have a generosity of spirit that I have grown up with."

This is not the first time Team Chai, which also consists of Alexandra Beck, Janice Grevler and Talia Klement, have walked in support of a charitable cause. A few weeks ago, the team participated in an 8-kilometre walk for Crohn's and colitis. Truster smiles and says, "That was our training walk for the 60K."

The women also have their own personal reasons for walking. Grevler's aunt lost her five-year battle with breast cancer. She explains, "When she was first diagnosed, I was optimistic about her prognosis. Over the years, however, I gained insight into the grave reality of her circumstances and what it truly means to live with breast cancer."

The other women are walking to support family members who are breast cancer survivors.

The Weekend to End Breast Cancer takes place over two days and the participants walk 30 kilometres each day. Food and live music are provided and everyone sleeps in tents. Truster walked last year and was moved by the friendly and supportive community she encountered in the streets of Toronto.

"Neighbours gave out free lemonade, they let us come into their home to use the facilities, and some even put signs on the lawn showing their support."

The money raised will benefit Princess Margaret Hospital, an international leader in the fight against breast cancer, and the largest institution in Canada dedicated to cancer treatment and research. The hospital is launching a new research institute devoted to breast cancer, and it will be led by one of the country's most respected and productive scientists. Last year's walk raised $12.5 million. This year, there are approximately 1,000 more walkers and the amount raised is bound to increase.

The dedicated women of Team Chai are working toward that goal. They are currently seeking corporate sponsors.

"We will be putting the sponsors' names on our T-shirts. [Accounting firm] Truster-Zweig is our first, but we are hoping for many more." She adds, "I feel like I am participating in something that will really help save lives."

If you would like to sponsor Truster, visit www.endcancer.ca and follow the prompts to her personal web page.

Truster and the Team Chai women are committed, courageous and hopeful. We should do everything we can to support them.

Miriam Porter can be reached at Miriam@jtvproductions.net.

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1/4 tsp. ground pepper
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1/4 cup canned whole berry cranberry sauce
vegetable oil
2 large sesame seed hamburger buns

Grind stuffing in processor until fine crumbs form. Transfer 1/2 cup crumbs to large bowl. Mix in chicken, celery, onion, egg yolk, salt & pepper. Form mixture into two 3/4" thick patties. Place remaining crumbs in shallow bowl. Dip patties into crumbs, coating completely. Mix chili sauce and cranberry sauce in small bowl to blend.

Prepare BBQ and brush rack with oil. Grill chicken burgers until golden brown outside, about 7 minutes per side. Spread half of chili-cranberry sauce over bottom half of each bun. Top with burgers and bun tops. Yield: 2 servings.

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TORAH DEDICATED IN THORNHILL WOODS: The Jewish Russian Community Centre (JRCC) of Thornhill Woods inaugurated a new Torah scroll on June 27, with a celebration that included a procession down Bathurst Street. Seen in the picture are Rabbi Chaim Leib Hildeshaim of the JRCC of Thornhill Woods, with the Kronenfeld brothers, Simon, left, and Michael, centre, the main sponsors of the new Torah scroll, dedicated in honour of their late father, Aaron. [JRCC photo]

Philosophical meanderings on Balsam Lake

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

There is a charming cemetery with two dozen tombstones off the road near Beaverton, Ont. One day, I stopped to read the inscriptions, compelled by my fascination at the thought that people actually lived and experienced entire lives on this earth – with love, mismatched socks and beautiful imaginings – before we did.

URBAN WRITER

By reading these abridged bereavement biographies – Arthur P. Macdonald Born 1802 Died 1865 A Father, A Husband and a Good Man – I prove to myself that we who live today are the progeny of billions, and are only the current protectors of our world – modern-day peelers of a layer of truth from a sweet fruit, planted and sown over millennia.

Once I had convinced myself that civilization existed prior to contemporary history, I considered whether our purpose in life can only be actualized in the particular era we are born into.

Rashi, the great Jewish commentator, speaks to this when he discusses the statement that Noah was righteous in his generation. Rashi says that had Noah lived in the time of Abraham, Noah would not have equalled Abraham's level of righteousness and, thus, likely would have played a lesser role in the development of the world. Timing was important in Noah's case.

The question of time relative to purpose also comes into play when one considers the idea that we all stood at Sinai when God gave us the Torah. If one believes this as a statement of absolute truth, then – standing in a crowd of millions – you and I actually rubbed elbows with Ruth, Rabbi Joseph Caro, Amos the prophet, Moshe from Toronto circa 2025 and 600,000 former slaves from Egypt. It would seem that God required every Jew who would ever exist to be physically present at Sinai, so that we might be empowered in harmony to fulfil our everlasting purpose of living and disseminating the teachings of the Torah. In this case, timing played a role in our collective purpose.

If we read the statement – we all stood at Sinai – as a metaphor, would the lesson be different?

Maybe the point is that every single action we are responsible for is born out of a journey of previous actions and is the launching pad for future actions. If we were to create a diagram tracing one specific action – say, respecting our parents – and could follow it backward and forward, we would likely draw a line right back to Sinai, and into the future, forever.

Would we necessarily respect our parents if the Ten Commandments had not prescribed that we do so? Furthermore, by respecting our parents today, are we not, in essence, instructing future generations to do the same?

The statement that all Jews were at Sinai might, therefore, suggest we are all inextricably bound together by our actions, and regardless of whether we acutally stood at the foot of the mountain, our purposes are linked to one another in a time-bound way. In effect, the entire spectrum of time plays a role in our purpose.

These are some philosophical meanderings from a hot summer day on a canoe trip on Balsam Lake, contemplated as I dragged my paddle through the early-morning glassy waters of the summer of 2004. While I pondered these ideas, I saw a woman breast-feeding her baby in Safed in the spring of 600 CE, a man fishing in Mesopotamia in the winter of 500 BCE, and a young girl skiing down the slopes in Collingwood in 2100. They were all considering the very same questions.

Perhaps we were all at Sinai, and maybe everyone who was there is here with us today.

To discuss this article e-mail avrum@veahavta.org.

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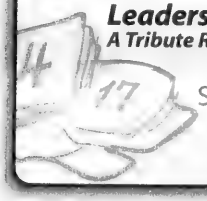

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National

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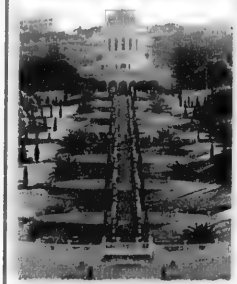

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Sudan crisis testing 'Never again'

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

A reprise of the Rwanda genocide is in the making – this time in western Sudan – and the Jewish community must raise its voice and do what it can to give practical meaning to the phrase "Never again," said a Toronto physician spearheading a Canadian advocacy group.

Dr. Norman Epstein, founder of CASTS (Canadian Against Slavery and Torture in Sudan), said Jews "cannot stand by and be apathetic… Having a deep appreciation of the legacy of slavery and genocide, we should be in the forefront of advocacy for an oppressed group suffering genocide and ethnic cleansing."

Epstein was referring to the conflict in Darfur, an area of western Sudan populated by black Muslims who are being slaughtered by Arab Muslim militias supported by the government in Khartoum.

An estimated 100,000 people have already been killed and one million made refugees.

The conflict in Darfur is the latest for a country that has been in upheaval for two decades as a result of civil war between Muslims in the north and Christians and animists in the south. An estimated two million southerners have been killed in the fighting to date.

A malnourished child in one of the refugee camps for Sudanese from Darfur. The photo was taken last summer in a camp in Chad.
[RNS/Reuters photo]

With the rainy season at hand, human rights groups believe as many as one million people in Darfur may die of famine and exposure. "This was all created by the attacks of the northern government and their militia henchmen. That's why it's a contrived famine," Epstein said.

CASTS, a grassroots coalition of organizations and individuals dedicated to ending slavery and civil war in Sudan, participated in a vigil last weekend at Queen's Park to draw attention to the issue. Ve'ahavta, a Jewish humanitarian organization, was one of the groups at the event, which was sponsored by several Sudanese associations.

Avrum Rosensweig, founder of Ve'ahavta, said the Jewish community must take an active role in opposing the atrocities in Sudan. "It's so incredibly important that the world open its eyes to the pain and suffering going on there," he said. "The time is now for us to bridge the disconnect between what we preach and 'Never again.' It's not enough to preach."

Continued on page 26

Jewish groups won't press for hate charges in UTT case

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Both Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) and B'nai Brith Canada say they will not press for hate crime charges to be added to the counts of arson and conspiracy against two young men in connection with the firebombing of the St. Laurent United Talmud Torahs library two months ago in April.

Both organizations agree that the hate provisions in the Criminal Code of Canada do not appear to apply in this case. They do, however, expect that if there is a conviction, hate motivation will result in a stiffer sentence, as the law provides.

"It's ironic because this was a deeply hateful act targeting a Jewish school, but we are stuck with a Criminal Code that has less than perfect wording," said David Birnbaum, executive director of CJC, Quebec region.

"We have to agree unhappily that the Code does not seem to afford the Crown the ability to seek hate charges. There has be to be a clear expression of hate against an identifiable group," he said.

Continued on page 18

Hague court rules against security barrier

Due to our summertime production schedule, this issue of ***The CJN*** went to press last Friday, just as the decision of the International Court of Justice was released to the public. Our preliminary coverage of the decision appears on page 25. We will have more when we return on July 29.

Parsha: Mattot-Masei
Candlelighting: 8:37
Havdallah: 9:42
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CANADA

Family Sues Liz Taylor

HAMILTON — A Hamilton lawyer is among those suing actress Elizabeth Taylor, saying she has a Nazi-looted painting in her possession. Descendants of Margarete Mauthner – Andrew Orkin of Hamilton, his South African siblings F. Mark Orkin and Sarah-Rose Josepha Adler, and their uncle, A. Heinrich Zille – have filed suit in a U.S. court, saying Van Gogh's *View of the Asylum of Saint-Remy* was taken from Mauthner in World War II. Taylor's lawyers said Mauthner voluntarily sold the painting to finance her family's flight to South Africa. Taylor's father bought her the painting at a 1963 auction. Andrew Orkin refused to comment to Associated Press.

WORLD

Teen Sues Over Slurs

LOS ANGELES — A Los Angeles-area teen is suing school officials, saying he suffered anti-Semitic harassment. Samuel Goldstein, 16, of Ventura County, filed suit in U.S. District Court alleging a coach at his former high school said "God didn't like him because he was a Jew," while students and teammates made anti-Semitic remarks and Hitler salutes and drew swastikas, without any school response, the *Los Angeles Jewish Journal* reported. District officials declined to discuss the case.

Belgian Jews Attacked

ANTWERP — Two Jewish men were attacked in separate incidents near Antwerp on July 1. Stones and bottles were hurled at a cyclist in the suburb of Berchem by about 15 youths, the daily *Le Soir* reported. The man was lightly injured. In another part of the city, a middle-aged man was hospitalized after he was attacked and beaten. The attacks bring to six the number of recent violent assaults on Jewish targets around Antwerp, including the stabbing of a yeshiva student. Belgian Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt said security would be stepped up around Jewish institutions.

Close Loophole: SWC

LOS ANGELES — The Simon Wiesenthal Center denounced a German court ruling allowing the first Nazi protest at a German synagogue since World War II. Two days after the June 24 decision, 200 neo-Nazis demonstrated in front of a rebuilt shul in Bochum that was destroyed in 1938 during Kristallnacht. Rabbi Abraham Cooper, the centre's associate dean, wrote Justice Minister Brigitte Zypries asking her to close legal loopholes allowing the protest. "There must be a way to protect civil liberties of speech and protest without subjecting any house of worship… to the taunts of fanatics, Nazis and racists," he wrote.

U.S. a Puppet: Nader

NEW YORK — The U.S. Congress and White House are "puppets" of Israel, independent presidential candidate Ralph Nader said. "The subservience of our congressional and White House puppets to Israeli military policy has been consistent," he told *American Conservative* magazine. "Both parties concede their independent judgment to the pro-Israeli lobbies in this country because they perceive them as determining the margin in some state elections and as sources of funding," Nader said. He said he would heed Israel's peace movement in formulating his own policies.

Terror-Diamond Link

KOIDU, Sierra Leone — Hezbollah is making millions of dollars in the West African diamond business, U.S. diplomats charged. Some of the money comes from extortion, and Hezbollah has allegedly funnelled money to the Palestinians' Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade for terror attacks over the past few years. Hezbollah officials declined to comment on the Associated Press report, and one Lebanese trader quoted by AP denied the story.

Bibi Inspired Iraqi Prez

BAGHDAD — Iraq's new president said he was inspired to pursue a career in politics by Israeli politician Benjamin Netanyahu. Ghazi Al-Yawer told the newspaper *A-Sharq Al-Awsat* that his interest in a political career was sparked when he watched a TV program on the life of Netanyahu, who twice interrupted his studies to serve in the Israeli army at war.

New Zealand to Demand Apology Over Passports

WELLINGTON, N.Z. — New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark will demand an apology from Israel and a pledge that Mossad operatives will not try to steal or forge New Zealand passports or use them for their activities, sources told the New Zealand media earlier this month.

The demand follows the arrest in New Zealand in March of two Israelis who have been charged with fraudulently attempting to obtain New Zealand passports. Although they have not been charged with spying, the media have pegged them as Mossad agents, based on police and local sources.

The case winds up on July 15, when a court will sentence Elisha Ben Kara, 50, and Uriel Zoshe Kelman, 31, to a maximum of five years in prison.

On July 2, the pair pleaded guilty to membership in a crime ring trying to obtain a New Zealand passport illegally and fraudulently. Their plea is part of a deal with the prosecution that saw the indictment reduced from three charges to one.

Intelligence sources in New Zealand, including a man who said he had once worked for the Mossad, told reporters that a group associated with the case had been working for years to obtain New Zealand passports, which are considered "door-openers" and do not arouse suspicion in the Arab world.

Two other Israelis are being sought in the case, an unnamed man and one who fled the country before he was caught.

Kara – who says he is an Australian travel agent, although his firm is not on any registries – has entered and left New Zealand 24 times in the past four years.

Israel has so far refused to comment on the case.

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Jews and Muslims work together to help Afghan boy

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

UJA Federation of Hamilton launched an appeal last week for funds to help Djamshid Djan Popal, the nine-year-old Afghan boy who arrived in Canada July 2 with his father Shafiullah for treatment of serious heart problems.

Hamilton UJA reaches out

The Hamilton Muslim Association had collected $10,000 as of last week, and the Jewish federation had raised $7,500 to add to their fund.

Djamshid's doctors are donating their services, and last week an anonymous donor came forward to cover the boy's hospital costs, estimated at $1,700 a day. This will allow fundraising efforts to "focus on other support that may be required for Djamshid and his family," according to a news release from the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario in Ottawa (CHEO).

Djamshid was in stable condition last week in the hospital's intensive care unit, awaiting a decision on whether surgery would be possible in his condition. Tests showed severe damage to three of his four heart valves, likely as a result of an infection.

Dr. Lorne Finkelstein, a Hamilton cardiologist who consulted on his care and later helped bring him to Canada, felt a long trip was risky because of Djamshid's grossly enlarged heart and weakened state.

Finkelstein arranged for more sophisticated assessment and treatment at Israel's Hadassah Hospital, but that option was ruled out after a Canadian army doctor, who saw him in May as part of a medical outreach team, expressed concerns for Djamshid's eventual safety.

The army doctor thought there might be repercussions in the boy's Taliban-controlled village, about 5 hours from Kabul, if he was treated in the Jewish state, Finkelstein said.

Finkelstein, the Hamilton federation's representative on an anti-racist committee called Strengthening Hamilton's Community Initiative (SHCI), became involved with the case after reading in the Hamilton Spectator that his SHCI colleague Javid Mirza, president of the Muslim Association of Hamilton, and benefactor Saddique Khan, a Pakistani-born Hamiltonian, were trying to help the boy.

Finkelstein contacted Mirza and offered to help co-ordinate any necessary surgery. He was put in touch with the Canadian Forces doctor in Afghanistan, but information that would have pinpointed the boy's exact problem was "scanty at best," Finkelstein said.

Israel often treats patients from neighbouring Arab countries on a humanitarian basis, including a recent case from Iraq, said Finkelstein, who is planning to lead a federation mission to Israel in the fall.

He made inquiries with friends in Jerusalem who were able to expedite contact with Dr. Yuval Weiss, vice-director of Hadassah Hospital.

Meanwhile, Gerry Fisher, executive director of the Hamilton federation, was in touch with Israel's embassy in Ottawa, which responded "immediately and positively," he said. "They would have intervened on our behalf, arranging for medical treatment or logistics including the flights."

At the same time, while Finkelstein was making inquiries about having Djamshid treated in Canada in case the Israel plans did not work out, he received an e-mail from Mirza, noting how the descendants of Abraham "are going back to working together… together we do make a difference."

Khan, likewise, said he is "encouraged" by the co-operation between the two communities. "Maybe in the future these two communities will become closer," he said. "I'm pretty much positive."

Money raised by the Hamilton Muslim and Jewish communities will go toward post-operative care for Djamshid and helping the boy's family with his needs on his return to Afghanistan, Khan said. "We still need a lot of funds."

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International Court of no Justice

From the editor's desk

This column was written before the International Court of Justice released its judgment concerning Israel's security fence. But, as we know, the outcome was a foregone conclusion the very minute the court agreed to hear the case.

As *Ha'aretz* reported some 24 hours before the scheduled public release of the decision, the court decided by a vote of 14 judges to 1 that the fence is illegal, a violation of international law.

"The construction of such a wall," the judges ruled, "constitutes breaches by Israel of its various obligations under the applicable international humanitarian law and human rights instruments."

The sole dissenter was the American judge, Thomas Buerghenthal.

The reaction to the court's ruling throughout the Arab world and in much of Europe will undoubtedly be ecstatic celebration, bordering on hysteria.

And the recurring images of that celebration will be galling. The smug, finger-pointing editorials and the sanctimonious op-ed opinions will be infuriating. Once again, we will have to calm our nerves and steel our resolve at yet another instance of the topsy-turveying of morality by anti-Israel forces.

Despite the rhetoric and the high-sounding moralizing that has been and will be directed at Israel, the court's decision has no binding effect. One would also hope that the decision would have no future precedential impact on the evolving corpus of international law, for if it does, it will only be to the law's profound detriment.

The ruling does, however, have a potential for harming Israel if it is adopted by the United Nations' Security Council and sanctions are applied against the Jewish state. But that is highly unlikely.

It is inconceivable that such a resolution would not be vetoed.

It would be illogical, indeed hypocritical, for those very countries who objected to the court's jurisdiction to hear the case, to refuse to veto a court-based resolution against Israel in the Security Council.

Many people will try to establish a parallel between the legal process concerning the fence in Israel's Supreme Court last month where the High Court ordered the defence ministry to reroute some 30 kilometres of the fence and the "legal process" in The Hague. But there is no parallel; none must be suggested.

The proceedings in Jerusalem were undertaken in accordance with domestic Israeli law. The proceedings in The Hague were unprecedented: polemics in the guise of legalities, yet another example of the systematic distortion of propriety and protocol by Israel's enemies in their campaign to bring down the Jewish state.

"Military commanders must consider alternatives," the High Court ruled. "Even if they result in a lower level of security, they should bring a substantial – even if not complete – reduction in the harm done to the lives of the local inhabitants."

Israel's defence ministry is complying with the court's decision and is preparing an alternate route for the disqualified section of the fence. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has urged that the High Court's decision be implemented without delay.

The decision in Jerusalem affirms Israel's right to erect the fence as a legitimate method of protecting the country's people. The decision in The Hague denies Israel that right. "The infringements resulting from that route cannot be justified by military exigencies or by the requirements of national security or public order," the judges ruled.

But Israel's bona fide "requirements of national security" were the reason the fence was built in the first place. Israel's need and inherent right to protect its own citizens trumps the International Court's charade.

The fence works. According to Israeli government statistics, it has proven to be effective in preventing harm. In the 11 months since August 2003, when the first section of fence was erected, and the end of June 2004, terrorists managed to infiltrate Israel on three occasions from the Samarian hills of the West Bank, killing 26 people and wounding 76. In contrast, in the 34 months preceding August 2003, terrorists launched 73 terrorist operations inside Israel from the same areas, in which 293 people were killed and 1,950 were wounded.

The highest hypocrisy expressed by a Palestinian official prior to the release of the decision in The Hague, came, not surprisingly, from Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat. "I believe the court in The Hague is capable of stopping the construction of the fence that damages our people," he said in Ramallah.

There is no one earth who has brought more damage to his people than Yasser Arafat. And most of his people are beginning to understand this, no matter what the International Court of Justice has ruled.

* * *

Beginning with this issue, *The CJN* is pleased and honoured to introduce a new op-ed columnist. Writing each month from Jerusalem, renowned, uniquely talented and eclectic Ross Culiner will bring his special insights and observations to our pages. I have no doubt that our readers will take delight.

–MBD

SeeJN

IRON MAN:

Jonathan Kopman has competed in triathlons before, but one coming up is very special. On July 25, he will take part in the Iron Man Triathlon in Lake Placid, considered one of the world's most difficult tests of athletic endurance. He is raising funds for the Elayne Kopman Hope for Health Foundation, which aims to keep his mother's legacy of service alive, and to raise funds for cancer research. For more information, call 416-485-8407.

Greater Toronto Area

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION: Beit Rayim Synagogue and Hebrew School held its fifth annual Judy Stein Volunteer of the Year Award ceremony in conjunction with its Volunteer Appreciation Evening. From left are Joanna Ticker and Alex Goldberg, youth award recipients; Billy Stein, Jeff Grosman and Sandra Solomon, 2004 award recipients; and Cheryl Green-Ockrant, committee chair.

Suspect acquitted of hate charges

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

An Ontario court judge has acquitted a 21-year-old man on charges of promoting hatred through the sale of compact discs at a party last year.

Judge D. T. Hogg found there was no evidence Mark Roy Elms sold 15 "horrific" CDs that were seized by police at a private party at the Fox and Fiddle restaurant in Etobicoke in January 2003. "There is no evidence to prove, beyond a reasonable doubt, that the accused (Elms) sold any of these specific 15 CDs," judge Hogg stated.

Reviewing the evidence in an oral judgement that was later transcribed, Hogg stated that while "there is no question" the CDs belonged to Elms, there was no convincing evidence he sold anything.

"Even if I am wrong, there is no evidence, beyond a reasonable doubt, the accused wilfully promoted hatred," Hogg added.

Toronto police laid hate promotion charges after attending a concert in Etobicoke at which several "white supremacist skinhead bands" performed. At the conclusion of the show, the CDs, containing music by "hate rock" groups, were seized, police said at the time.

Hate promotion charges require evidence not only of the promotion of hatred but that the accused intended that hatred be advanced.

The judge acknowledged the evidence showed the Fox and Fiddle had been the venue for "countless skinhead parties," but "there is no evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that the accused is a skinhead. He is not the type, wearing the type of clothes or acting in the type of manner that these people were."

Karen Mock, executive director of the Canadian Race Relations Foundation, testified at the trial as an expert witness on the content of the CDs.

CORRECTION

The story "Jewish community is about volunteers" (*CJN*, July 8) did not make clear that in Buenos Aires, 36 children from the general community, not just the Jewish community, die every day. In addition, the website at the end of the article should have read www.jewishtoronto.com. *The CJN* regrets the errors.

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Send your response to: **"Jasper Station" Contest**, The Canadian Jewish News, 1500 Don Mills Road, Suite 205, North York, Ont. M3B 3K4 or fax to: 416-391-0949.
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Greater Toronto Area

Jewish Free Loan Cassa marks 80 years of helping

By JESSICA HELLEN
CJN Intern

The Toronto Jewish Free Loan Cassa (TJFLC), which provides interest-free loans to needy members of the Jewish community, celebrated its 80th anniversary on July 12.

Following the principle of "helping people to help themselves," the TJFLC supplies loans to local Jews requiring personal, educational or business start-up assistance.

Originally, the cassa existed as three separate organizations. The Toronto Hebrew Re-establishment Services took care of personal loans, Scholarship in Aid handled student loans and the Loan Cassa was in charge of business loans. These services merged into the TJFLC in the 1980s.

Sam Helfenbaum, executive director of the TJFLC, said the concept of a free loan society "has been around for a long time," and reflects the highest level of tzedakah according to Moses Maimonides.

Maimonides held that it is a greater mitzvah to give someone a job or help a person find a job than to give gifts or charity, Helfenbaum said. "In effect, that's what we do."

Providing people with loans rather than charity, "gives people a feeling of self-esteem" and dignity, he said. "The loans are a hand up, not a hand out."

He added that clients "can develop the capacity to pay it back and be a responsible person in our society."

Currently, the TJFLC has 596 outstanding loans, with a total value of more than $1.5 million.

The money for the loans is donated by members of the Jewish community, while UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and the United Way fund operating expenses.

Business loans are available to a maximum of $10,000, with a four per cent surcharge.

Helfenbaum said business loans, which help entrepreneurs achieve financial independence, are commonly taken out by women who have recently become estheticians and want to work out of their basements.

"[The loan] gives them some self-sufficiency," he explained.

Personal loans for needy people are provided for medical expenses, funerals, car repair, furniture, debt consolidation, weddings and bar mitzvahs, computer purchases and living expenses. The maximum amount clients can receive for this type of loan is $3,600.

For educational loans, students can receive a maximum of $3,600 to assist them with the cost of post-secondary education and supplements any financial aid or scholarships. Helfenbaum said the TJFLC hopes to increase this amount because of rising education costs.

To qualify for a loan, clients must fill out an application and have at least two worthy guarantors, or three in the case of a business loan.

The interviews, which are conducted by trained volunteers, take approximately 20 minutes. Educational and personal loan meetings take place every other week, while business loan meetings occur once a month.

After the meeting, interviewers discuss the client's application with the TJFLC's volunteer board and committee members. Clients can call the following day to receive their results.

Not everyone who applies for a loan receives one.

"There is an obligation to provide funds for those who need it," Helfenbaum said.

He adds that the cassa has to lend money in an appropriate and respectful way that donors would be comfortable with. This is a dual responsibility, he explained, because the TJFLC must also "retrieve funds for others who need it."

Helfenbaum said he has noticed a change in the people applying for loans.

"Traditionally it's been people from the immigrant population," he said. "But now it's people from the Jewish community who are Canadian-born."

Helfenbaum attributes this difference to the economic situation in Canada, as well as the fact the TJFLC is "getting better known."

The TJFLC has four part-time staff, including Helfenbaum, and about 40 active volunteers who are "very dedicated.

"There is an enormous loyalty from volunteers," he said. "[The work is] very direct and hands-on. One sees results instantaneously."

After 80 years of service, Helfenbaum said, there have been many success stories, and "a couple of instances" where clients have later become volunteers.

"We've even had borrowers who have turned into annual donors."

GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH
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Activist worked for many community organizations

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Obituary

Community volunteer and activist Anne Romoff Gross died July 3 in Toronto. She was 89.

In 1939, Gross became one of the first women to graduate from McGill University in law. At the time, women were not allowed to be called to the Quebec bar, and she never practised.

Anne Gross *[file photo]*

She threw herself into community work, and held executive positions with Hadassah-WIZO, State of Israel Bonds, the Canadian Zionist Federation, Canadian Friends of Hebrew University, and the Canada-Israel Cultural Foundation.

She was a national committee chair for Canadian Jewish Congress; co-founder and honorary vice-president of the National Women's League, Canada Branch; and national chair of Canada Hall at Hebrew University, and of Youth Aliyah. She was on the national board of Canadian Friends of Tel Aviv University and national chair of the Canada-Israel Foundation of Academic Exchanges.

From 1983 to 1985, she was national chair of the Canada-Israel Committee.

Gross served as sisterhood president of Shaare Zion Congregation in Montreal from 1939 to 1942. She was also legal and civics chair of the Montreal Council of Women.

In 1984, she moved to Toronto, where she lived until her death.

Besides her many formal positions and activities, she lectured widely on Jewish subjects, and on Israel. She also loved and collected Israeli art and antiquities.

Gross was predeceased by her husband Clarence Reuven. She is survived by her daughters Janice Gross Stein and her husband Michael, Susan Gross Solomon and her husband Peter, as well as grandchildren Raphael and Rachel Solomon, and Isaac and Gabriel Stein.

Holocaust conference held in Croatia

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Esther Bem's efforts to help establish a Holocaust education centre in her native Croatia have been rewarded.

The Toronto woman recently participated in the country's first-ever Holocaust conference, titled Human Rights and Education About the Holocaust.

The roots of the conference were planted about three years ago when Bem, now 73, travelled to Croatia after spending several years speaking to Zagreb Jewish community members on the telephone about establishing a Holocaust education program.

With the help of Carole Anne Reed, then the director of education at the Holocaust Education and Memorial Centre of Toronto, UJA Federation, she took with her a suitcase of material covering such topics as running seminars, holding a Holocaust education week, how to teach the Holocaust to students, and how to organize survivor testimonies.

While in Croatia, she set up a committee and spoke to government officials about how the Holocaust is taught in Ontario. Now, one day a year is set aside to commemorate Yom Hashoah.

Until then, she said, the Holocaust was not mentioned in Croatia. "There was an entire generation that did not know the Holocaust existed. If I had not started pushing, they would not know what went on."

The recent three-day conference, complete with kosher meals from Hungary, attracted about 89 teachers and educators from across the country. It was co-funded by Zagreb and the Claims Conference.

Bem, whose sister still lives in Zagreb, made a presentation about Holocaust education in Ontario, gave a speech to 22 high school principals, and met with a member of the local police academy who wanted information on teaching students how to behave with various ethnic groups.

She told conference participants that they were embarking on something historic. "We are meeting with one goal and purpose – to learn from one another how to fight anti-Semitism and racism, and educate the next generation of the enormous dangers the world is facing globally."

In teaching about the Holocaust, "the horror is in the details" said Bem, who is a speaker at Toronto's Holocaust Education Centre. "When a survivor talks about life in a camp, or what is was like to be hidden in an attic, people begin to understand what happened."

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Sudan

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan returned recently from Sudan with a promise from the country's president, Omar Hassan Ahmed el-Bashir, to disarm marauding Arab militia who have been terrorizing their black, non-Arab co-religionists in the country's northwest region of Darfur. The militia, known as Janjawid, are widely blamed for killing some 30,000 Sudanese and for driving more than one million people from their homes. The UN has described the situation as the world's worst humanitarian crisis. Annan himself referred to the actions of the Janjawid as "bordering on ethnic cleansing."

No sooner had Annan left the area than Reuters news agency reported that the very militia el-Bashir promised to disarm were being put into police uniforms to patrol the teeming masses of suffering people they had terrorized. The more than one million people forced from their homes have taken shelter in approximately 100 camps in the western Sudanese desert with little access to clean water or proper sanitation. The situation is truly catastrophic.

In fact, the entire country is a catastrophe. Since 1983, more than 2 million people have been killed in Sudan in a genocidal civil war between northern Muslims and southern Christians and animists. Last year, fighting erupted between the nomadic Arab tribes and the sedentary, farming Africans over control of water and arable land in Darfur. African rebel groups took up arms in February 2003 over their government's unjust treatment of them in their struggle with their Arab countrymen.

Peace talks arranged by the African Union are scheduled to begin in Ethiopia on July 15. But it is not clear whether any of the black rebel forces will attend, as they do not trust the process.

In a moving cri de coeur last week, *CJN* columnist Gil Troy wrote that "the tragedy [in Sudan] is too vast, the needs too great, for us to rest on our debating points and our self-satisfaction. We must do something."

Avrum Rosensweig, founder and director of Ve'ahavta: The Canadian Jewish Humanitarian and Relief Committee, put the challenge quite starkly at a recent gathering in Toronto. "Even though we say 'Never again,' few people are responding to what is happening in Sudan."

Troy and Rosensweig are correct. We *must* respond.

At the very minimum, we should follow the lead of Canadian Jewish Congress and petition our government to act – to apply pressure on the Sudanese government at every possible opportunity, in every conceivable manner and in every available forum. We should also be giving assistance more directly to relief and aid organizations such as Ve'ahavta that are helping to save the lives of the Sudanese refugees.

If "Never Again!" is to mean anything, it must have meaning also for the people of Sudan. It must apply to all humanity.

Conscience cries out for us to help. History cries out for us to help. And the pitiful, suffering souls of Darfur cry out too for us to help. We *must* help.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

MIAs: Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz.

Dry Bones

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Veterans bespeak courage

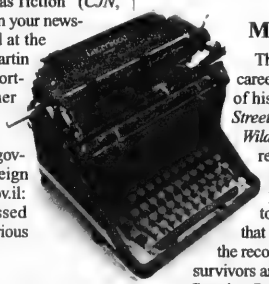
It is important to learn about the World War II Jewish servicemen's stories. I want to thank Bill Stern and *The CJN* for publishing his letter (*CJN*, Toronto edition, June 24). These servicemen volunteered to lay down their lives to rid the world of Adolf Hitler's draconian domination of Europe. The media, especially in the United States, played down the slaughter of the Jewish population. Fortunately, with the voices of Ben Hecht, Peter Bergson and others, a cry was formulating. Because of these courageous men and women, and the witnesses who lived to tell this tale, like Bill Stern, the shibboleth that Jews "are like sheep" reveal that this myth is "el toro crappo."

Honey Novick
Toronto

* * *

Election aftermath (1)

In his letter "Ad was fact, interview was fiction" (*CJN*, July 1), Bert Raphael says an ad published in your newspaper referring to Canada's voting record at the United Nations is fact, that the Chrétien-Martin Liberal governments have been non-supportive of Israel, and he hopes that your other readers and I will be influenced by that fact.



I choose rather to be influenced by the government of Israel, whose Ministry of Foreign Affairs states on its website, www.mfa.gov.il: "Canada's support for Israel is expressed through its generally pro-Israel stance in various UN forums."

Joe Spier
Calgary

* * *

Election aftermath (2)

Jews in the province of Quebec are faithful to a political party that told Israel to go to hell 113 times at the United Nations!

Where, we must ask, lies the blame for such indifference to our security? The Jews of Canada had better awaken to the fact that, as the saying goes: "You can run, but you can't hide."

For a person such as myself who takes our security seriously, it is amazing that our people and our institutions are reticent to even discuss programs where such matters might be given the attention they deserve.

It is well past time that public debates were held to deal with this problem.

Hoping for the the security of Canadian Jewry, the efforts of this community member will be to remind Canadian Jews of who we are and of our very delicate position in the world.

Reuven Carin
Montreal

Court ruling better than nothing

I read and agreed with the letter ("Democracy at work," *CJN*, July 8) commending the Israeli Supreme Court's decision to move the "security barrier" so that it does not infringe on Palestinian land.

However, I don't believe this is an issue about which we should feel pride and joy. It reminds me of comedian Chris Rock, when he talks about fathers who ask for respect because "they take care of their kids," as if they were performing above and beyond.

The very fact that the barrier was on Palestinian land in the first place is a tragedy, and the fact that it continues to exist, in and of itself, is offensive to many people on both sides of it, literally. But this decision is better than nothing. It is simply a moral imperative not to occupy and expropriate your neighbour's property, not some beautiful generous mitzvah.

Jordy Cummings
Toronto

* * *

Marlon Brando's forgotten role

The various obituaries chronicling the life and career of Marlon Brando have all made mention of his performances in famous films such as *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *On the Waterfront*, *The Wild One* and *The Godfather*. But we should also recall his role in the 1946 Broadway play *A Flag is Born*, written by Ben Hecht. The play, set on a Jewish transport ship travelling to Palestine immediately after World War II that is intercepted by British forces, championed the recognition of a Jewish homeland for Holocaust survivors and resistance to British rule.

Starring Paul Muni and Brando, it enjoyed an eight-week run on Broadway. Copies of the script were confiscated by government officials in Canada in response to the play's anti-British sentiment.

Henry Srebrnik
Charlottetown

* * *

Jewish or Israeli?

I am very much concerned that references in *The CJN* to the people evacuating the Gaza settlements as Jews and not as Israelis feed the animosities toward the people whose religion is Jewish and whose country is Israel. In the article "Gaza withdrawal plan has been launched" (*CJN*, June 17), the writer refers to "Jewish settlers." In my eyes, they are Israeli settlers.

I fought in the last war in the British navy. I was an Englishman fighting and my religion was Hebrew and on my dog tag was the letter H. Incidentally, the Americans also use that terminology. By continuously referring to Israelis as Jews, we are giving fodder to the anti-Semites.

David E. Goldstone
Toronto

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Jewish history: the art of survival

By BARUCH RAND

There are three traditional patterns in writing Jewish history.

There is the scriptural view that sees history as God's design, plan of action and response to human behaviour. This is the view of the historical books of the Bible and the Prophets of Israel. God has a special relationship with the Jewish people, places on them heavy ethical and legal demands, in particular on their leadership, and rewards them for compliance or punishes them for disobedience.

This view is extended in some observant circles to include all of Jewish history to date. It sees Jewish suffering as a result of constant Jewish failings and the few periods of light as reward for observance of the commandments and prayer. Individual Jews play only a minor role in this view. It is limited to obedience, repentance and prayer, although at times events do not correspond to the piety of a certain generation.

The Israeli Sephardi rabbi, Ovadia Joseph, sees, for example, the Holocaust not necessarily as punishment for an erring generation but as retribution for the sins of previous generations. The course of Jewish and human history are connected in its ultimate goal: an ideal messianic period in which everybody – Jew and gentile – will live in peace and prosperity. This goal is, however, very distant because of our constant failings. Nonetheless, every suffering cleanses us and brings us closer to the messianic period. It means that in some way suffering is positive as it serves the ultimate goal of bringing the Messiah.

Another approach is viewing Jewish history as a constant response to hatred and persecution. The Haggadah gives a lead to this view when it teaches that in every generation there is – and will be by extension – an evil power set to destroy us and only by grace of God the people of Israel are saved from every such predicament. Some rationalistic historians, even of the stature of Heinrich Graetz and Shimon Dubnov, may omit God's saving grace, but they still see Jews constantly responding to anti-Semitism. This kind of history, very common to those days, was labelled by Salo Baron, the great American historian of the last century, as *lacrimonuous* or tearful. Its tenor is seeing Jews as innocent victims of evil men and ideologies, constantly on the move from one disaster to another and surviving each.

On the other hand, there are some Jewish but mostly gentile apologists who consider Jews an exceptionally gifted people who endowed humanity with enormous treasures, from the Sabbath and the Ten Commandments to Sigmund Freud and Albert Einstein. The most recent of this category of historians is James Cahill, who enumerates in great detail the gifts of the Jews. The more common approach, still within this category, is of such modern Israeli historians as Yitzchak Baer, Chaim Hillel Ben Sasson, Solomon Ettinger and others, who see Judaism basically evolving from the inside and only marginally affected by external influences, except for persecutions. This is the proactive approach fostered particularly in Israel and is a part of the Zionist revolution.

This approach considers the art of survival under hostile circumstances as the greatest gift with which Jews endowed the world. Other religious communities exiled from their homeland and suffering from persecution look at the lesson Jewish history teaches. One of the most prominent scholars of Jewish survival skills is the present Dalai Lama.

The art of survival, as in some of the traditional patterns, does not refer to individual Jews, but to the community as a whole. Millions of individual Jews throughout the centuries perished for being Jewish or opted out from the dangerous framework by conversion or assimilation. Yet the nation as a whole survived. This unusual capability of recovering from a catastrophe was evident throughout the ages since the first major catastrophe that befell Jews in 587 BCE – the exile to Babylonia – till present times.

> 'This unusual capability of recovering from a catastrophe was evident throughout the ages'

After being exiled from Judea, Jews not only established two new centres of Jewish creativity – in Babylonia (later the Persian Empire) and Alexandria in Egypt – but reframed their religion from centralized and temple oriented to decentralized and adaptable to wandering and exile. The ultimate expression of this metamorphosis is in the philosophy of Abraham Heschel, who gave greater significance to time over space.

Sanctuaries in space are geographically limited and destructible, he taught. Building *temples* in time, around significant days such as the Sabbath and holidays, is indestructible and transferrable. How many of us carry candlesticks and other Sabbath paraphernalia on our trips so that we can usher the special day wherever we are? This is a great art of adaptation, which appears to be an important secret of Jewish survival.

Another example of recovery after a catastrophe is the establishment of the Sephardi Diaspora after the expulsion from Spain. The greatest centre of Jewish learning and creativity collapsed on the Iberian peninsula. Yet those who chose exile over conversion and many of the forcibly converted established new centres of Jewish life.

> Of course, the most miraculous of all the recoveries is the post-Holocaust era

Such centers popped up temporarily in Amsterdam, and Venice and Ferrara in Italy, but primarily in the new magnificent capital of the Ottoman Empire, Istanbul, and in the largest Jewish community of the empire, Saloniki, where Jews were welcomed and protected by their Muslim hosts. There were also mobile financial empires, such as that of the Converso Mendes family, which supported the Jewish cultural and religious revival and contributed to the recovery. Territory was no more a condition for Judaism to survive. Wherever there was even a short window of peace and calmness, Judaism blossomed.

Of course, the most miraculous of all the recoveries is the post-Holocaust era. The Holocaust cost six million Jewish lives. Millions more were lost to Judaism by conversion or assimilation. Most Jewish historians of the modern era dwell at length on the horrors of the catastrophe – which was unparalleled in history – and less on the skill of survival.

But, lo, in the wake of the darkest night in Jewish history emerged the brightest day. Not one, but two, spiritual centres of Judaism surfaced within a few years from the disaster, in North America and Israel.

The resurgence of Israel, the ability of the Jewish people to re-establish a state in their ancestral homeland, to revive the ancient language of the Torah and convert it into a modern idiom, the ability to recentralize millions of Jews from all the corners of the earth and remould them into one nation, in spite of cultural differences among them, is the epitome of the skill of survival. It never happened in history before.

True, the establishment of the political centre in Israel is not yet completed. To attain the zenith of creativity, peace and prosperity must prevail, for the Jews as well as for the other inhabitants of the land. Yet the fact that Israel was able to reconstitute itself from the *time* dimension back to *space* is the art of adaptation that characterizes our history.

This does not mean that our contribution to the world civilizations is the highest or most beneficial; Greek art and philosophy, Arab medical advances, the Renaissance, the American and French Revolutions, the scientific and industrial revolutions and the evolution of Japan into a bridge between Oriental and Western cultures, to name only a few, are equally great and probably had more impact on more people.

What it means, however, is that the Jewish contribution is unique and should be an inspiration to oppressed and suffering nations all over the world. It shows that there is life after suffering and that a community can revitalize itself even after painful and constant losses.

Volume I of The Story of Civilizations, *by Baruch Rand and Gail Baker, (Lola Stein Foundation) will be available in bookstores in May 2005.*

The resurgence of Israel, the author writes, 'is the epitome of the skill of survival'.

A Mideast summer's dream

By an overwhelming majority of 407 to 9, members of the U.S. House of Representatives recently passed a resolution affirming their support for Israel. Co-sponsored by majority leader Tom DeLay and minority whip Steny Hoyer, the bipartisan motion endorsed the core principles articulated in President George W. Bush's April 14 letter to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

Lawrence Hart in Hamilton

Importantly, the resolution expressed an enduring commitment to maintaining Israel's sovereignty, "including secure, recognized, and defensible borders, and to preserving and strengthening the capability of Israel to deter enemies and defend itself against any threat". It also signalled approval for Israel's "right to take actions against terrorist organizations that threaten the citizens of Israel." Moreover, in addressing "a realistic framework for the solution to the Palestinian refugee issue," it refers to "the establishment of a permanent alternative" rather than any right of return to Israel.

Less than 24 hours after the motion's passage, the U.S. Senate passed a similar one by a 95–3 margin.

That both houses of the U.S. Congress took these initiatives reflects a certain consistency – and a commitment to doing what is right rather than what is expedient.

Under the aegis of CIJA-PAC, the Canada-Israel Committee, Canadian Jewish Congress and Federation, I had the opportunity to participate in a range of meetings with candidates from each of our three major political parties as they prepared for the federal election. The relationship between Canada and Israel was obviously high on our agenda, and within the context of pre-election pledges and platitudes, it was not too surprising that all the candidates we interviewed, regardless of party affiliation, expressed enthusiasm for positions that would not only strengthen Canada-Israel ties but also lend active support to Israel's quest to suppress terrorism and protect its people.

But for the cynics among us, it seems less than likely that the epiphanies of pre-election exuberance will translate into meaningful policy change once our new government takes shape. For this to occur, it would require a quantum leap from Canada's perceived commitment to so-called "balance" – usually manifested as bias against Israel – that has been a cornerstone of our foreign policy for decades. It would also require an essential shift away from Canada's fixation with supporting United Nations resolutions that routinely condemn the Jewish state.

What is highly doubtful, however, is that any new configuration in Parliament will have even the slightest inclination to begin to re-evaluate the fundamentals of Canada's foreign policy, especially as it relates to the Middle East.

It therefore remains no more than an appealing summer fantasy that Canada might soon follow the U.S. example in embracing a strong and principled stand on Israel.

Risking everything for the dream of dreams

After my more than 30 years in Israel, I can't but wonder who it is speaking here to the readership of the *Canadian Jewish News*: Is it a Canadian Israeli, a Canadian in Israel, or an Israeli born in Canada?

Ross Culiner in Jerusalem

My sense is that, superficialities aside, there's not a whole lot of Canadian-ness left in me anymore, and what little there is has been squeezed into a back corner of my consciousness. Israeli life is too intense and engrossing to allow for much more.

And so my familiarity with the contemporary Canadian scene is at best sketchy, and probably only somewhat more accurate than, say, the familiarity of most Canadian Jews with the living, breathing Israel.

Viewed from afar, Canada is enticing – tranquil, watery, forested, spacious and affluent. I also imagine it as being well governed, efficiently run (relatively speaking) and, most importantly, a place where one can plan for one's children's future with the solid assurance that the future will be there – and one's children will be there to live it. All this makes for an almost utopian never-never-land, when judged from an Israeli perspective.

It is no great surprise, therefore, that I periodically take the temperature of my soul to better understand why it is I remain so stubbornly enamoured of, and committed to this tiny, difficult country. It's the same conclusion always: namely, that, undoubtedly, my life would have been immeasurably poorer had I shown more sense as a young man, listened to good advice and stayed put in Toronto.

Excuse me for saying so, but I feel extremely fortunate that I was not very level-headed or sensible. I am convinced that Israel is the main event of contemporary Jewish history.

There are flashes of realization that are truly the great gift of this land to me. They make everything – the stress, the grief, the disappointments, frustrations and tragedy – a price worth paying. They sneak up on me when least expected – while talking with my children in that absurdly, wonderfully implausible language of Hebrew, or while doing something so extraordinarily ordinary as touching some artefact fashioned by Jewish hands thousands of years ago. For the sheer grandeur of this undertaking of Jewish national rebirth is breathtaking, and the fact that I, myself, played a direct, if modest, role in it is exhilarating.

I now recognize that a mysterious inevitability governed the course of my life. My grandparents, accustomed to the hardships of eastern Europe, wholly embraced the Promised Land of Canada. Yet something sweet, dreamy and insatiable trickled down from them into me, driving me out of that newfound Garden of Eden. Could there have been anything more perverse, on the surface of it, than a pampered Toronto boy opting for the sort of existential uncertainty they so eagerly fled?

But there was an instant of clairvoyance for me during the battles on Mount Hermon in the springtime of 1974; things came together. We were being subjected to heavy mortar bombardment by the Syrians, and I wondered to myself, not without irony, whether I was going to survive my first year in the country.

The life-and-death nature of the situation called to mind my grandfather's intrigues a full century earlier, in trying to avoid conscription into the Czarist military for the 15-year stint of service that awaited young Jewish men, and the not unlikely prospect, as he expressed it, "of a pointless death in a totally irrelevant Russian campaign."

Then and there, shells exploding all around, my eyes filled with tears as I thanked my lucky stars for the immense privilege of being exactly where I was, doing exactly what I was doing, risking my everything for the dream of dreams of long generations.

Romantic? Maybe. But this kind of awareness has the power to sustain and inspire when the going gets rough, when you once again get that dull, throbbing dread in the pit of your stomach. And so you think it over some more, weighing this against that, what might have been against what is, and can't but conclude that what you have done and seen is so much grander, so much more fun than… well, being anywhere else, however pleasant, and missing out on it all.

Ross Culiner is a guide, speaker, educator and filmmaker who lives in Jerusalem. His e-mail address is culiner@netvision.net.il.

An important statement from Israel's religious leaders

On the 17th of Tammuz – July 6 this year – thousands of Israelis gathered in Jerusalem's central square for what can best be described as a teach-in. This fast day commemorates the day that the city walls were first breached by Nebuchadnezzar (586 BCE) and, like Tisha B'Av, is a reminder of the dangers of catastrophic civil conflict between the remnants of the Jewish people in Israel.

Gerald Steinberg in Jerusalem

While media attention has focused on the intense political conflict between proponents and opponents of the plan to withdraw from Gaza and dismantle settlements, this event had a different agenda. It was designed to increase the awareness among Israelis in general, and the religious community, in particular, about the plight of the unemployed and chronically poor elements of society.

The worldwide economic decline was exacerbated in Israel by almost four years of Palestinian terrorism, and these factors have resulted in closed factories, a major jump in unemployment and many poor people who live below the poverty line. Reductions in government subsidies for health, education and other basic services, which were made necessary by the economic crisis itself, increased the difficulties faced by many families.

During this period, community groups have tried to fill the gap through voluntary public assistance programs. Food collection centres have sprung up in many places, and on Fridays in many Jerusalem neighbourhoods, youth groups distribute groceries to needy families. These are important measures, but they do not address issues such as the growing gap between rich and poor, the abuse of low-paid workers, trafficking in women (particularly from eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union), government corruption, and other dysfunctional but often hidden aspects of Israeli society.

The gathering in Jerusalem was first and foremost a way to draw attention to these important social issues. At the same time, the prominent presence of a number of rabbis and other religious figures also reflects the growing realization that this leadership has ignored the humanitarian traditions of the Jewish prophets. Instead, the "national religious" parties and associated rabbis have focused their influence primarily on divisive political issues – borders, settlements, war and peace, etc. At the same time, the haredi leadership has been seen as limited to its own community, playing politics to get its share of the state budget while avoiding the broader social and economic situation.

All of which highlights the potential importance of the statements made at the Jerusalem gathering, combined with the other activities that focus on the Israeli and social and economic agenda. In contrast to the Diaspora, where rabbis are needed as synagogue leaders and family counsellors, these roles are of lesser importance in Israel. Instead, the country is sorely in need of social leaders – not affiliated with particular parties, interests, or ideologies – who can address broader problems. By publicly confronting these issues, the organizers and speakers demonstrated that they recognize their responsibility.

The messages they delivered were mixed, as might be expected for a social movement that is just getting off the ground, even if it is based on thousands of years of tradition. But at the same time, the theme of the day demonstratively avoided the standard and ineffective demand that someone else – usually "the government" – provide solutions.

Governments in general, Israel's included, are notoriously ineffective at dealing with these difficult social issues, and they tend to stifle individual ingenuity, create dependency, and are susceptible to corruption. The million olim from the former Soviet Union know this all too well and are strong supporters of private initiative and self-reliance.

The emphasis is not on a return to the failed reliance on a paternal government, but on greater individual social involvement consistent with the Jewish tradition. The theme of the day was based on the biblical commandment that each person must accept responsibility to take "the right and good action" – without waiting for instructions. The broad purpose was to return the attention of Israelis to the goal of building a just society and being "a light unto the nations."

The Kirshner File

The passing parade...

They died recently, leaving footprints in time...

Alexander Lerner, a pillar of the Refusenik movement in the former Soviet Union who waited 17 years until he was permitted to emigrate and settle in Israel, was also a world-renowned scientist whose publications included the standard work in his field, *The Fundamentals of Cybernetics*, and his memoir, *Change of Heart*.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Stanislaw Ryniak, a member of the wartime Polish resistance, was believed to be the first person imprisoned in the Auschwitz concentration camp. Arrested as a political prisoner, he was sent to Auschwitz on June 14, 1940.

Samuel Dash, a lawyer and professor, was chief counsel of the U.S. Senate Watergate committee, which investigated the 1972 break-in and bugging of the Democratic party headquarters in Washington, D.C., by operatives of Richard Nixon's re-election campaign.

Oscar Schachter was for many years director of the United Nations' general legal division and legal advisor to several UN secretaries general.

Jack Sheinkman headed the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union – the largest such union in the United States – from 1987 to 1995.

Max Starkman, born in Toronto, was an architect who designed the B'nai Brith's Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles and the Sony Pictures Plaza in Culver City, Calif. **Pierre Koening** was a modernist architect whose buildings, Case Studies Nos. 21 and 22, in Los Angeles were emblematic of postwar architecture in the United States.

Sir Horace Phillips was thought to be the first Jewish career diplomat in the British foreign service to reach ambassadorial rank. After a succession of posts in the Arab world, he was appointed envoy to Indonesia and then to Tanzania and Turkey.

Joseph Cullman was the longtime chair of the U.S. cigarette company Philip Morris, a conglomerate whose ads urged smokers "to come to where the flavour is... Marlboro Country." **Estée Lauder** founded an international cosmetics empire whose company was ranked in the Fortune 500 list. **Georgette Klinger** ran a chain of exclusive spas in the United States. Her clients included socialites, celebrities and movers and shakers. **Nathan Taylor**, the Canadian inventor of the modern cineplex, opened the world's first multiplex at the Eaton Centre in Toronto and the city's first art-house movie theatre. **Joseph Berman** was a Toronto property mogul whose flagship firm, Cadillac Fairview, built apartment and office buildings and housing developments. **Alan Tishman** was a member of a prominent New York family with vast property holdings. **Edwin Cogan**, a Torontonian, was one of Canada's most successful real estate agents, purportedly selling more than $10 billion worth of real estate in the 1980s. **Al Lapin Jr.** co-founded the International House of Pancakes restaurant chain. **Harold Harmatz** was the proprietor of Ratner's, one of New York City's oldest family-owned kosher restaurants. **Howard Solomon** owned Cafe au Go Go in Greenwich Village, a celebrated club that played host to iconic musicians and singers ranging from Stan Getz to Bob Dylan.

Jerome Lederer, an aviation safety expert, introduced blinking anti-collision lights and voice data recorders on aircraft and was a member of the committee that organized the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration. **Stanley Feldberg** helped build the Zayre discount store chain, the forerunner of the TJX Companies, which owns the T.J Maxx and Marshalls stores. **Meyer Blinder**, president of Blinder, Robinson & Company, was king of the U.S. penny stock market in the 1970s and 1980s.

Phil Sokolof founded the National Heart Savers Association, an apostle of a low-cholesterol diet.

Ladislaw Hecht, captain of Czechoslovakia's tennis team in the 1930s, was ranked sixth in the world in his prime. **Albert Axelrod,** a top-ranking American fencer, won a bronze medal in the 1960 Olympic Games.

Roger Straus Jr., a leading American publisher, was president of Farrar, Straus & Giroux, whose authors included T.S. Eliot, Nadine Gordimer, Bernard Malamud, Philip Roth, Isaac Bashevis Singer and Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn. **Olivia Goldsmith** wrote the popular comic novel, *The First Wives Club*. **Sheldon Oberman** was an award-winning Canadian author of children's books (*The Always Prayer Shawl* and *The Shaman's Nephew*). **Morton Cooper Feinberg** wrote *The King*, a late 1960s best-selling novel.

Milton Shulman of Toronto was the drama and television critic of London's *Evening Standard* for close to four decades. **Stewart Steven** (Stefan Cohn) edited the *Evening Standard* and the *Mail on Sunday* in the 1980s and '90s. **Jerry Nachman** was editor of *The New York Post* and the cable news network MSNBC. **Murray Gart**, *Time*'s chief correspondent for a decade, was editor of the *Washington Star*. **John Sack**, a pioneer of the New Journalism, was author of *M* and *An Eye For An Eye*. **Peter Tauber** wrote *The Sunshine Soldiers*, an irreverent memoir of the Vietnam war. **Philip Hamburger** wrote for the *New Yorker* for six decades, while **Nissim Ezekiel** was one of India's foremost literary critics. **Melvin Lasky** edited the monthly magazine *Encounter* and **Morris Schappes** was the editor of *Jewish Currents* for some 40 years.

Julius Schwartz, an editor, helped shape popular comic book characters such as Batman, the Flash and Green Lantern. **Syd Hoff** was a cartoonist whose drawings appeared in the *New Yorker* and *Collier's* and whose children's books ran the gamut from *Danny and the Dinosaur* to *Sammy the Seal*.

Helmut Newton's erotically charged, black and white photos in *Vogue* reflected the sexual revolution of the 1960s and defined fashion photography. **Henry Ries'** photographs of the 1948-49 Berlin airlift evoked a period of the Cold War. **Simon Nathan's** Simon Sez columns in *Popular Photography* and *Modern Photography* were widely read.

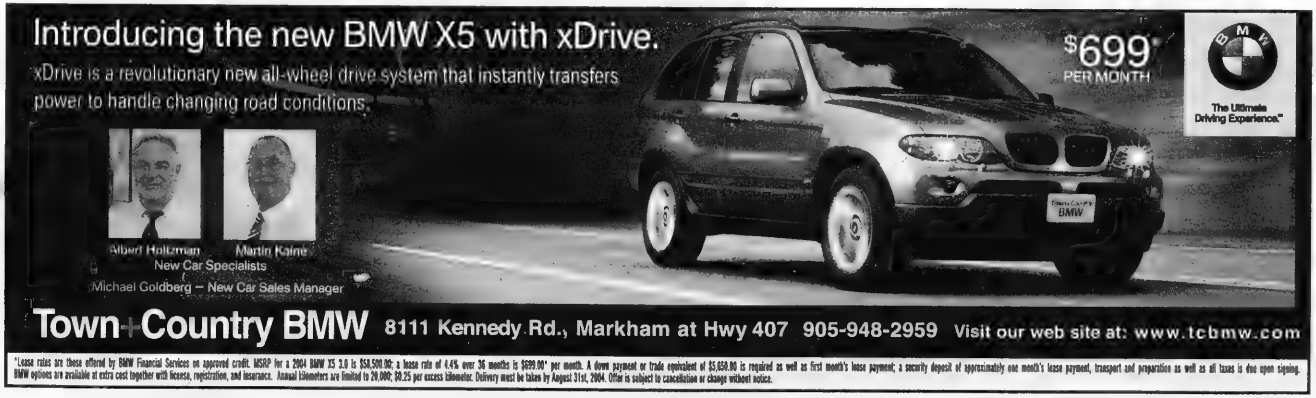
John Randolph (Emanuel Hirsch Cohen) was an actor whose film and Broadway credits included *Serpico*, *Prizzi's Honor*, *The Sound of Music* and *Come Back, Little Sheba*. **Tony Randall** (Leonard Rosenberg) appeared in starring roles in *The Odd Couple*, *Pillow Talk* and *Lover Come Back*. **Helene Winston** of Winnipeg portrayed Al Waxman's mother in the CBC TV sitcom *King of Kensington* and had cameo roles in *The Mary Tyler Moore Show* and *The Alfred Hitchcock Hour*. **Bernard Punsly** was the last surviving member of the Dead End Kids, a band of teenage actors who starred in films of the 1930s and '40s (*Hell's Kitchen* and *Angels With Dirty Faces*). **Alan King** (Irwin Alan Kniberg) was a borscht-belt comedian, nightclub performer, toastmaster, movie actor, host of John F. Kennedy's 1961 presidential inaugural party and of the 1972 Academy Awards and an author (*The Alan King Great Jewish Joke Book*).

Martin Jurow, a Hollywood studio executive and agent, was the producer of *Breakfast at Tiffany's* and *The Pink Panther*. **Jiri Weiss,** a fixture of Czechoslovakia's postwar cinema scene, directed *Stolen Frontier*, *The Wolf Trap* and *Darkness*. **Ralph Winters**, an Oscar-winning film editor, edited *Ben-Hur*, *King Solomon's Mines*, *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* and *Gaslight*. **Phil Gersh**, a Hollywood talent agent, represented Humphrey Bogart, David Niven, Richard Burton and other luminaries. His counterpart, **Sol Leon**, worked on behalf of Joan Crawford and Dionne Warwick. **Isaac Kleinerman** produced the acclaimed TV documentaries *Victory at Sea* and *The 20th Century*. **Joan Richman**, a CBC news producer, supervised early coverage of the Apollo space program. **Ethel Winant**, one of the first female executives in network television, was casting director of *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, *The Twilight Zone*, *Hogan's Heroes*, *The Waltons*, *Rhoda* and *Lou Grant*. **Phillip Goldman** was a co-founder of the Internet service WebTV. **Steven Dorfman** wrote the questions for *Jeopardy!* **Joan Cullman** was a Broadway producer (*Sweet Smell of Success* and *Skylight*).

Eugene Raskin, a folk singer, wrote the lyrics and music for Mary Hopkins' 1968 hit, *Those Were the Days*, based on a Russian folk melody. **Eugene Kash,** a Toronto violin protegy, was the conductor of the Ottawa Philharmonic, a teacher at the Royal Conservatory of Music and the husband of contralto Maureen Forrester. **Lorand Fenyves**, a violinist, founded the Israel String Quartet and taught at the Royal Conservatory of Music. **Fred Karlin** composed songs for film and TV – *Lovers and Other Strangers* and *For All We Know*. **Julian Aberbach**, a music publisher, owned the rights to Elvis Presley's songs.

Samuel Iwry, an Israeli archeologist, was the first scholar to identify and authenticate the Dead Sea Scrolls. **Maxime Rodinson** was a French historian who wrote books about Islam and the Arab world. **Reginald Zelnik**, a historian, focused on the Russian labour movement, and **Daniel Boorstin**, a specialist in American history, was the librarian of the U.S. Congress for 12 years.

Tooker Gomberg was a Canadian political activist and environmentalist. **Peter Safar**, a physician, was the inventor of the mouth-to-mouth breathing technique.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Greater Toronto Area

RJCO reaches out to smaller Jewish communities across Ontario

By CARA EDELL
CJN Intern

While the Jews scattered across Saskatoon, Cornwall or Moncton would fill only a few blocks of certain Toronto neighbourhoods, they are all equally significant to the understanding of our ethnic identity in the Diaspora, said Bruce Kurta, director of development and community relations for Regional Jewish Communities of Ontario (RJCO).

A four-year-old partnership between UIA Federations Canada and the Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario Region, RJCO is committed to raising funds and providing services for 27 of Ontario's small Jewish communities, ranging in size from 10 to 350 families.

Kurta said the expression, "Kol Israel areivim zeh b'zeh" – "All of Israel is responsible for each other" – reflects RJCO's mission. "Whether you're a Jew in Thunder Bay or Niagara Falls, we're one province. No one should turn their back on another," he said.

"It is difficult to appreciate the tensions and dynamics of ethnic survival in a community of 10 or 20 or even 100 Jewish households, when one's reference is only to communities where there are 50,000 fellow Jews," says RJCO's website, adding that it would be naive not to be concerned about the major obstacles these people face – including discrimination and assimilation.

According to the current edition of RJCO's online newsletter, *MaKoreh*, "In some communities, the population is dwindling and we must do everything possible... to allow them to carry on with the traditions that are so important to Jewish people."

Kurta said by offering educational programs and learning tools to children, parents and teachers, RJCO has helped strengthen the relationships between Jews at home and abroad.

One of the organization's most recent endeavours involved broadening the boundaries of Toronto's Holocaust Education Week to the communities of Kingston, St. Catharines, Barrie, Newmarket, Belleville, Oshawa and Peterborough.

"By offering programs that were open to the community at large [testimony of Holocaust survivors, video screenings and education about anti-Semitism], we were able to deliver important and timeless messages about Holocaust education for today's society," says the current edition of the RCJO newsletter.

The Janusz Korczak and the Children of the Warsaw Ghetto exhibit, documenting the life of one of the world's first advocates of children's rights, was acquired by the RJCO from the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre.

Korczak, a Polish-Jewish writer, physician and educator, became a heroic figure in 1942 when he refused offers for his own rescue from the Warsaw ghetto and devoted his life to hundreds of orphans who eventually perished at the Treblinka death camp.

The exhibit was launched in six Ontario communities and has been seen by thousands of Jews and non-Jews, Kurta said. "We had student groups that triple booked. It was the biggest coup of the year."

Through Dor L'Dor: Parent-Teen Dialogue, RJCO educates community members and fosters communication between the generations. Parents and their post bar/bat mitzvah teenagers, along with facilitators, meet for discussions of such topics as children and the Holocaust and Jewish values and ethics.

RJCO has also delivered educational consultant services to Jewish supplementary schools in the regions and provides a resource library and Jewish media centre.

For adults, a lecture series, followed by open discussion, includes speakers Eli Rubenstein, national director for March of the Living; Lance Davis, director of leadership development for UIA Federations Canada; Michael Soberman, national director for Canada Israel Experience; and Rotem Ayalon, an RJCO shaliach.

Families have been encouraged to participate in RJCO's Family Education Outreach Program – a home-study system geared toward Jewish parents with children ages three to 13. Weekly packages filled with songs, stories, recipes, games and information on a range of Jewish topics are sent to subscribers for a year.

Kurta said RJCO has been especially concerned with Jewish teenagers living in outlying areas. The organization, with the help of its program co-ordinator, Fauna Mandel, has developed the High School Outreach Program to address the feelings of isolation that these young people have experienced in predominantly non-Jewish environments.

The program runs on a three-year cycle, bonding Jewish teens through Shabbatons, a five-week summer tour in Israel and a trip to the U.S. Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C.

"By the third year, the participants have formed a special *chevrah*, which they continue to develop without our assistance," says RJCO's website.

Kurta said the organization has also encouraged students to participate in March of the Living and Birthright Israel trips. Scholarships are available through UJA funding.

"So far, we've had very positive feedback from the public," Kurta said. "The Jewish communities are small, but they're vibrant and active."

He said one of the best examples of small-town Jewish pride was at a rally against hate crimes in Kitchener, where more than 700 people gathered to show their support.

A similar protest in Toronto brought out about 3,000 people, but considering the size of Kitchener, the numbers are proportionate, Kurta said.

"Nowhere have communities come together closer than in our communities," said Richard Kizell, RJCO chair.

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Beckerman translates survivor's Holocaust memoirs

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Nightmares: Memoirs of the Years of Horror Under Nazi Rule in Europe, 1939-1945 by Holocaust survivor Konrad Charmatz has been published in English translated from the original Yiddish.

Miriam Beckerman

Charmatz, a Yiddish newspaper editor, was a friend and colleague of writer Eli Wiesel's.

Translated by Miriam Dashkin Beckerman, the book includes a statement of praise by writer Eli Wiesel, who notes the importance of the translation.

At a recent launch of *Nightmares* (Syracuse University Press) at Israel's, the Judaica Centre, on Eglinton Avenue, Charmatz's daughter, Esther Birenzweig, read an excerpt from the book.

Beckerman met Charmatz's wife, Sara, several years ago, after she saw a copy of the *Yiddish Forward* in the mail room of the Toronto condominium in which she lives, addressed to Sara Charmatz.

"I went to give Mrs. Charmatz the newspaper and we became acquainted. She told me about her late husband, who died in 1986, and his Yiddish memoirs. Subsequently, she gave me his book to read," Beckerman said. "The rest is history." Sara Charmatz commissioned her to translate *Nightmares*, which was edited by Matthew Kudelka.

An award-winning translator, Beckerman received a 1998 prize from the Dora Teitelbaum Foundation Inc. in Coral Gables, Fla., for her accomplishments in translation. She said if it were not for translations, "many things would be lost to future generations."

Beckerman is steeped in Yiddish. She was raised in a Yiddish-speaking home, surrounded by Yiddish books and newspapers, and attended the Farband Folkshule in the 1930s. An ardent Zionist in her teens, she trained at the Smithville Hachsharah farm to prepare for making aliyah.

In 1947, Beckerman went to Kfar Blum, a kibbutz in the Upper Galilee, where she met and married an Israeli pioneer fighter and member of the Haganah, Moshe Beckerman. He had been a prisoner of war and had earned a medal fighting in the Palestine regiment of the British 8th Army in World War II.

Their son Nonny was born in Tel Aviv the year the State of Israel was established. Today, both of Beckerman's sons, Nonny and Dan, live in Toronto, while her daughter, Rina Kafri, lives in Rishon Letzion.

The Beckermans visited Toronto in 1952 "so Moshe could meet my parents," she said. "We originally planned to come here for only a year or two, but as so [often] happens, we ended up staying in Toronto. However, we visited Israel at least 10 times before Moshe passed away in 1993, and I continue to do so regularly."

Beckerman worked at the Canadian Jewish Congress as a bilingual secretary and began translating as a hobby. Her first translation appeared in *Lifestyles* magazine in 1986. Before long, she started receiving requests for her translations from around the world.

A grandmother of six, Beckerman attended York University as a mature student, receiving an honours degree in English literature in 1995.

In 1998, she participated in the Vilnius Program in Yiddish Language and Literature at the Centre for Judaic Studies at Vilnius University, in co-operation with the Jewish community of Lithuania. In 2000, she studied Yiddish literature at the University of California in Los Angeles.

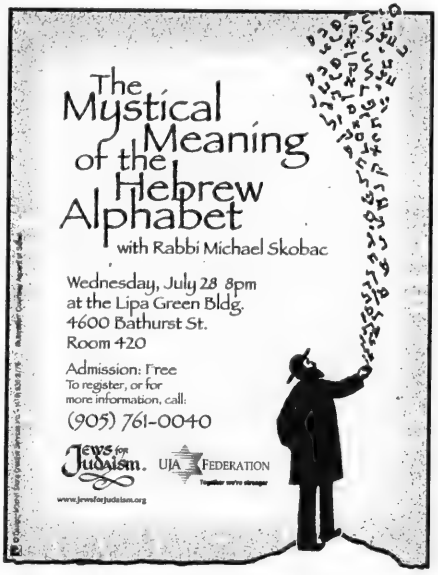
Beckerman's translations include letters, short stories, full manuscripts, and an ever-growing list of Holocaust memoirs and yizkor books.

A member of the American Literary Translators Association, Beckerman has taught Yiddish at Adath Israel Congregation. She is a member of Beth Tikvah Synagogue and Friends of Yiddish.

She also serves as a volunteer facilitator for Yiddish conversation groups at Carefree Lodge and for the day-care program of Baycrest Centre's Wagman Centre.

"Last year, a 93-year-old man who was in one of my sessions came to me and emotionally told me that he hadn't heard Yiddish since he heard his parents speak. It was so meaningful to me," Beckerman said.

"It is so gratifying to hear people tell me how much they appreciate what I am doing."



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The CJN will not enter into any correspondence with contestants.
Send your response to: **"Jackie Mason" Contest**, The Canadian Jewish News, 1500 Don Mills Road, Suite 205, North York, Ont. M3B 3K4 or fax to: 416-391-0949.
Employees and family members of The CJN, Baci Entertainment and The Winter Garden Theatre are not eligible to enter.

CJN *staffer gets a surprise living-room makeover*

By CARA EDELL
CJN Intern

Honey Mahl, a *Canadian Jewish News* sales representative, was "busted" recently on the doorstep of her Toronto home and turned over to the authorities by her three daughters, Jill, Tammy and Melanie.

The crime: bad taste in home decorating.

Arresting officers: the design police.

The sentence: a one-room makeover by the hosts of *Arresting Design*, a lifestyle television show that gives a new identity to a space gone wrong.

Barb Margetts, the show's senior story producer, said that "in Honey's case, her living room was stuck in the '80s. Her Asian theme may have been stylish in 1986, but it was way too dated for 2004."

Mahl's youngest daughter, Melanie, watches *Arresting Design*, and was the main informant of her mother's design disasters. She is responsible for plotting the bust, said Margetts.

In an e-mail to the show before the makeover, Melanie exposed the crime scene. "My parents moved into their house in 1983. In those days, when our living room was decorated, I think we all agreed that the room looked fabulous. Who wouldn't love a Chinese-themed room with ceramic statues made over 20 years ago, and maroon couches with beige trees growing through them?"

The living room Melanie called "horrendous" took another beating in a questionnaire she completed to qualify Mahl for the show.

"Also in the room is the small couch near the window. It belongs to the dogs" she wrote. "We love that they have their little couch and they love it, too… but when did this room become their room?"

Melanie said her mother made an attempt at redecorating two years ago, but became preoccupied.

"She recarpeted and got excited to update. However, things got busy. I moved out, my sister [Jill] had another baby, and before we knew it, my mom put aside her living room, and once again put us first," she said.

So for once, Melanie and her sisters insisted their mother be the centre of attention. Deciding to report Mahl was not a hard decision. The challenge was hiding what they were doing.

"Because the Mahl sisters and Honey are so close, keeping the secret for a month was a feat in itself," Margetts said.

"I'm usually such a yenta," said Mahl. "I normally find out everything!"

Honey Mahl, seated next to husband Jerry, enjoys her living-rooming makeover, courtesy of the lifestyle television show *Arresting Design*.

After a surprise visit from "design squad" members Tammy Schnurr and Jeffrey Fisher, Mahl was "shocked and touched," Margetts said. "It was an emotional moment."

Mahl said she was "blown away" by the bust. "It was beyond my wildest dreams."

Despite the apprehension of some of her friends, Mahl said she was "not nervous in the least" about letting designers, camera crews, carpenters and truckloads of supplies "buzz around" her home.

"I wanted to go with the flow," she said. "I was excited the whole time."

Mahl was luxuriously "imprisoned" for a night at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel, while the *Arresting Design* team worked 24 hours straight to redo her living room, said Margetts.

"I kept calling home and asking how it looked, but no one would tell me anything," Mahl said. "They just kept saying, 'You'll see tomorrow.'"

When Mahl was finally invited to return, she said she was "taken aback." She described the transformation of her living room as "classy and elegant."

While a few of Mahl's original furnishings were kept for sentimental reasons, she said the room was "stripped from top to bottom."

Her walls were repainted powder blue, a mirrored fireplace was built from scratch, cushions were sewn and finishes were put on old tables, she said.

"When I walked in, candles were everywhere. The whole room glowed," said Mahl.

Her two dogs were even accounted for: they can watch the world go by on a gold-trimmed velvet throne that's now beside the window, she said.

That first night, Mahl said she had a "showing" of her living room and added that the changes still continue to amaze guests.

"I felt bad when the crew had to leave," said Mahl. "They exuded so much energy and it was a fabulous experience for the whole family."

If Melanie hadn't sent out an SOS to the show's producers, Mahl said she would not have realized the extent of her design violations.

"Before, nothing was torn or shabby, everything was just from the early '80s. One decorator told me I had 'bold taste,'" she said.

"I've now learned that I can mix styles, like modern and traditional. And I learned that I'm not supposed to wait 20 years to redecorate a room," said Mahl.

On Mother's Day, Mahl's daughters told her a gift was on the way. They said it would arrive within a few weeks, and she would either love it or hate it.

"I was thinking a spa trip or something like that," she said. "Then when all this happened, I was thrilled. I can't wait until Mother's Day next year."

Mahl's *Arresting Design* episode will be aired this September on the W Network. The show is currently in its third season and contestants are in demand.

"We are looking for real characters in the widest variety of ages, relationships and ethnic groups," said Margetts.

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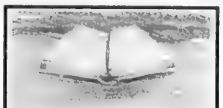
Jewish Life

Bound by words

By RABBI DAVID CADOCH

In this week's double parshah, Matot-Masei, we encounter the subject of uttering a vow (*neder*) or swearing an oath. Jewish law is very specific in distinguishing between a vow and an oath.

The vow mentioned in the Torah refers to a person who prohibits himself or herself personal use of an object that would otherwise be permitted. Whereas, an oath (*shvuah*) confirms the validity of a statement or a condition regarding the person who swears. The common denominator is that they both bind the will (soul) of one who formulates specific words, as the Torah states in Bamidbar 30:3: "If a man vows a vow unto God, or swears an oath to bind his will, he may not make his word void; he must do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth."



Rabbinic Reflections

This law is equally binding on men and women, with the exception of a young woman living in her father's home who has the status of a *na'arah*. She can have her vow annulled by her father upon hearing her uttering a vow of abstention, provided that it is done the same day (till sundown) from the time he heard it. Should the father refrain from annulling her vow, she is obligated to uphold it.

The *na'arah* state lasts until six months after she attains puberty. From this point on, she has the status of a maiden (*bogeret*) and is considered to be mature enough to understand the implication of her vow.

A husband can annul his wife's vow on the grounds that the vow might interrupt the normal course of marriage. If the husband hears her formulate a vow and does not annul it that day, she is required to keep her word. The Torah grants this right to the father and husband on the grounds of compassion and concern for the welfare of family relations (shalom bayit).

The laws of vows and oaths are very specific and complicated. Even more complex are the laws for absolving and annulling them. Vows can be absolved only by a Torah scholar who attempts to find an "opening" (*petach*).

An "opening" is halachically derived through investigative techniques. The Torah scholar attempts to discover if the person was cognizant of the consequences and considerations of such a vow at the time of formulating it. Once a sense of regret has been awakened, with the obvious inability to keep this vow, the *talmid chacham*, having used "investigative discernment," gives a *hetter* (permission) and thus absolves the person from keeping the vow.

It should be made clear that the Torah scholar does not have the power to remove the vow, but only to find an opening and hence declare to the person that the vow had never been binding from the start since it was made in haste and in thoughtlessness, without truly understanding the consequences.

What is the Torah trying to teach us with the laws of *neder*? To arrive at an understanding, we must realize that what distinguishes a human being from any other creature is the possession of the faculties of reason and speech, or as the Torah words it in Bereshit 2:7, "And the Eternal God formed man, dust of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life and so man became a living personality."

Onkelos, a famous Torah commentator, translates the words *lenefesh chayah* to *leruach memalah*, a speaking soul, and Rashi likewise comments that man is above all animals by the distinguishing faculties of *de'ah vedibur*, of reasoning and speech.

Chazzal, our sages, teach us that the power of human speech has a binding and twofold effect on the person who utters words for good or evil and the person to whom those words are directed.

No wonder the Chafetz Chaim was so careful to teach us about the dangers of slander (*lashon hara*). A person has the power to bless or to destroy, by virtue of these God-given faculties.

HaShem wanted us to know that our words bind our souls and we are held accountable for every utterance. In light of these statements, one can have an idea of the power of the *Kol Nidrei* service we recite on the Erev Yom Kippur. All our vows are annulled and we are free to pray in purity.

May HaShem grant us the power to use our words wisely and help us glorify His Torah in the world.

Rabbi David Cadoch is a talmid *of HaRav HaGaon R. Leib Baron shlita of Montreal and a* chaver *of the Rabbinical Council of Canada and Rabbinical Council of America.*

Jews largely unknown, alien to Henry James

The Master by Colm Toibin, McClelland & Stewart, $35.

Henry James (1843-1916), the protagonist of this superb and impressive novel, was born in New York City, but spent his childhood and youth travelling between Europe and America.

His family was wealthy, highly creative and influential. His father was a well-known, if idiosyncratic, intellectual; his invalid sister, an admired diarist; and his elder brother, William, a founder of modern psychology and one of the eminent philosophers of the day.

Books
Bernard Baskin

For James, like most members of his social class, Jews were largely unknown and alien. Condescension and the inability to see the Jew as an individual, rather than as a type, is evinced by his fiction.

He was disgusted by the false accusations made against Captain Alfred Dreyfus in the famous French treason case. In 1904, however, in a visit to the east side of New York City, confronted by a teeming, concentrated Jewish immigrant population, his reactions were less than humane or compassionate.

James eventually settled in England, and so it is not surprising that his recurring themes include the confrontation between new-world innocence and old-world sophistication and the comedy and tragedy that can result when two people from different environments meet.

The Master is set from 1895 to1899, when James was in his 50s, the writing of his best-known novels still before him. It is a period of self-doubt, regret, guilt and unremitting ambition.

In the late 1890s, he wrote a number of plays that were badly received. When *Goy Domnille* was produced, the London audience booed and hissed when he appeared. It was an experience from which he never fully recovered.

Prodigiously prolific, he wrote six to eight hours every day and produced an imposing body of work: novels, short stories, notebooks, an autobiography, plays, literary criticism and travel reportage.

For the most part, his style was baroque, his sentences clotted and convoluted. But he was, undoubtedly, one of the major novelists of the 20th century.

Leon Edel, in his famous biography of James, wrote, "The secret of his enduring fame was simple: he had dealt exclusively with the myth of civilization; he had written about men and women in their struggle to control their emotions and passions within the forms and manners of society. He understood human motive and behaviour and was the first of the modern psychological novelists… He had shown how artists take the chaos of life and shape it into forms that endure."

Toibin structures his novel around a series of episodes in James' emotional life and how his reactions to them became woven into his creative vision. Determined to sustain his writer's privacy, he withdrew emotionally from a number of women who suffered from his calculated remoteness.

Minny Temple, a charismatic young cousin, died of tuberculosis after James had sidestepped her suggestion that she accompany him to Rome, where she might have recovered. Constance Fenimore Woolson, an American writer with whom James had a warm, 14-year friendship, committed suicide in Venice after James withdrew, in spite of apparently promising to take a house with her there. His guilt haunted him for years. The reader senses the anguish of a man of feeling who did not dare to commit himself to physical love.

In one of the book's moving scenes, an admirer expresses amazement at how much James has written. "Did you always know that you would write all these books?" he asks. And, "Did you not once plan it all? Did you not say, this is what I will do with my life?" Suddenly, James is confronted with the sterility of his existence and his unresolved sexual identity. He turns away rather than answer these questions, "with no idea why his eyes had filled with tears."

Against the background of 19th- century landscapes in Paris, London and Venice, Toibin has fashioned a taut and gracefully plotted novel, a melding of biography and fiction, that brings us close to the mind and art of an elusive and enigmatic personality.

Jewish Life

Readers write – part 2

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

From angels to righteous tzaddikim to Jewish news read by computers, readers of this column have eclectic interests on the World Wide Web. Here are some sites they think you should know about.

Do you believe in angels? Judy Silver, a librarian in London, Ont., writes: "For many years I have been interested in angels. I started collecting them. After a while, I thought it was time that I learned about them… To my surprise, angels did have a place in Judaism. So, I thought that there would be a great deal of information on the Internet about angels in Judaism. However, there was very little… So, I thought I would create a website devoted to the topic." Silver traces the importance of angels in the Torah, prayer, midrash and Kabbalah, and explains why rabbis used to downplay the significance of angels. She also links to other interesting sites, including the tale of a doctor and the patient who made her believe in angels. **[www.freewebs.com/jewishangels/]**

Here's a project that may convince you about angels – the flesh and blood kind. Rena Cohen (formerly of Calgary and Toronto) writes from Safed: "As the rest of Israel, we are in deep trouble because of the lack of tourism and all kinds of government cutbacks. We are sadly reporting a tremendous growth in the… working poor." The Lamed-Vuvnik organization tries to address some of these problems by funding people who are trying to make a difference. Like, Clara, the "Chicken Lady of Jerusalem." Clara never set out to help people. She fell into it when she saw a butcher give a young girl a bag of bones. She commented that it was nice of the butcher to give away scraps for pets. He explained that the girl uses the bones for soup and cholent. Horrified, Clara secretly gave him money to give the girl meat each week. That was 17 years ago. Now, the Chicken Lady helps some 200 families and is one of the people who gets funding from Lamed-Vuvnik. **[www.lamedvuvnik.org]**

By the way, the term "Lamed-Vuvnik" refers to the Jewish belief that there are 36 (the numerical value of the letters lamed and vav) tzaddikim living in each generation doing secret acts of kindness. "Tradition tells that on the merit of these 36 people, God sustains the world from generation to generation."

Speaking of tzaddikim, you can probably identify biblical figures such as Abraham, Moses, Sarah or Esther. But what about Belshazzar, Nimrod, Tamar or Yocheved? I received an e-mail from a reader named Benyamin recommending "Torah from Dixie's 'People of the Book,' a terrific sub-section of an excellent Jewish website." It offers short bibliographies of some of the lesser known personalities in the Torah. For instance, Nimrod was the great-grandson of Noah and the instigator behind the the Tower of Babel. Yocheved was the mother of Miriam, Aaron and Moses. Sages also say she was one of the midwives who risked her life to save newborn Jewish boys after Pharaoh's decree of death. **[www.tfdixie.com/pbook.htm]**

Brian Torobin writes "Ever since I subscribed to my high-speed Internet service, I have found the websites of the Israel Broadcasting Authority **[http://bet.iba.org.il/reshetbet.ram]**, and of IDF Radio **[http://gifs.msn.co.il/media/glz.wma]** enormously useful in keeping me up to date with life in Israel… Between the news, the programming is full of political discussions, personal profiles, news interviews, soccer game broadcasts, phone-in shows and sometimes (always on chagim) Israeli music… By hooking up some decent computer speakers… you can close your eyes and pretend you are really in Israel!"

On a related note, a while back I told you about Lawrence Grossman's Jewish Webcasting Guide, with its links to more than 100 Jewish or Hebrew sites with audio or video content. **[http://jewishwebcasting.com/]** Recently, he wrote me about his latest project: he takes news from the Jewish Telegraphic Agency and has a computer read it aloud using text-to-speech software. If you think computers still sound like HAL from *2001: A Space Odyssey*, you will be surprised at how artificial speech can mimic a human voice. Says Grossman: "I think the quality is good enough… that a very economical 'radio' news webcast could be created daily… this would be a great advance for Jewish communications."

If you have a favourite Jewish or Israeli website, or have created your own, e-mail me at the address below and I may mention it in a future column.

* * *

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

Summer reading for the Jewish mind

By ELLIOTT MALAMET

It's time for my annual summer reading suggestions on topics of Jewish worth.

Essential Essays on Judaism by Eliezer Berkovits reveals a remarkably supple approach to problems of Jewish law and nationhood. The cliché "ahead of his time," so hackneyed in many contexts, is richly appropriate here, as Rabbi Berkovits delves into areas that are risky and complex, such as the response of halachah to modern life and a brilliant formulation of Jewish sexual ethics. The collection is an always-intelligent quest for truth.

In a totally different stylistic vein is *Adjusting Sights*, the enormously moving memoir/spiritual odyssey by Haim Sabato. (The prose of the original Hebrew is even more rewarding than the able translation into English.) Sabato's title speaks to a flexible metaphor that describes his harrowing experience as a tank operator in the Yom Kippur War and his grappling with matters of faith forever after.

Marc Shapiro has penned a new book on Maimonides' *Thirteen Principles of Faith* called *The Limits of Orthodox Theology: Maimonides' Thirteen Principles Reappraised*, which though exhaustive and passionate, can't quite escape the feeling that the author has an axe to grind. His earlier biography of the Seridei Aish, Rabbi Yehiel Yaakov Weinberg, titled *Between the Yeshiva World and Modern Orthodoxy*, is a towering accomplishment that highlights the challenges Rav Weinberg faced in negotiating with modernity.

Modern American Jewish fiction has been driven by the obsessions of writers such as Philip Roth and Saul Bellow, revelling in a kind of worship of the gods of American freedom and sexual licence. Dara Horn's *In the Image* is a refreshing change from those motifs, as she weaves a multi-generational story that draws on many Jewish texts, ancient and current, religious and secular. Even more remarkable is the fact that she penned this novel in her early 20s.

The topic of the afterlife has often been assigned to the realm of Christianity in popular Jewish consciousness, but Rabbi Neil Gillman's *The Death of Death: Resurrection and Immortality in Jewish Thought* is a careful and engaging work that brings the theme forward as central to Jewish theology. The questions of whether there is something eternal in us and what form our existence takes beyond this mortal vale are at the centre of Gillman's probings.

Perhaps the most original work of Jewish theology in a long time is the dense but masterful *Expanding the Palace of Torah: Orthodoxy and Feminism* by Tamar Ross, a professor of philosophy at Bar-Ilan University. Exploring highly charged issues based on the challenge to tradition posed by feminism and postmodern thought, Ross presents a serious examination of the problems and possible solutions posed by faith and traditional commitments in the modern world.

Every so often, I am haunted by the idea that no one reads at all any more in our high tech age. More's the pity. There are few things as deeply satisfying as immersing oneself in a great book and finding out that others share the same thoughts, questions and search for reality.

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Hanka (Anna), children and grandchildren.

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Jewish groups won't press for hate charges

Continued from page 1

If a swastika, for example, had been painted on the school, it might have been possible to lay a hate charge, he said.

Birnbaum thinks it is a "sad absurdity" that the persons accused in the spate of anti-Semitic graffiti and cemetery desecrations in the Toronto area have had hate crimes charges laid against them, when a violent act against a Jewish institution doesn't qualify.

The situation points to the need for possible amendments to the Criminal Code, Birnbaum said.

B'nai Brith legal counsel Steven Slimovitch says the UTT attack was "racist, that's not debatable," but definitely does not fall under the hate crimes provisions of the Code. Yet, he said he has no problem with the law as it is.

"Taking into account hate motivation as an 'aggravating factor' in sentencing is an excellent way to do it," he said, and is confident that will happen in this case.

In targeting a Jewish school allegedly because of something Israel has done, the perpetrators are not merely making a political statement, but are, in effect, saying "We are getting you Jews for it," Slimovitch said.

On the other hand, "if someone throws a molotov cocktail through the window of the Israeli embassy with a note 'Get out of the West Bank', it's not a hate crime."

In June, Ontario Attorney-General Michael Bryant added wilful promotion of hatred to the original charges of vandalism and mischief against the three teens arrested in March for a spate of anti-Semitic vandalism. They are an 18-year-old and two minors, aged 15. The Criminal Code requires the attorney-general to personally consent to hate crime charges.

The hate crime charge carries a sentence of up to two years imprisonment, in addition to the penalty for the other charges. Bryant said the judge can also consider hate motivation as an aggravating factor in handing down the sentences for the vandalism and mischief charges.

Lawyers for the three accused in the UTT case – Sleiman Elmerhebi and Simon Zogheib, both 18, and Elmerhebi's mother, Rouba Elmerhebi Fahd, 36 – are scheduled to be back in Quebec Court July 22 for a hearing.

Elmerhebi remains behind bars, while Zogheib is out on $20,000 bail and Elmerhebi Fahd on $10,000 bail. She is accused of being an accessory after the fact. On June 28, judge Serge Boisvert dropped one of the conditions of Elmerhebi Fahd's release that she have no contact with her son. She is now allowed to speak to her son under the supervision of their lawyers, but only in order to prepare their defence. The three have pleaded not guilty.

Crown prosecutor Anne Aube did not object to the relaxation, and neither did CJC or B'nai Brith.

"We are taking the lead of the Crown on this and respect the constitutional right of a full defence," said Birnbaum.

Slimovitch said he has no objection because Elmerhebi remains in custody and is not a flight risk.

Montreal police did, at least initially, consider the UTT incident a hate crime. At a press conference held the day after the April 5 incident, assistant police director Yves Surprenant termed the firebombing a "hate crime" based on the content of the note found at the scene.

Although the contents of the note were never released, it has been widely reported that the attack was said to be in retaliation for Israel's assassination of Hamas leader Sheik Ahmed Yassin and contained an implicit threat that the firebombing was carried out while the school was vacant, but that might not be the case in the future. The note, however, did not explicitly mention Jews.

At the same press conference, Justice Minister Irwin Cotler vowed to bring "the full force of the law to bear" on the perpetrators of what he termed "racist hate crimes."

Hate propaganda is found under sections 318 and 319 of the Criminal Code, which are headed, respectively, "advocating genocide" and "public incitement of hatred." To convict under these provisions, specific proof is required in both the act itself and in the intention, according to the University of Ottawa's Human Rights Research and Education Centre, whose website provides a primer on the law.

"It isn't enough that someone has said something hateful or untrue. The courts will only find someone guilty if they have done exactly what the Code says they can't do – and if they did it on purpose."

To be charged with incitement, the accused must have communicated a statement in a "public place" against an "identifiable group" and "in such a way that there will likely be a breach of the peace." A subsection also makes it a crime to communicate hatred in any way other than a private conversation, but the statement must be a wilful encouragement of others to hate an identifiable group.

A note left at the scene, quickly confiscated by police, with no apparent mention of "persons distinguished by their colour, race, religion or ethnic origin" may be the reason the Crown did not seek a hate charge, Slimovitch suggested, unlike the crimes committed in Toronto, which all could see.

The Criminal Code also permits the courts to take into account a motivation of hate as an aggravating factor when sentencing for other offences, such as damage to property or making threats, which usually results in a more severe punishment.

In addition, anti-terror legislation passed in 2001 created a new offence of mischief against places of religious worship or religious property "motivated by bias, prejudice or hate based on religion, race, colour, or national or ethnic origin." This provision has not been tested in the courts.

B'nai Brith community outreach coordinator Yoni Petel said the organization believes the section should be further amended to include religious schools. "In the wake of the UTT attack, we think this should definitely be revisited," he said.

B'nai Brith is also calling for "one clear national definition of hate crime. The problem is that police across the country are not using standardized criteria," he added.

Both CJC and B'nai Brith officials believe the Crown has a strong case against the three accused based on evidence heard during the bail hearings. That evidence is under a publication ban.

They also understand that police are continuing their investigation and further charges are possible.

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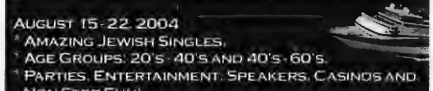
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פרנחייט 11/9

ונקובר, יום שמש של יוני 2004, ואני מחליט ללכת להצגה הראשונה של סרטו החדש של מייקל מור, סרט שזכה לא מכבר בפרס הגדול בפסטיבל קאן. להפתעתי, למרות שמדובר בשש בערב, עומד בסבלנות תור של חצי קילומטר אנשים שרוצים להיכנס פנימה: הגיל הממוצע הוא עשרים וארבע, הרבה אנשים צעירים שאיכפת להם. הסרט הוא אירוע חברתי ממדרגה ראשונה, ואי אפשר להגיד דבר כזה על הרבה סרטים: איש סרטים אמריקאי עושה סרט נגד נשיא ארה"ב ומוציא אותו לאור חצי שנה לפני הבחירות! בסוף השבוע הראשון עומד הסרט בראש רשימת הסרטים המכניסים ביותר. מייקל מור מצחיר בגלוי שהסרט נועד להפיל את הנשיא.

יש ב"פרנחייט" קטעים מדהימים. רואים בו את בוש בתחילת שנות התשעים, כשעוד היה מנהל חברה בטקסס, אומר בלי בושה ש"זה בהחלט יתרון לעסקים שיש לך אבא בבית הלבן". רואים אותו מברך בכנס של אנשי עסקים ואומר משהו כמו "היחד לאלה שיש להם, ולאלה שיש להם יותר" לקול תשואות הקהל.

ואולי הקטע הכי מדהים: בוש מבקר בגן ילדים בפלורידה ב-11 -בספטמבר 2001 כשעשרות עיתונאים מלווים אותו ומנציחים את המפגש. לפתע ניגש אליו איש ביטחון ולוחש לאוזניו דווח על מה שקורה בניו יורק, ובמשך שתים עשרה דקות יושב בוש בפנים בוהות ולא עושה דבר ("לא אמרו לו מה לעשות" לועג מור).

הקהל הצעיר בבית הקולנוע בונקובר נתנה מכל רגע. הם מתעבים את בוש, את מה שהוא מייצג ולטובת מה הוא נלחם. הקהל מוחא כפיים במקומות רבים בסרט, הקהל מוחה דמעה כשרואים אישה עיראקית מתאבלת על שאיבדה את משפחתה בהפגזה אמריקאית. מאז "מלכת האמבטיה" של חנוך לוין לא ראיתי עוד אמנות מתגיידת בכזאת עוצמה. אלא שאת חנוך לוין הורידו אחרי עשר הצגות, ואלו את פרנחייט יראו מיליונים רבים של בוחרים אמריקנים. כפי שזה נראה עכשיו, אחוז לא גדול של אמריקאים צריכים לשנות את דעתם כדי שבוש לא ייבחר. עשר בסולם קורן. סרט מעניין ובהחלט מבדר. אבל שישאר בינינו.

דויד הרדוף איש המילונים

חי בינינו איש מיוחד במינו, שמקדיש את חייו לשימור חשפה שלנו ולתרגומה לאנגלית. זהו דויד הרדוף ה- 11 ביצירתו, וזהו כבר נרכש על ידי עשרות ספריות, כולל אוניברסיטאות טורונטו, יורק, וָיְיִרסון. הרדוף מסביר שתרגומיו מרבים להתבסס על פירושי חז"ל, ועל שיטת King James version למילים התנ"כיות. מפעל זה התחיל ה 1994 ואני מאחל להרדוף הרבה שנים של מלים מבורכות. למעוניינים: טלפון 5467 663 416

טיפול בשתיקה

מושה ומאשה, אחרי שלושים שנות נישואין, מרבים ב"טיפול בשתיקה"-אינם מדברים זה עם זו תקופות ארוכות. יום אחד חייב מושה לקום בחמש בבוקר כדי לצאת ליום גולף עם חבריו. הוא משאיר למאשה פתק בזו הלשון:

"תעירי אותי בבקשה בחמש בבוקר".

כשתמעורר מושל"ח בבוקר הוא מגלה לתרדותו שהשעה היא 9 וחצי. מושה, ברוב עצבים הולך לחפש את מאשה לברר מה קרה לה, כשהוא מגלה פתק על המיטה:

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extend heartfelt condolences to
Dr. Herbert C. Dobrinsky and Sharon Goelman
and their Families on the passing of
their mother, grandmother and great-grandmother
LILLY DOBRINSKY, עה, of blessed memory
May they be spared further sorrow.
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Many awards celebrate achievements of the past.
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For a nomination form and
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On Campus

Homeless, not hopeless

By SHIRA STANLEIGH
Special to The CJN

Guest Voice

My weekly interactions with Rick, a man recovering from a life of homelessness, have obliterated most of my preconceived notions about the people who routinely make the downtown streets of Toronto their humble abode.

I should begin by explaining how I met Rick. As an observant, bored history student at York University, I frequently volunteer with Ve'ahavta's street help van to relieve myself of the monotony of daily university life. One evening this past November, I was complaining to Darryl Borden, director of Ve'ahavta's homeless initiatives, about how food can only sustain a person physically, and that what the homeless also need is some intellectual stimulation.

Darryl responded with a challenge – his name was Rick. He'd been living on and off the streets for some years and avidly desired to return to adult day school, but needed some preliminary literacy work before he could do so. Despite the substantial 27-year age gap that divided us (Rick is 47 years old), we forged a sturdy friendship.

I was initially surprised by Rick's adamant interest in literacy, since he was the first homeless person I had encountered to profess such a passion for the written word. He insisted that I help him by meeting with him once a week to work on his reading and writing skills.

We met every Thursday for one hour at a downtown public library. Rick's interest extended further than the hypothetical. He diligently showed up week after week, gently chastising me if I was late. "Can I ask you She-era, why exactly are you late?" he would ask, delighting in his own ability to properly pronounce my somewhat unusual Hebrew name. I could only sputter a lame response.

Upon discovering that I was Jewish, Rick requested that we switch our reading material from Canadian history to literature about Canadian Jewry. I thought this was strange, but complied gladly – may as well utilize the Jewish day school education for something positive, right?

We began to study the history of Jews in Canada, and Rick was enlivened. He never missed a session, which is more than I can say for the class attendance record of the average York student.

Before Darryl, no one believed in Rick enough to invest any time in him. Given the opportunity, Rick was determined to prove that he was worthy.

Something about the tale of the many Jewish immigrants who started out as the underdogs – truly the lower order of Canadian society – and triumphed against all odds to become members of the country's elite within a number of decades seemed to touch Rick in a personal way.

It inspired him to know that other people could identify with his feelings of subordination and social segregation. He saw the Jewish situation as similar to his own, and it spurred him that much more to challenge himself to reach his potential.

Rick and I continue to learn weekly from each other. Our most recent excursion was to the Holocaust Education and Memorial Centre of Toronto in the Lipa Green Building. which gave us a more three-dimensional exposure to Jewish history.

Darryl and I have excitedly discussed the positive changes we've observed in Rick. His speech is more focused, his thoughts more collected, and his walk now borders on a swagger. It's as if he's been empowered by the knowledge of our community's hardships and ultimate ascension.

Because of Rick, I finally understand why Jews have a specific obligation to do tikkun olam (the repair of the world). We have a long history of being subordinated. Who can better understand the plight of today's societal underdogs? We've been there and done that, and now we have an obligation to aid those in dire circumstances.

Shira Stanleigh is entering her third year at York University.

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

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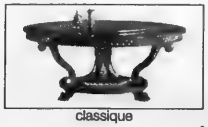
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Food, Scrumptious Food

Salad hits the spot on a hot day

By LISA J. SOLOMON
Special to The CJN

Miami is hot. In the summer, even sometimes in the winter, the air arcs off the streets radiating heat circles that bend but do not break as you walk though them, slowly.

My grandparents, Oma and Opa, bought an apartment in Miami Beach that my family of eight piled into for visits. It was a small unit with one bedroom and a galley kitchen emptying into a simply furnished dining and living area. But the centre courtyard that each of these tiny apartments faced was opened to the sky and bathed in Florida sun. And the beach and the Atlantic Ocean were only two lazy blocks away.

So when we got our driver's licences, my brothers and sisters and I would drive from our Atlanta home to Miami. Opa would find us a little room close by so that we could run around all day and night and touch base for meals or chats in between.

But for Saturday lunches, we came to them. Oma had an array of simple but wonderful dishes she prepared in advance to be eaten cold.

In the Miami heat, her cucumber dill salad was one of my favourites. It was always served in a rectangular glass container with gold flower foiling on the sides. The pale green slices were always perfectly thin and even. And when we sat together around the dim, unlit dining table, me sunburned and tired from the day before, her cool salad felt like a mint mist, a slow fan. Outside their window, the palm leaves baked yellow in the sun, but inside, eating pale green cucumber circles with my Oma and Opa, I experienced a moment when there was nothing I'd rather do.

OMA'S CUCUMBER DILL SALAD

My grandmother marinated her cucumbers in distilled white vinegar, but I replaced it with rice vinegar for a less sharp taste. She also cooked with a very light hand when it came to spices, so play with the seasonings until the salad is perfect and refreshing for you.

2 large cucumbers (approx. 4 cups sliced)
2 tbsp. rice vinegar
1 tbsp. water
1/8 tsp. salt
1/8 tsp. sugar
pinch of white pepper
fresh dill (approx. 1-2 tbsp.)

Peel skin off cucumbers and slice thinly. Arrange in long rectangular sealable container. In small bowl whisk vinegar, water, salt, sugar and pepper. (Season to your taste, but don't add too much salt as it draws liquid from the cucumbers.) Pour vinegar mixture over cucumbers and mix well. Cut fresh dill and sprinkle over cucumbers. Close container, toss to mix, and refrigerate overnight to marinate. Toss again before serving. Serves five as a side dish.

Mom's chicken nuggets and fingers

By EILEEN GOLTZ
Special to The CJN

My son recently returned from his first trip to Israel. One of the most wonderful things about the Birthright program is that it exposes young adults to all the wonders of the country.

After describing his trip and the amazing time he had with all his friends, he talked about the kosher fried chicken he ate at a fast food restaurant.

I then made the following recipes of chicken nuggets and fingers and dipping sauces and showed him once and for all that no matter where he may roam, nobody cooks chicken quite like mom.

SIMPLE CHICKEN NUGGETS

1 1/2 lb. boneless skinless chicken breasts or thighs
vegetable oil for deep frying
1/3 cup all-purpose flour
1/4 tsp. salt
1 1/2 tsp. vinegar
1/4 tsp. baking soda
1/3 cup water

Cut chicken into nugget-size pieces. Put oil in deep fryer or put about 2 to 3 inches in a Dutch oven and heat to 360. Mix flour with salt in a small bowl. Mix vinegar with baking soda. Add vinegar mixture and water to the flour mixture; beat until smooth. Dip chicken pieces into batter; allow excess batter to drip off into the bowl. Fry chicken nuggets, 4 to 6 at a time, until golden brown, or about 4 minutes for each batch. Serves 4. This recipe can be doubled or tripled

CRISPY COCONUT CHICKEN FINGERS

1 cup coconut
1/2 cup flour
1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. black pepper
1/4 tsp. garlic powder
1 1/2 lb. boneless skinless chicken breasts cut in 1-in. strips
1 egg, lightly beaten
1/3 cup margarine, melted

Preheat oven to 400. In a bowl, combine the coconut, flour, salt, pepper and garlic powder. Dip the chicken strips into the beaten egg, then roll it in the coconut mixture. Place the coated chicken piece in a shallow baking pan. Drizzle with it with melted margarine. Bake for 25 minutes or until chicken is browned and cooked through, turning once. Serves 3 to 4.

Family Moments

only from The Canadian Jewish news

Mazel Tov to...

Dan & Sharon Leavy
and
Robert & Dorothy Ross
are thrilled to announce
the engagement
of their children
Pamela and Michael
Best wishes also from siblings
Michelle, Joel and Carolynn

Happy second birthday to Corey, son of Gerry and Paula Feldman. Love from sisters Carly, Taylor Samantha, and Zaide Sid and Bubbie Ida Racko.

Mazel tov to Elana Spilberg & Elliott Biranbaum on their marriage. Parents are Rae Spilberg and the late Michael, Bernice Biranbaum and the late Aaron.

Lynda & Marcel Tuchner and Nancy & Lloyd Pollack celebrate the engagement of Lori & David. Grandparents, Rita Ginsberg and Charles Goodfellow.

Harold & Ethel Landis celebrated their 50th anniversary on July 3.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!
Label the back of all photos and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Send all your photos to: The CJN, Family Moments, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, ON, M3B 3K4.

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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

INSCRIBE YOUR LOVED ONES ON THE YAD VASHEM HOLOCAUST WALL OF REMEMBRANCE
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416-785-1333

What's New Deadlines: There is no issue July 22. Monday, July 26, is the deadline for the Aug. 5 issue and Tuesday, Aug. 3, is the deadline for the Aug. 12 issue. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Thursday, July 15

CONCERT IN THE PARK

Enjoy a free outdoor concert in the theatre at Earl Bales Park featuring **Mitch Smolkin** performing Broadway and Yiddish songs. 7 p.m. Rain location will be inside the Earl Bales Community Centre. For further information, call 395-7873.

Sunday, July 18

A HEALING SERVICE

Experience hope, comfort, faith and support at a healing service led by **Judy Shier Weisberg**, musician and holistic practitioner, 3-4 p.m. at the Lipa Green Building, 4th floor. Wheelchair accessible parking, no fee, open to the public. Call **Etta**, 416-944-3359.

Monday, July 19

JEWISH HEALTH ALLIANCE

The Jewish Health Alliance, a social and professional network for health-care providers, meets for coffee and discussion, 7:30 p.m., at Omni 2 Restaurant, 2793 Bathurst St. The group is open to all individuals with an interest in the healing arts. For information or to RSVP, call 416-208-0610.

Tuesday, July 20

RELEVANCE OF TISHA B'AV

Newly forming Conservative synagogue invites you to a study session with **Rabbi David Seed** on "Tisha B'Av: Jerusalem From Past to Present" at 8 p.m. For information and location, call 416-667-1717.

Wednesday, July 21

ISRAELI FESTIVAL

The Bernard Betel Centre hosts a day-long celebration of Israel with a farmers' market, white elephant sale, craft and book sale, musical presentation, entertainment and Israeli food. Free admission. Families and friends welcome. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. 416-225-2112, ext. 115.

Sunday, July 25

FLEA MARKET

National Council of Jewish Women is holding a huge flea market at 4700 Bathurst St. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. A large selection of new or used items. Free parking and admission. For information, call 416-633-5100.

FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

JRCC Institute of Jewish Studies presents **Chavi Rosenzweig** and **Orna Welman** sharing their personal stories of growth in the shadow of tragedy. 7:30 p.m. 18 Rockford Rd. 416-222-7105, ext. 230.

Monday, July 26

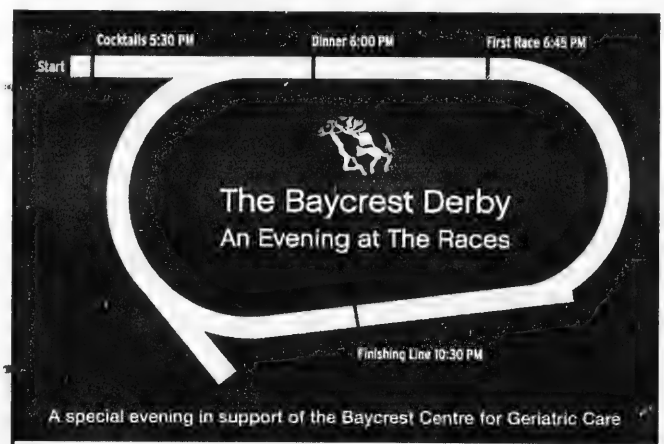
VE'AHAVTA CHAPTER MTG

The community is invited to participate in the next meeting of the Vaughan Chapter of Ve'ahavta. Offer your enthusiasm, dedication and skill by working with other committed individuals to raise community awareness and develop innovative fundraising events for Ve'ahavta's homeless programs in Israel and Toronto. 7 p.m. For information, contact **Dalia Margalit**, 416-964-7698, ext. 14, or email dalia@veahavta.org.

EICHA AND LECTURE

The JRCC hosts a traditional reading of The Book of Eicha at 9:15 p.m. at 18 Rockford Rd. Following Eicha, **Rabbi Yisroel Karpilovsky** will discuss "Transformation: From Destruction to Construction," an opportunity to explore midrashic literature and stories about the destruction and reconstruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, and what it means to Jews today. This presentation is conducted in Russian. 416-222-7105.

Continued on page 23



A special evening in support of the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care

Wednesday, July 28, 2004

Woodbine Race Track, 555 Rexdale Boulevard
Post Parade Room
Cocktails: 5:30 p.m. • Dinner: 6:00 p.m.
$125 per person

To order tickets or for more information, contact Lynda Roth at 416-785-2500, ext. 2020

The Baycrest Centre Foundation

Evening sponsored by DANIER LEATHER

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What's New

Continued from page 22

Tuesday, July 27

TISHA B'AV PROGRAM

A day of study and prayer beginning with Shacharit service at 8 a.m. followed by in-depth explanations of selected Kinnot with **Rabbi Jay Kelman**. Video presentation "If You Don't Cry, Who Will?" at 12:30 p.m. Mincha at 2 p.m. followed by lectures by **Rabbis Mendal Kaplan, Michael Skobac, Benji Hecht** and **Jay Kelman**. Beth Jacob Congregation. 147 Overbrook Place. For information, call 416-633-5770 or visit www.torahinmotion.org.

Other news

SUMMÈR ULPAN

Canadian Zionist Federation is offering a summer ulpan, an opportunity for intensive, interactive daily Hebrew study with **Chanah Sargon**. July 19-22 and July 26-29. Two hours of instruction each day. 4580 Dufferin St., Suite 508. Call 416-633-3988 or e-mail, czf@bellnet.ca.

ANNUAL YARCHEI KALLAH

Three days of text-based learning for women with **Chana Henkin**, on the topic, "Narratives of the Land of Israel: Cities and Sites in Tanach," at Yeshivat Or Chaim, 159 Almore Ave. July 20 to 22. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning and Wednesday afternoon. Text provided in English and Hebrew. Sponsored by Canadian Friends of Nishmat, Mekorot Institute of Torah Study for Women and Emunah Women of Toronto. For more information, e-mail nishmat@rogers.com or call 416-789-4883.

CULTURAL CLASH

The Entertainment Committee of Shaarei Shomayim Congregation presents **Brian Moskowitz** discussing "How I Shanghied From the Israeli Army and Wound Up Teaching in Shanghai, China: The Cultural Clash of Canada, Israel and China." 8 p.m. Thursday, July 29. Members free, guests $2. 416-789-3213.

CHANGING LIVES

Join people across Canada as they complete a full or half marathon, a 10km or 5km race, with the Leukemia Research Fund of Canada's team-in-training program. These individuals will be coached to reach their personal fitness and achievement goals and, at the same time, they will help LRFC to meet its goal, to find a cure for leukemia, lymphoma, myeloma and Hodgkin's disease, by raising funds. Information meetings across the Greater Toronto Area July 26, 27, Aug. 5 and 9 for Sept. 26 run. For information, call 416-661-9541 ext. 103.

INTRO TO JUDAISM COURSE

The Rabbinical Assembly Ontario Region (Conservative) is offering an "Introduction to Judaism Course," beginning Monday, Aug. 16. This three-trimester course covers the basics of Jewish belief and religious practice. Call 416-781-3514, ext. 46, for information and registration.

HIGH HOLY SERVICES

Pray, reflect and connect this Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur with Kolel at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre. Order tickets before July 30 and receive 10% off the ticket price. Call the High Holy Day hotline at 416-485-7007, ext. 0.

ENTERTAINERS FOR HIRE

The Variety Players, a group of seniors ranging in age from 50 to 84 years young, who put on a show of songs and ensemble numbers with **The Betty Arlin Dancers**, are available to entertain at fundraisers, meeting, retirement homes etc. For bookings, call **Shae Eckler** at 905-883-4233.

FOR SENIORS

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Dances every Saturday night through July and August; Casino Niagara, Thursday, Aug. 26. Hebrew classes, Tuesday mornings 10 a.m.- noon, $25/month. Call 416-395-7881 Monday to Thursdays 9 a.m-1 p.m.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the boardroom at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Call 416-630-9444.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St., July 15, discussion; July 22, movie; July 29, day trip. Call **Menachem Wallach**, 905-731-7748, or **Malka Colla**, 416-630-5771.

Baycrest Geriatric Centre Seniors Support Program is holding its Annual Tea on Thursday, July 22 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. This is an opportunity for clients of the Seniors Support Program and their friends to meet face to face with the volunteers that they converse with over the telephone each week. In addition, there are openings for new people in the community who could benefit from telephone support. If you are interested in registering for the Seniors Support Program, call 416-785-2500 ext. 2247.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

"Leadership in Difficult Times: What Makes a Good Leader" with **Prof. Hugh Innis**. Tuesdays, July 20 and 27 between 10 and 11:30 a.m. Members $1.50, non-members $3.

The Morris (Nafty) Naftolin Komedy Kabaret, an opportunity for amateur comedians and raconteurs to perform. Thursday, July 22, 2:30 p.m. Free. For information, call **Ruth Cohen**.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew-speaking seniors meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m., July 20, lecture; July 27, sing-a-long; Aug. 3, movie. Call **Galit Osadtsuk** at ext. 115.

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

Lunch and Learn, Tuesday, July 20, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. "Laughter: A Guide Through Delightful and Mirthful Humour." Members $5, guests $7. Reserve in advance.

Wagman members open meeting, Tuesday, July 21, 12:30-1:15 p.m.

Wisdom of the Ages: a one-hour weekly writing and discussion seminar examining life's timeless wisdom. Share our thoughts and feelings or just come to listen. Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to noon. Call **Mara Swartz**, ext. 2275, for information.

Music appreciation, Wednesdays, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Program focuses on a variety of composers, musicians and bands of different eras. No registration fee. Call **Melissa Konat**, ext. 2297.

The Visionaries: Low Vision Group meets on Thursday, July 22, 3-4 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge, Call **Shawn Fremeth**, ext. 2986.

Yiddish discussion group with **Miriam Beckerman** will be held Thursday, July 22, 3:30-4:30 p.m. in classrooms A and B. No registration required.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

The Koffler Gallery presents **Mitch Robertson**: "S & P 100," July 15 to Sept. 26. Reception, Thursday, July 15, 6 to 8 p.m. Artist's talk at 6 p.m.

The BJCC and Mount Sinai offer a prenatal class Aug. 8 and 15 from 10-4 p.m. The cost is $136 per couple. To register, call ext. 390.

The BJCC School and Daycare has day-care space available for September 2004, a new extended Tic Tac Two morning program from 9-11:30 a.m. and new preschool, nursery, junior kindergarten and senior kindergarten, morning options of 9-11:30 a.m. or 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Call ext. 248 to book a tour or for more information.

The Koffler School of Music registration for fall classes open for Babies and Toddlers Music, preschool music, piano, guitar, violin, flute, saxophone, ensembles, Suzuki piano and violin, Nashir Children's Choir, opera master classes, opera appreciation and Resa's Pieces Band.

Cirque Du Soleil's *Alegria*, September 9, 8 p.m. at Ontario Place. Tickets are $180. With the purchase of every ticket, you are entered into a draw to win a weekend for two to Las Vegas. Call ext 271.

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Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or wwwmilesnadaljcc.ca.

Registration for fall programs at the Miles Nadal JCC starts Sunday, Aug. 1 at 9 a.m. Program book now available. Exciting programs for adults and children, including fitness, recreation, cultural arts, adult education and community celebrations.

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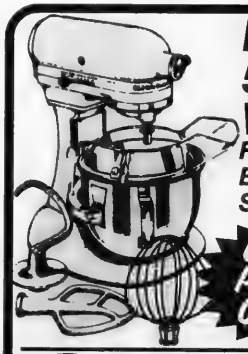
NA'AMAT AWARDS:
At Na'amat Toronto's recent annual membership evening, the Club One Founders Award was presented to a member of each chapter represented that evening. Seen from left are award recipient Norma Barkin, of Club Beersheba, and Malka Weisblum, president Na'amat Toronto. [Mollie Rothman photo]

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 18



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OBITUARIES and Related Notices

To place any other family related notice, please call at least 10 DAYS prior to the issue date

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Ruth Goodman	Jun 25/04	205 Cummer Ave
Martin Abrams	Jun 26/04	7 Bruce Farm Dr
Harry Ungerman	Jun 25/04	2600 Bathurst St
Freda Winnick	Jun 26/04	37 Collinson Blvd
Shirley Rosenbloom	Jun 27/04	130 Combe Ave
Mike Florence	Jun 28/04	57 Wembley Rd
Paul Klein	Jun 29/04	1 Casino Court
Sydney Spiegel	Jun 29/04	1631 Sherwood Forrest Circle
Maria Schwartz	Jun 30/04	429 Walmer Rd
George Roth	Jun 30/04	645 Castlefield Ave
Maynard Kert	Jun 30/04	165 Woodsworth Rd
Jack Glass	Jul 1/04	148 McAllister Rd
Marsha Sperling	Jul 3/04	364 Shanty Bay Rd
Ted Schwab	Jul 3/04	645 Castlefield Ave
Anne Gross	Jul 3/04	645 Castlefield Ave
Lillian Mutiger	Jul 4/04	45 Tanbark Cres

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Shapiro, Frida	June 29, 2004	5935 Bathurst St
Fridman, Lev	June 30, 2004	2045 Finch Ave W
Bensadoun-Moryoussef, Simone	July 1, 2004	6151 Bathurst St
Orhan, Helen	July 1, 2004	35 Lisa Cres
Reisman, Sarah	July 2, 2004	41 Baycrest Ave
Dilman, David	July 3, 2004	Private
Smith, Julius Donlad	July 4, 2004	Private
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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
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will take place
Tuesday, July 20th, 11:00 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Pride of Israel Section
986 Wilson Avenue

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ELEANOR MATLIN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, July 18th, 2:00 p.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Community Section, Phase 4 EEEE
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
MURRAY SEGAL ז"ל
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Fence violates int'l law, parts must be dismantled, Hague rules

By ALUF BENN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The International Court of Justice ruled last week that Israel's West Bank security barrier contravenes international law, that parts of it must be dismantled, and that compensation must be paid to the Palestinian owners of property confiscated for its construction.

"The construction of the wall being built by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and its associated regime, are contrary to international law," the ruling says.

Fourteen justices supported the non-binding advisory decision and the sole opponent was the American judge, Thomas Buergenthal.

Israeli Justice Minister Tommy Lapid said Israel will not comply with the ruling, but will comply with its own court rulings, such as the June 30 High Court of Justice ruling ordering Israel to reroute a 30-kilometre stretch of the barrier northwest of Jerusalem. Later, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson said the court failed to address the issue of Palestinian terror in its ruling.

Meanwhile, a White House spokesperson brushed aside the ruling, saying the Bush administration doesn't think the court is the right forum for addressing what is a political issue.

In building the fence, the court said, Israel violated international humanitarian law by infringing on Palestinians' freedom of movement, freedom to seek employment, education and health.

It also said Israel violated international treaties it had signed that deal with these topics: "The construction of such a wall accordingly constitutes breaches by Israel of its various obligations under the applicable international humanitarian law and human rights instruments."

The court also ruled that Israel must halt construction of the fence and pull down those sections built inside the West Bank. "Israel is under an obligation to… cease forthwith the works of construction of the wall being built in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, to dismantle forthwith the structure therein situated," the court said.

The judges also questioned the route of the fence determined by Israel, saying they are "not convinced that the specific course Israel has chosen for the wall was necessary to attain its security objectives."

The ruling says: "The wall, along the route chosen, and its associated regime, gravely infringe a number of rights of Palestinians residing in the territory occupied by Israel, and the infringements resulting from that route cannot be justified by military exigencies or by the requirements of national security or public order."

On the issue of compensating Palestinians harmed by construction of the fence, the court rules that "Israel is under an obligation to make reparation for all damage caused by the construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem."

Buergenthal was supported by the Dutch judge, Pieter Kooijmans, in his rejection of the call for all countries to act against the project. The other 13 judges ruled in favour of this call. "All States are under an obligation not to recognize the illegal situation resulting from the construction of the wall and not to render aid or assistance in maintaining the situation created by such construction," the ruling says.

The Hague court also ruled that it has jurisdiction to render an opinion on the issue of the fence. The ruling includes a lengthy analysis of the legal situation and of the history of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. Parts of the fence constructed within the Green Line are not included in the court's decision.

The ruling also says that "Israel is bound to comply with its obligation to respect the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and its obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law. Furthermore, it must ensure freedom of access to the Holy Places that came under its control."

The International Court was asked to address the issue of the security fence by a United Nations General Assembly resolution last December, and its decision will be presented to the world body. Israel, the United States and several dozen European nations have argued that the court, based in The Hague, lacks jurisdiction in the matter.

Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia welcomed the decision, saying, "This is an historic day and a historic decision."

PA President Yasser Arafat described the ruling as "a victory for the Palestinian people," while his aide Abu Rudeinah called for UN sanctions on Israel, saying, "As of today, Israel should be viewed as an outlaw state."

PA legislator Saeb Erekat noted the ruling is the ICJ's 26th, and that the previous 25 have been implemented.

For its part, the Defence Ministry has changed the official map marking the route of the fence according to the ruling of Israel's High Court of Justice. The changes run along the section of the fence northwest of Jerusalem, and in parts near Qalqilyah, Modi'in and southeast of Jerusalem near Gush Etzion.

According to the map made public by the Defence Ministry, there are many changes from the fence's original route, all meant to alleviate pressure on the Palestinian population in those areas.

But the new map also shows the intention to build the fence around Ariel, linking the West Bank's largest settlement with the settlements of Karnei Shomron and Immanuel and to the Green Line.

Israel won't comply with Hague fence ruling, Lapid says

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Israel will not follow the International Court of Justice ruling against it on the West Bank security barrier, Justice Minister Yosef Lapid said last week.

After the ICJ handed down its decision, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson added that the court failed to address the issue of Palestinian terror in determining the barrier is illegal.

"[The ruling] fails to address the essence of the problem and the very reason for building the fence – Palestinian terror," the spokesperson told reporters.

The court ruled last Friday that the barrier contravenes international law, that parts of it must be dismantled, and that compensation must be paid to the Palestinian owners of property confiscated for its construction. The court confirmed the European Union's view that the fence is illegal and urged Israel to remove it from occupied territory.

Lapid said Israel would honour only its own court rulings, such as the June 30 High Court of Justice ruling ordering the defence establishment to reroute a 30-kilometre stretch of the barrier northwest of Jerusalem. The High Court ruled the fence is a security barrier rather than a political one, but that Israel must balance security considerations against the needs of local residents.

"Now, of course, there is the limitation the High Court of Justice imposed in Israel, and we will comply with our High Court decisions, and not with the panel of European Union nations, which are not exactly suspected of excessive sympathy for Israel," Lapid said.

The White House brushed aside the ruling, saying it didn't think the ICJ was the right forum for addressing the issue.

"We do not believe that that's the appropriate forum to resolve what is a political issue. This is an issue that should be resolved through the process that has been put in place, specifically the road map," White House spokesperson Scott McClellan said aboard Air Force One as President George W. Bush was en route to a campaign tour in Pennsylvania.

"We certainly recognize the need for Israel to defend itself and protect the people of Israel. It's also important that they allow the Palestinian people to move freely within that region," McClellan told reporters.

The national director of the U.S.-based Anti-Defamation League, Abe Foxman, said, "We thought for a moment the court would rise above prejudice, but as it turns out, it didn't."

Meanwhile, New York senators Hillary Clinton and Charles Schumer were to deliver statements against the International Court's decision in front of UN headquarters in New York.

Last Friday, the Israeli-Arab Hadash party submitted a no-confidence motion to the government in the wake of reports of the ruling against the fence. Hadash head MK Mohammed Barakeh said if Israel ignored the ICJ ruling, it would continue to be an international pariah, Army Radio reported.

Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom held meetings with ministry officials last Friday to discuss Israel's reaction to the ruling, and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon held meetings on the issue Sunday.

Government spokesperson Avi Pazner said Israel will be ready to discuss the fence route after implementing the Gaza disengagement plan.

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Sharon calls Martin

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon telephoned Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin last week to congratulate him on his victory in the recent Canadian elections and wish him success in forming a new government. Sharon thanked his Canadian counterpart for his friendship with Israel and the Jewish people, and for the solidarity that the Canadian government has shown with Israel. Sharon invited Martin to visit Israel. The pair also discussed the dangers of global terrorism, the Gaza disengagement plan and other issues, and agreed to strengthen bilateral relations.

Knesset elections sooner

The High Court of Justice ruled last week that elections for the 17th Knesset will be held in November 2006, not November 2007. But Knesset Speaker Reuven Rivlin (Likud) said the elections would likely be before the 2006 deadline if Prime Minister Ariel Sharon does not cobble together a new majority coalition. Sharon has told associates he plans to run for prime minister again in the next elections. If elected, it would be his third term.

Middle class shrinking

A report published last week by an Israeli research centre found the Israeli middle class shrank between 15 per cent and 19 per cent in the 1990s. The margin of error stems from two different methods used to determine the size of the middle class. Hundreds of thousands of people from the former Soviet Union immigrated to Israel in the 1990s, likely influencing the numbers.

Bloody clashes

Eight Palestinians were killed and more than 20 others were wounded by the Israel Defense Forces during fierce fighting in the Gaza Strip's Beit Hanun area last Thursday. An Israeli soldier was wounded. In a separate incident Thursday, five IDF soldiers were wounded when a mine exploded near a jeep. Two Palestinians were killed by the IDF in the West Bank Friday Earlier in the week, two Palestinian gunmen were killed in Gaza and an Israeli commando and four Palestinians were killed in Nablus.

Sharon, Peres to discuss unity

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon invited interim Labor party leader Shimon Peres to discuss the possibility of a national unity government. They were slated to meet Sunday.

Olmert goes to Istanbul

Deputy Prime Minister Ehud Olmert was expected to visit Turkey this week, though it was unclear if he would meet the Turkish president. The visit by Olmert, who is also Israel's trade minister, comes as relations between the two nations have soured in recent months.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

Darfur crisis testing resolve of 'Never Again'

Continued from page 1

Rosensweig said one of Ve'ahavta's major donors, Walter Arbib, had arranged for $100,000 worth of pharmaceuticals, including multivitamins, antibiotics and hydration fluids, to be available to assist Darfur refugees. But the pharmaceuticals are in Holland and Ve'ahavta's campaign to raise $25,000 to transport the materials to Africa along with other relief goods, including tents, had been disappointing.

Rosensweig believes the community's tepid response is due to a number of factors.

"I think mostly when people respond, there's been a strong media push, and there hasn't been one on the Sudan yet. There's a general malaise regarding crisis response. There are too many of them.

"Also, the Sudan is so distant from us, they become 'the other,'" he said.

Rosensweig noted that some segments of the Jewish community are not interested in helping Muslims who are being killed by other Muslims. In that respect, Rosensweig said, the community is "somewhat polarized."

Ve'ahavta plans to co-ordinate its relief efforts with Shachar Zahavi, founder of IsraAID, an Israeli humanitarian organization. Zahavi has put together a team of between four and six Israelis ready to travel to refugee camps in Chad, a neighbour of Sudan, to administer the relief items.

Epstein said aid organizations are unable to help the refugees because government-backed militias have made travel to Darfur unsafe. Words of condemnation like those uttered by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell at refugee camps recently are inadequate, he said.

What is needed is a Security Council resolution under Chapter 7, which would authorize military intervention to secure humanitarian access, Epstein said.

The Canadian government, for its part, "could help draft a resolution to the Security Council and ask an ally on the Council to present it," he suggested.

"We want the Canadian government to push this and be a leader, as it was against apartheid."

Ve'ahavta has posted an online petition asking supporters to write to their MP or Foreign Minister Bill Graham, asking that Canada pressure Sudan to end the atrocities.

Canadian Jewish Congress spokesperson Manuel Prutschi said Congress had discussed the Sudan in meetings with Prime Minister Paul Martin and Graham. "Once the cabinet is formed, we will re-engage with further advocacy," he said.

In a March 15 letter to Epstein, Graham wrote, "Canada remains deeply concerned about the situation in Sudan, particularly the lack of respect for human rights and international humanitarian law."

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, left, speaks to Sudanese refugee women at the Zamzam camp in northern Darfur, July 1, 2004. [RNS Reuters photo]

The letter noted that Canada had opened an office in Khartoum to, in part, monitor the situation; it had provided financial and technical support for those monitoring ceasefires; it had expressed concerns to high levels of the Sudanese government; it had appointed Senator Mobina Jaffer to urge both sides of the conflict to build a durable peace; and it had given money to an organization mediating the Sudan Peace Process.

However, Epstein believes all of Canada's efforts amounted to talk, not the kind of action needed to avert an impending catastrophe.

Canada, like other UN member states, is afraid to label the atrocities in Sudan "genocide," as that would compel the UN to undertake a military intervention, he said.

In the United States, meanwhile, Nobel Peace Prize-winner Elie Wiesel, who for several years has been trying to place the Sudan violence on the public agenda, said Jews should focus on the Sudan.

"I do it as a Jew because I think Jews should be sensitive to other peoples as well," Wiesel said. "I cannot just live isolated."

Several American Jewish organizations have also spoken out on Sudan while the Jewish Disaster Relief Coalition, made up of some 45 Jewish groups across the political and religious spectrum, set up a mailbox for humanitarian relief for Sudanese refugees.

The coalition, through its mailbox at the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, had collected $11,000 US as of two weeks ago.

To donate funds to Ve'ahavta's Crisis Response Sudan Operation, call 416-964-7698, ext 14. More information is available at www.veahavta.org or at www.geocities.com/cast sudan.

With files from JTA.

Catholic Church equates anti-Zionism with anti-Semitism

By SHLOMO SHAMIR

JERUSALEM — The Catholic Church condemned anti-Zionism as a cover for anti-Semitism in a joint statement issued by a forum of Catholic and Jewish intellectuals this week.

The announcement was made at a gathering of religious, academic and other leading Jewish and Catholic figures in Buenos Aires.

"We oppose anti-Semitism in any way and form, including anti-Zionism that has become of late a manifestation of anti-Semitism," the statement said.

This is the first time that anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism have been equated by the Catholic Church.

The statement also includes a stern condemnation of terrorism, particularly terror in the name of faith. "Terror is a sin against man and against God. Fundamentalist terrorism in the name of God has no justification and cannot be justified."

Ilan Steinberg, director of the World Jewish Congress, one of the forum's organizers, described the joint statement as "an historic moment."

"For the first time, the Catholic Church recognizes in anti-Zionism an attack not only against Jews, but against the whole Jewish people."

Senior Jewish figures called the announcement a significant, public statement of support by the Catholic Church in the face of anti-Zionism. "In the past, Zionism was equated with racism, and this statement turns anti-Zionism statements to a form of racism," a Jewish leader said in New York.

Cleveland Jewish day schools roll back tuition

By MARGI HERWALD
Cleveland Jewish News

CLEVELAND — A fundraising campaign by the Cleveland Jewish community has helped four federation-affiliated day schools cut tuition by up to 45 per cent for the coming academic year.

As part of its multi-year, $137-million (all figures US) fundraising effort called the Centennial Initiative for Jewish Cleveland, the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland announced in January that it would be creating a $20-million day school tuition endowment to help its four partner day schools defray tuition costs and hopefully raise enrolment, as the schools predicted it would.

All four – Gross Schechter Day School, the Agnon School, the Hebrew Academy of Cleveland and Fuchs Mizrachi School – have so far reported small increases in enrolment as a result of the new rollbacks, which at Gross Shechter and Agnon are also being funded with the help of large donors and voluntary contributions from parents who can afford it.

Tuition for the 2004-05 school year at Gross Schechter, which is affiliated with the Conservative movement, will be $5,500 for students in kindergarten to Grade 8, rather than the previously expected $10,000 per student.

Agnon will be rolling back tuition from a range of $8,380 to $9,880 to between $5,500 to $6,500.

The Hebrew Academy of Cleveland (HAC), an Orthodox school, is using its share of the endowment to reduce next year's tuition by 15 per cent, said educational director Rabbi Simcha Dessler. Tuition last year was $6,660 to $9,465. HAC will also ask for a parental contribution toward "tuition containment."

Endowment money spurs enrolment gains

Fuchs Mizrachi School, a modern Orthodox and Zionist school, is decreasing tuition for grades 1 through 12 by $500 next year, while kindergarten will see a $1,000 reduction. Early-childhood's cost reduction will be $500 per half day. Last year, tuition ranged from $2,700 to $9,925.

At Gross Schechter, which last year had 277 students, "the rollback has been amazing for retention," said its headmaster, Rabbi Jim Rogozen. "Current parents signed up very quickly and in record numbers."

As for new students, enrolment is "creeping up a little," he said.

Agnon's head of school Jerry Isaak-Shapiro said the tuition rollback has not attracted that many prospective new students, but it has made families who were already interested in Agnon, which last year had an enrolment of 295, much more likely to apply.

HAC is already expecting increased enrolment from early childhood through high school, Rabbi Dessler said. Last year's enrolment was about 690 students.

"There's a tangible excitement in the air in anticipation of next year," he said.

Fuchs Mizrachi is anticipating slightly, but not dramatically, higher enrolment due to the tuition decrease, said communications and recruitment co-ordinator Diane Wilkoff.

"For an Orthodox day school, parents make a commitment, whether they can afford it or not. We've been getting a lot of inquiries from out of town. Some families don't even have jobs yet. They're just looking at Cleveland as a community."

So far, the school is budgeting for 338 students, a handful more than last year.

Reprinted courtesy of the Cleveland Jewish News.

Canadian model could help solve Mideast conflict, professor says

By JENNY HAZAN
CJN Israel Bureau

JERUSALEM — Canada's accommodation of Québécois nationalism and the rights of aboriginal peoples could serve as a model for Israel's recognition of its Arab minority, which in turn could help Palestinians be more open to acknowledging Israel's Jewish character, a Canadian professor told a conference here.

The goal is to encourage the Palestinians to negotiate in good faith, political science professor Charles Blattberg of the University of Montreal said in a talk at the recent 10th Biennial Jerusalem Conference in Canadian Studies, sponsored by the Israel Association for Canadian Studies.

"I would suggest that there has never been an attempt to change the Palestinian mind in such a way that they will be able to enter into good-faith negotiations," said Blattberg, whose discussion was titled "Terror, security and ethics."

Indeed, instead of negotiation, Blattberg advocates what he calls "conversation," which aims "for reconciliation through the integration of the values.

"Here, the point is not to accommodate one's adversaries, but rather to understand and really learn where they are coming from," he said.

"There hasn't been an attempt to genuinely convince the Palestinians that Israel as a Jewish state is a legitimate entity," Blattberg said. "That's why we need some degree of conversation, if only to bring about the kind of change that's necessary so that we can begin the genuine, good faith negotiations."

The key is giving Israel's Arab population the recognition it requires from the state, just as Québécois and aboriginal people have in Canada.

"First, I think we have to do a lot more to learn about Arab culture," he said, adding he is astounded by the fact that in Israel's public school system, Jews learn English as their second language and then choose between French and Arabic as a third option.

"There is a great deal of ignorance on the part of Zionists about Arab culture, and about Palestinian culture in particular," Blattberg said.

"Jewish Israelis need to recognize that Israel contains within it another nation – the Arab-Israeli nation – and that nation needs the recognition of the state."

Saying official bilingualism is not nearly enough to provide Arab Israelis with the recognition they require, Blattberg proposed other, more radical options.

"We need to change the Basic Law of Israel, from the declaration that it is a Jewish and democratic state, to declaring that it is a Jewish and Arab and democratic state," he said. "I also suggest that we add a pentagram to the Magen David on the Israeli flag as yet another way to grant the Arab nation the recognition that it deserves.

"What that will do is contribute to making the Arab-Israelis the patriots that we need in this country, both for a healthy, patriotic domestic politics and also to help us with the other project, namely reaching out to the Arabs outside of the country to do what we can to deal with that conflict."

Dozens of professors from universities across Canada and Israel gathered for the conference, held from June 28 to July 1 at the Halbert Center for Canadian Studies on Hebrew U's Mount Scopus campus. The more than 20 sessions on topics ranging from "Canadian universities facing crisis" to "Immigration, ethnic communities and insecurity in Canada" focused on the theme "Societies coping with crisis."

"How much freedom should we trade for our security?" Blattberg asked, opening his talk with a question he said has become pressing in Canada, in Israel and around the world.

"In Canada, we tend to conceive of the two values in question – freedom and security – as needing to be balanced," he said, noting this approach is integral to Canada's culture of negotiation, in which the objective is to find compromise between colliding values.

"There is a sort of zero-sum relation or dynamic between values – a little more weight to one value means less to the other and vice versa."

Dissatisfied with this typical Canadian approach to problem solving, Blattberg suggested an alternative that he calls "patriotic politics."

"I don't mean to invoke the notion of nationalism when I say 'patriotic,'" he said. "Rather [I am referring to] a more ancient approach to political philosophy, that of ancient classical republican thinkers who emphasize the idea of the common good.

"What's fundamental to patriotic politics is the idea that when values come in conflict, we shouldn't simply be looking to strike a balance between those values, but we should aim more ambitiously to try to reconcile those values, to truly integrate them without compromise," he said.

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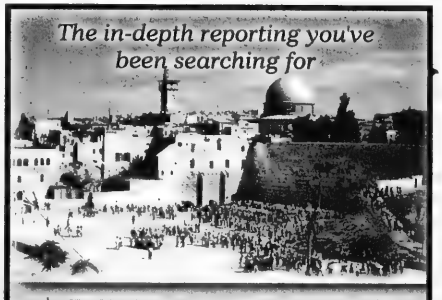
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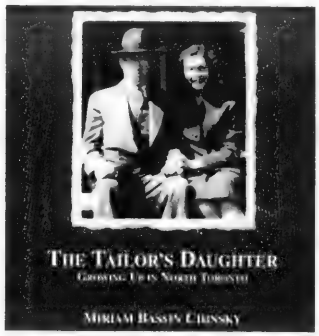
Arts & Travel

Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone



SUMMER LITERARY COLUMN, PART I : IN PRAISE OF *THE TAILOR'S DAUGHTER*

Writers who dedicate their pens to preserving community history generally do so as a labour of love, knowing their literary efforts will probably not capture a huge reading audience nor generate huge royalty cheques.

Over the last decade, **Miriam Bassin Chinsky** has revisited her North Toronto childhood to write a series of popular articles for the *North Toronto Town Crier*. The paper recently published *The Tailor's Daughter: Growing Up in North Toronto*, a collection of Chinsky's fine literary sketches about the neighbourhood where she grew up.

For those of us who recall reading any of these pieces when they first appeared, *The Tailor's Daughter* reminds us of how delightful they were, and how worthy they are of being preserved between the covers of a book, like pressed flowers from long ago.

A freelance journalist who has also written many articles for *The CJN*, Chinsky was born in Toronto in 1925. She grew up along the stretch of Yonge Street between Eglinton Avenue and Sheldrake Boulevard, and often roamed eastward to Mt. Pleasant Road and westward to Avenue Road.

She writes with simple, sparkling elegance about this patch of urban territory as she knew it in the 1930s, '40s and '50s, when North Toronto was a distinct and somewhat remote neighbourhood linked to downtown by streetcar.

She writes poignantly about her father and mother in his tailor's shop on Yonge and in their home that was either above or within short walking distance of the shop. She also provides vivid word portraits of teachers, friends, neighbours, merchants, politicians and other local characters, such as 'Enry, a former sailor and itinerant labourer:

"A wisp of a man, bent almost double, he was one of that legion who gravitated to Toronto from the failing Prairie farms, from the impoverished East Coast towns and villages, from all across the country, and walked the city's streets in the depressed '30s, looking for work or a handout. 'Enry didn't take handouts."

Local history buffs will treasure Chinsky's recollections of neighbourhood shops, department stores, schools, movie theatres and institutions such as the Preventorium. An "attractive white building with lofty colonial columns," the Preventorium was a 128-bed facility for sick and convalescent children that once stood on Sheldrake near Yonge.

The book is a pleasing memory album of a neighbourhood at a time when movie theatres lured patrons by offering one fancy china plate at a low price with each ticket sold, and when teachers thought nothing of smacking their pupils, the iceman made regular rounds, and theatres (like the Eglinton, built 1936) were opulent palaces.

The pieces I like best are those that record some personal incident and carry an unseen twist and an important lesson about life. "To Fix A Tuxedo" and "End of Naivety" are two examples. Each builds to a simple emotional climax involving the sharp perception of a previously undetected social or racial barrier.

"A Lytton Glade" recalls a garden party in an exclusive neighbourhood mansion that features an exotic sunken garden on its grounds. A magical place to a child, the private garden was later ceded to the city as a tiny gem of a park. Chinsky recalls the garden party and a return visit to the site five or six decades later.

Chinsky describes the heat wave of 1936 and the polio scare of 1937, but seems to reach much farther back into history at times. She recalls seeing the Eglinton Hunt Club in all of its finery, "straight out of an English hunting print," and, even more incredibly, provides a glimpse of Thomas Mower Martin, an old-time resident and artist who was born in 1838.

Publication of *The Tailor's Daughter* was assisted by numerous local sponsors who want to give it as wide a distribution as possible. The book deserves a wide readership. If you can't find it at your local bookshop, visit the website www.multimedianova.com or contact the *Town Crier* at 416-785-4300, ext. 282.

* * *

Literary Notes

• **Charles Gross** has written *The Giant of Schwartz Shtima*, a redolent family history and memoir of his parents and grandparents who came from Ukraine to the Canadian prairies and ultimately settled in Winnipeg's north end. The family name of Kassoy was later altered to Kassie and Casey. The memoir is so infused with Yiddish that it offers a glossary of phrases at the back. For information, contact Geraldine Gross Roy, 1976 Amble Greene Dr., White Rock, B.C., V4A 7K5.

• Hungry I Books of Montreal has published *The Little Underworld of Edison Wiese*, a story by **Cary Fagan**. The book was edited by **Norman Ravvin** and printed in a limited edition of 500 copies, and is offered as the first title in a new series devoted to Canadian Jewish writing.

• Second Story Press has published *Great Women Leaders*, a book for young people by **Heather Ball** as part of its Women's Hall of Fame series. The multicultural assortment of 10 subjects runs the gamut from **Hatshepsut**, an ancient Egyptian, to **Golda Meir**, the legendary Israeli prime minister. **Rosa Parks**, **Aung San Suu Kyi** and **Wangari Maathai** are also featured.

Arts & Travel

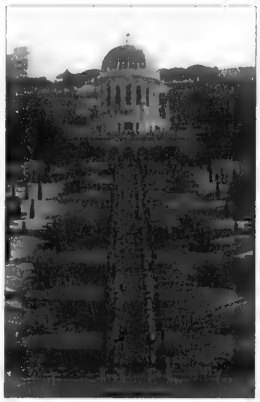
Travel Talk

By BILL GLADSTONE

BAHA'I GARDENS WINS AWARD

Haifa's world-famous Baha'i Gardens, a breathtaking series of horticultural terraces and hanging gardens that extends a kilometre down Mount Carmel, was honoured in Toronto last week with a 2003 Phoenix Award from the Society of American Travel Writers.

Presenting the award to Baha'i representatives at the Windsor Arms Hotel, SATW executive John Macdonald recalled visiting the Baha'i Gardens shortly before its official opening in May 2001. "It blew my mind away," he said. "Instead of an hour, we spent nearly a whole day there."



The Baha'i Gardens in Haifa. [Bill Gladstone. photo]

Inaugurated in 1969, the Phoenix Award is presented annually in recognition of conservation, preservation, beautification and anti-pollution campaigns that further the growth and appeal of travel regions.

The Baha'i Gardens "qualifies for the Phoenix as beautification," Macdonald said. "I've never seen anything like it, and I've seen lots of gardens around the world."

The gardens were built to adorn the golden-domed Shrine of the Bab, the second most holy spot of the Baha'i faith. An oasis of tranquillity in the heart of a bustling port city, the gardens provide a contemplative space in which ordered flowerbeds, water fountains and expansive lawns give way to natural perimeters of trees and shrubs. The cost of US $260 million was raised entirely through private donations.

"They took a mountain of rock and scrub brush– that's all it was, rock and scrub brush – and they turned it into a magnificent jewel," Macdonald said. "This is going to be one of Israel's top attractions, if it's not already."

On hand to accept the award was project director and architect Fariborz Sahba, who spent 15 years working on the project; he currently lives in the Toronto area. Sahba thanked three Haifa mayors, several Israeli prime ministers and the city's residents for their support and patience during the lengthy construction period.

Sahba said he often heard stories about Mount Carmel when he was growing up in the Baha'i faith in his native Iran. "When I was a child my mother would show me a pebble and say, 'This has come from Mount Carmel,'" he said. "For me, it was such an honour to work on that mountain. For the Baha'is, it's one of the most holy places on earth."

(Coincidentally, two other Canadian architects also helped shape the Baha'i World Centre: Montreal-born William Sutherland Maxwell (1874-1952) designed the Shrine of the Bab and Iranian-born Hossein Amanat, a Vancouverite since 1980, designed the award-winning administrative buildings.)

Gerald Filson of the Baha'i Community of Canada, representatives of the Israel Government Tourist Office of Toronto and numerous travel writers were also present at the ceremony.

* * *

New Museum for Jerusalem: The Menachem Begin Heritage Center, an interactive museum and educational facility highlighting the legacy of the former Israeli prime minister, opened in Jerusalem in June across from the Old City Walls below Yemin Moshe.

Designed to be similar to an American presidential library, it houses important papers, artifacts and exhibits related to Begin, who was prime minister from 1977 to 1982. Although he stood on the right of Israel's political spectrum, Begin is best remembered as co-architect of the 1978 Camp David accords, for which he won a Nobel Peace Prize. The treaty ended decades of hostility between Israel and Egypt.

The Menachem Begin Center "provides visitors with insights into one of Israel's most important leaders and offers glimpses of what life was like during his lifetime," said Rami Levi, Israel Tourism Ambassador for North and South America. For details on this or any Israeli museum, visit the websites www.il museums.com or www.goisrael.com

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York grad turns high school project into full-length musical

By JOSEPH SERGE
Arts Editor

It's not often someone turns a high school project into a full-stage production, but Brian Goldenberg has done just that.

Seven of Us is the culmination of a project Goldenberg, 24, began in high school five years ago.

"*Seven of Us* is an original musical that I wrote," he said. "It's about seven students who have just graduated from university and are unsure about where they want to go and the choices they have to make."

The musical premiers July 15 at the Markham Youth Theatre and runs until July 17.

The musical revolves around one of the characters, Rob, whose father wants him to go into the family business, but his girlfriend wants them to travel to Europe instead. "It's the struggle between the three of them," he said. "It's a relationship story with a few twists."

Goldenberg is a graduate of Unionville High School's specialized arts program and York University's music department.

His high school choir would finish each school year by performing a medley of tunes from musicals. In his graduating year, he thought it would be a good idea to do some original music, "so I created a sketch of a story, wrote eight songs, put them into a medley and orchestrated the choir," he said.

He had always vowed to finish the project, but held off during his years at university. He resurrected the idea last summer and held a workshop at the Vaughan Musical Playhouse.

"That was the first draft of it. I did some work on it based on audience feedback and suggestions and the story has since evolved quite a bit."

For instance, originally the musical was about students finishing high school. "It would make a lot more sense if they were finishing university, so I fast forwarded the characters five years into the future – the characters are much more developed now."

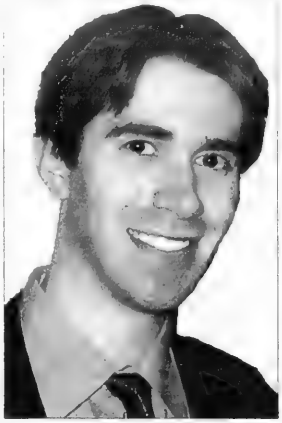
Proceeds from the musical will go to the Herbert H. Carnegie Future Aces Foundation, an organization that focuses on making a difference in the lives of young people.

Carnegie, an African Canadian, was considered one of this nation's rising hockey stars but was forbidden to play in the NHL in the 1950s due to his colour. He formed the foundation to help children overcome obstacles and to promote diversity.

Goldenberg received a scholarship from the foundation after high school and has remained involved with the organization ever since, writing its musical theme song.

"The foundation has helped me become who I've become," he said.

Goldenberg has been involved in various capacities with the Markham Youth Theatre for five years. The non-profit theatre is run for youth by youth.



Brian Goldenberg

"Everybody involved – the crew, the pit, the actors and directors – are all between 14 and 25," he said. "It's kids doing stuff for kids."

Goldenberg has been playing music since the age of six. He has produced or been musical director for eight other musicals, and he also plays in a band, manages a brass quintet and orchestrates an inner-city choir group. His song *Music Will Always Lead Me Home* won first prize in an *In Front* magazine music contest.

"I'm not your typical music theatre freak," says. "I'm first and foremost a musician. I play piano, trumpet and sing. I love musicals, but I wouldn't say I'm not interested in other forms of art. I'm equally satisfied watching a ballet as much as a musical."

He says the music for *Seven of Us* is modern pop, influenced by Chicago (the band not the musical).

Goldenberg will soon be too old for the Markham Youth Theatre. He plans to go to graduate school and continue writing music (he's written more than 100 pop songs) and producing theatre. He also wants to teach.

For tickets to *Seven of Us*, call the Markham Youth Theatre box office at 905-305-7469. For more information on the Herbert H. Carnegie Future Aces Foundation, visit www.futureaces.org.

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New translation of an 'extremely difficult' book

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

"Futility of futilities! All is futile!" I heard someone mutter recently while glancing up with darkened brow from the pages of *Kohelet*, the biblical book also known as *Ecclesiastes*.

The utterance was understandable, since most commentators, if they agree on anything at all about *Kohelet*, seem to be in accordance that it is a most vexing and perplexing scroll.

Even though Kohelet, the narrator from whom the book gets its name, warns that "the making of many books is without limit and much study is a wearying of the flesh," I decided to explicitly ignore that caveat in order to present a brief discussion of the Jewish Publication Society's (JPS) recently published new translation of *Ecclesiastes/Kohelet*, with extensive commentary by biblical scholar Michael V. Fox.

Possessing a myriad of philosophical contradictions and inconsistencies, *Kohelet* also has such a convoluted structure that one 19th-century pseudo-scholar seriously proposed that it was written on a set of index cards that were accidentally shuffled into permanent misarrangement. (The most satisfying interpretation I've heard is that the book presents a debate between four archetypes – builder, hedonist, wise man and man who fears God – the precise quartet of qualities that best defines King Solomon, its purported author.)

A knotty book, *Kohelet* is also a naughty book that seems at times to plunge headlong into heresy, as when the narrator advocates an "eat, drink and be merry" lifestyle because only dust and nothingness await beyond the grave. This is a flagrant denial of the Jewish belief in the World to Come and man's accountability before God.

Kohelet generally repudiates such controversial opinions with statements more in harmony with Jewish values. But it's no surprise that the book was the focus of intense discussion among the early rabbis over its inclusion in the Jewish canon.

It was canonized for at least two major reasons. First, the book has a strong association with King Solomon, its ostensible narrator, to whom authorship is traditionally ascribed. Second and more significantly, its conclusion (12:13) – "The sum of the matter, when all is said and done: Revere God and observe His commandments" – strongly reaffirms the Jewish belief system.

Classified as wisdom literature, *Kohelet* is a philosophic treatise that explores how best to live one's life, as well as the problems of good and evil, and reward and punishment. Although its language can be frustratingly obscure in places, its shining poetry has immeasurably enriched our language.

"To everything there is a season" is perhaps its most famous set piece, but it possesses many other familiar passages and phrases. *Kohelet* tells us that there is nothing new under the sun, that a three-fold cord is not quickly broken, that the race is not to the swift nor the battle to the valiant. It is also *Kohelet* that advises us to cast our bread upon the waters and that a fly will sometimes get into the ointment.

In an impressive 20-page introduction to the new JPS translation, Fox discusses the issues mentioned above and many others – including the dating of the text. Despite the traditional linkage to Solomon in the late 10th century BCE, he asserts that it is "clearly postexilic." He summarizes the scientific evidence, linguistic and otherwise, to suggest it was likely written in the third century BCE.

Fox warns that the book "is in places extremely difficult" with an idiosyncratic vocabulary, strange syntax and many unclear sentences that resist imposed meanings. He defends *Kohelet's* unity but like most commentators, ends up explaining away many of its philosophical diversions on a piecemeal basis.

Particularly useful are his summaries of numerous major interpretations from classical Midrash, Ibn Ezra, Rashbam and other sources. A "watershed" in understanding the book came in the mid-19th-century, he writes, when biblical scholars no longer felt compelled to see the work through the straitjacket of traditional biblical exegesis, and recognized in it "a darker, less pious countenance."

King Solomon enters Jerusalem in the medieval Spanish illustration. According to tradition, Solomon wrote the *Song of Songs* as a young man, *Proverbs* in his middle years, and *Ecclesiastes* or *Kohelet* as an old man.

Fox's insightful commentary is not without its deficiencies. For example, when Kohelet the God-fearer famously refers to "*Gavoah me-al Gavoah*...," the One higher than the high who watches and the higher ones above them (5:7), he sees in this only an elaborate human bureaucracy without reference to either God or the angels.

This is a surprising lapse from one who so readily acknowledges Kohelet's ultimate faith in God and His commandments. "For Kohelet, these are bedrock truths that experience can collide with but not dislodge," he observes.

Likewise, the inventive translation seems idiosyncratic in a few spots. The repeated phrase "*Ureut ruach*," for instance, which is often taken as "a vexation of spirit," is here reduced to "a vexation of wind." Yes, both meanings are correct, but the first signifies a disturbance that gets deeply under the skin and so probably comes closer to the intended meaning.

JPS should be commended for its sensitive textual arrangement, which sets off sections of poetic and metrical language into stanzas. Only the obviously poetic "Everything has its season" passage (3:1-8) receives similar treatment in the Art Scroll *Ecclesiastes*, where everything else is presented as a continuous prose block.

The JPS volume should have featured more about Kohelet's regal alter-ego. King Solomon was famed for his wisdom, built the Temple, took 1,000 wives and amassed huge wealth. Our multifaceted narrator, even if we don't accept that he is Solomon, obviously had much in common with him. However, Fox seems to dismiss the Solomonic connection without a serious discussion of the life and accomplishments of Israel's legendary king. He also pays scant attention to the important subthemes related to the kingdom, inheritance and the father-son relationship.

Both the JPS and the Art Scroll editions of *Kohelet* have their strengths and their weaknesses. Art Scroll's commentary is more diligent about citing scriptural, talmudic and rabbinical references, but often does so in such an abbreviated form as to appear breezily simplistic. The sum of the matter, when all is said and done, is that the JPS *Ecclesiastes/ Kohelet* is a thorough, sensitive and engaging study with much to recommend it.

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Chief JVS psychologist retiring after 40 years

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

In the 40 years she has worked at Jewish Vocational Service of Greater Toronto, Ruth Borchiver, chief psychologist and director of education, has seen a sea change in day school education.

Shortly after she started as a career and rehabilitation counsellor in 1964, JVS was given funds by the predecessor of UJA Federation to provide educational services to one Jewish day school, with Borchiver as the consultant.

Currently, JVS serves about 6,000 students in 12 schools on 21 campuses. Schools now participate in the funding and work in partnership with UJA Federation, says Borchiver.

When she started at JVS, some day school students were tested privately, but for the most part, students who were struggling continued to struggle, says Borchiver, who is retiring in August.

She began working at a time when many women remained at home, she says. "I had a degree, however, and I wanted to do something satisfactory.

"My family was steeped in the Jewish community, and I felt that there was a whole side of myself I could use here. I was proud to be able to use my skills to benefit the community at large.

"[When I was looking for a job] there were few candidates in my field, so I had several offers with good salaries, but somehow the offers didn't work for me. Then I heard of a place called JVS. To be kind, it was in an extremely modest building, in poor repair. The wages and offices were just as modest. After a brief interview, I took the job."

Ruth Borchiver

Borchiver became a registered psychologist in 1965 and went on to earn a doctorate in applied psychology in 1991.

"I went back to school for the thrill of learning. I was anxious to study new theories, which are the underpinnings of everything we do. I got a big bang out of that."

She remained at the agency while she went to school, and "everyone there was very supportive. Adult education is a marvelous thing."

Before day school students had the benefit of psychological testing, Borchiver says, those who were not doing well in one or two subjects often felt inept. "They did not realize that they had certain strengths, and they would begin to question their ability to go on. Now, students who might have left in the past stay in the day school system."

In order to succeed, she says, students need the support of parents and teachers, and assistance, if needed.

"It is also necessary to screen students while they are young. That is when their brains are flexible."

The agency works as a team with Jewish Family & Child Service in order to get input from professionals, she says.

Borchiver still "gets a thrill" from student success stories. "One student had supportive parents, but was faltering in day school. I thought that [the Dr. Abraham Shore] She'arim Hebrew Day School [Sara and Sam Hennick Education Centre] might be the place for him, and he thrived there.

"Some years later, I met him at CHAT and he thanked me for guiding him."

Another child who was part of a dysfunctional family was having emotional problems in preschool, she says. "The odds were against her, but she also went on to succeed at CHAT. With her mother's support, her own strength and the help of the school, she made out well."

Borchiver says she is moved by these stories, "because these are children who might not have gotten it together."

She is retiring, she says, but she is not hanging up her shingle. "I plan on doing a limited amount of private counselling, because I find a lot of purpose in my work."

She also plans to visit Israel and spend more time with her family.

A gala dinner to honour Borchiver is planned for Sept. 28 at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation.

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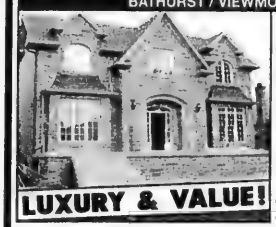

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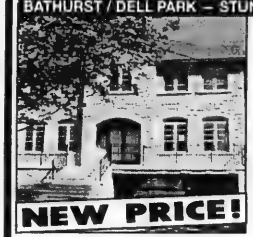

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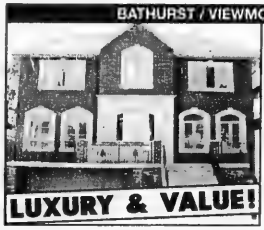

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By JOSHUA CASPER
Special to The CJN

MERRICK, N.Y. — He was a star shortstop for the Philadelphia Phillies and the son of Cuban baseball icon Santos Amaro. She is the daughter of Russian-Jewish immigrant Dorothy Herman and lived in a predominantly Jewish neighourhood of Philadelphia. Yet Ruben Amaro Sr. and Judy Herman had much in common – foremost their love for each other.

As their son Ruben Jr. follows in his father's and grandfather's footsteps in baseball, he bears his mother's Jewish identity, adding to a long legacy of Jewish baseball players.

The Amaros were a tight-knit family that celebrated all of the Jewish holidays. Ruben Jr., 39, now assistant general manager of the Phillies, recalls many family Passover seders and Chanukah celebrations. While the Amaros were not particularly observant, Ruben Jr.'s Judaism remains an important part of his identity.

Baseball, of course, is also central to his life, and Ruben Jr. can boast a distinguished baseball pedigree. His grandfather, Santos (Kangaroo) Amaro, is a baseball legend who was never able to play in the major leagues because of the colour barrier. He is enshrined in both the Cuban and Mexican halls of fame.

* * *

The year was 1960. Ruben Amaro was playing in Philadelphia, where he would spend most of his career. A fan favourite, he also fit in well in the clubhouse. He developed a kinship with the Phillies' contingent of Latino players – Tony Taylor, Pancho Herrera and Tony Gonzalez.

At that time, the Latino players took English lessons at the Herman home with Judy's sister, and Amaro would drive them to their classes. There, he met 18-year-old Judy. It was love at first sight.

"I think it's kind of a replica of things that happened in my family," says Ruben Sr., who married Judy in 1961. "My dad was very dark; my mom was white; everybody in the family is very white. I wanted to marry someone that resembled my mom. I stayed in the United States and started to socialize with her. I got to know her family. We fell in love."

Despite their differences, it was a seamless match. Judy's family took an immediate liking to Ruben, and their differences were never an issue.

Ruben and Judy were married in a Jewish ceremony, and within a year, Judy gave birth to their first child, David. Ruben Jr. was born four years later. Ruben Sr. spent a lot of time on the road so, like other women married to professional athletes, Judy had the main responsibility for the children.

"I had a good partner, which made for a good situation," Ruben Sr. says. "My wife was helpful to my baseball career and with the kids. She had a really tough time, always left alone with the two kids. She did a magnificent job with both David and Ruben. She was both father and mother for a long time."

Ruben Amaro Jr.

If Amaro gets his baseball pedigree from his father, his mother helped to instil Amaro's sense of family and strong moral fibre. He equates those values with his Jewish identity.

"Being Jewish is certainly a part of me," said Ruben Jr. "The one thing about Judaism that stands out for me is respect for your family – that your immediate family was always first, however large or small your family is. That was always foremost in my mind. There was always a family closeness associated with Judaism."

Despite coming from different cultures, Ruben Sr. and his wife shared similar values. None was more paramount than a commitment to education, and it was something they passed along to their children. Both David and Ruben Jr. starred in the classroom and on the ball field at the prestigious Penn Charter High School.

"Ruben and I graduated from good colleges," says David "I think a real dedication to academics was strong. I remember that being part [of] the Jewish side of me. It shaped my character."

'Ultimately, I'm looking to move up as a GM'

* * *

While David's baseball career was winding down in the late 1980s, Ruben Jr.'s had begun to take off. He led Stanford to a record 53 wins and the NCAA title. He was drafted by the California Angels in the 11th round and made his major league debut in 1990. The following offseason, he was shipped to the Phillies in exchange for Von Hayes.

"I played almost my entire career there," says Amaro Sr. "Judy is a native Philadelphian and [Ruben Jr.] grew up there. I was very happy for him – he was coming home after being a batboy for our ball club. Things really worked out very well."

Ruben Jr., who played most of his career in the outfield, got a chance to play every day for the Phillies in 1992. But he struggled, hitting just .219 in 374 at-bats. The next year, he spent most of the season in the minor leagues, and then he was traded to the Cleveland Indians. In 1996, he returned to Philadelphia, where he would spend three seasons as a reserve. Sensing his career coming to an end, Amaro began to think about the future.

"I was very fortunate," says Ruben Jr. "I wanted to stay in baseball. I wasn't sure, ultimately, if that was on the field, as a scout or in the front office. In 1998, during spring training, I went to [general manager] Ed Wade's office and expressed my interest in staying with the Phillies. In that conversation, the idea of being his assistant was brought up."

After the season, Ruben decided to hang up his spikes and move upstairs to the Phillies front office as their assistant GM, learning the nuances of baseball operations under Wade's tutelage.

"I had spoken with Ruben about the possibility of doing something after he retired," recalls Wade. "At that stage of his career, he had to decide what he was going to do sooner rather than later. He had all of the elements necessary for the job. We knew he was going to be a huge asset."

In his sixth season as the Phillies' assistant GM, Amaro has been a key factor in the team's turnaround and is now regarded as one of the top young executives in baseball. Amaro was among the finalists to replace Dan Evans as the Los Angeles Dodgers GM, but the job went to Dodgers assistant GM, Paul DePodesta.

"Ultimately, I'm looking to move up as a GM and run my own organization and my own club. It was a great experience to have been interviewed," says Ruben Jr. "I feel like I'll be able to build an organization. If that's in the cards, great, but I'm grateful to be in Philly."

Israeli Olympians offered gold medal bonus

By YOAV BOROVICH
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Ronit Tirosh, director general of Israel's Ministry of Education, pledged last week to pay 250,000 Shekels ($74,000 Cdn) to any Israeli athlete who brings home a gold medal from this summer's Olympic Games in Athens.

The reward matched the bonus offered by the Israel Olympic Committee (IOC), lifting the prize for gold to 500,000 shekels ($148,000 Cdn).

Speaking before the Israel Olympic team gathered in Caesarea for a day of photo-ops, interviews and speeches, Tirosh said she would also take steps to help athletes who wished to pursue higher education after retiring from sports.

IOC chairman Zvi Varshaviak said the squad could win two or three medals, with nine or 10 athletes having the potential to reach the finals in their respective events.

Tennis players Andy Ram and Yoni Erlich, who will compete in the men's doubles, and Anna Smashnova Pistolesi, who will compete in the women's singles, recently joined the Olympic team.

"The Olympics may not be the biggest tournament in tennis, but all the same I am very excited to represent Israel," said Smashnova-Pistolesi.

"Now that we have reached our aim of making Athens, we will make every effort to come back with a medal," said Ram.

European champion judoka Arik Ze'evi, who was picked to carry the flag at the opening ceremonies, said he was not daunted by expectations for him to win Israel's first-ever Olympic gold.

"I am aware of the expectations on me, but they don't scare me. On the contrary, they only serve to spur me on," Ze'evi said.

The Olympic squad met with President Moshe Katsav in Jerusalem and later the same day they attended a memorial ceremony for the 11 Israeli athletes murdered by Palestinian terrorists at the 1972 Munich Olympics.

I'm not a girl and not yet a woman

I remember when I first turned 20, I had to keep repeating my new age to myself over and over again, just to convince myself it was true. Twenty seemed so old to me, so mature, and yet I felt I had such a long way to go to adulthood.

Not much has changed in the past three years, except that now I'm much more comfortable with looking forward to becoming the kind of adult I want to be, and much better at pretending I already am the mature young woman other people expect me to be.

BY SANDIE BENITAH

The adult I want to become… mature as people expect me to be… but it's as if I'm living out a play called *Sandra Dee Goes To Adulthood*. The feeling is nothing new. It's odd, but despite my successes, my smarts and my social life, I feel like an adult only when I'm doing something I know my older sisters did when they were my age.

Recently, one of Toronto's newspapers made a decision to feature more strong female images. Twenty-somethings like myself constantly vow to live up to a strong female image, at all costs.

It seems I'm always trying to define myself by the hobbies I choose, the boys I date, the shows I watch and the topics I study. More than that, I am defining myself to fit into a role I have already created in my mind. My life has become a play of a play I've studied and shaped for years, and now it's as if I'm simply mastering the lead role. The question is, when does adulthood start to be for real?

When I ventured into the workplace for a job interview, I put on my best grown-up face and my best-looking, grown-up business suit to convince the world I was an asset to be reckoned with. Once I got hired, I was as enthusiastic and hardworking as they come, only to be recognized on my yearly review as the "cute junior employee who was a pleasure to work with and always willing to learn."

It was a slap in the face, as I'm pretty sure my teacher Mora Levy wrote the exact same comment on my Grade 1 report card. Maybe I'm being paranoid, but just how old do I have to be and how hard do I have to work before my boss starts commenting on my skills, rather than my cute enthusiasm?

I felt as if I was six years old, wobbling through life in my mom's high heels all over again. Maybe Britney Spears has it right: I'm not a girl, not yet a woman. Instead of laughing at Spears, perhaps it's time I face the music and start singing along.

Not giving up on my quest to master maturity, I recently planned to head to Israel for the first time, with a group of strangers, in an attempt to get closer to my ideal self-image of the strong, independent female. But then irony struck and I was diagnosed with an unmistakable childhood disease – whooping cough.

Feverish, weak, and with a deep, hacking cough, I literally became a baby all over again, relishing each moment of my parents' unfaltering attention. "My baby, you're so sick," my mom whispered over and over again, her hands constantly on my face, feeling for my temperature and trying to caress my pain away. Although I've never felt so small, I've also never felt so great.

One step forward, two steps back seems to be the dance craze of my generation. It's tough being at an age at which you are expected to act and feel like an adult, when really, you're still tackling childhood insecurities. Toughest of all is realizing that most of these expectations of adulthood come from within.

When I was young and watched my sisters loving their lives, I had high hopes for what I would do when I reached their age. Now that I've reached that pivotal point, I realize they probably weren't loving their lives as much as they were living them.

Living life, I guess, is just what being an adult in your 20s is all about.

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12 small to medium Portobello Mushroom Caps
Vinaigrette
1/4 cup balsamic vinegar
1/4 cup french dijon mustard
3/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
2 garlic cloves, minced fine or pressed
1/4 cup freshly snipped mixed herbs (rosemary, basil, thyme, oregano, etc.)
salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
squirt of fresh lime juice

1. Prepare vinaigrette in large glass bowl
2. Clean outside of mushroom caps with damp paper towel. Remove stems, scrape dark brown gills from inside of caps. Dip into vinaigrette and place into a plastic zipper bag. Marinate 1 hour, turning bag occasionally.
3. Preheat grill to medium; place mushrooms on grill, turning frequently and basting for 5-10 minutes until done.

Presentation: Present cap side up on a large platter lined with leafy greens for a buffet. The caps may be turned over and filled with rice or an orzo salad.
Serves: 6-12, depending upon size of mushrooms and rest of menu.
Garnish: Fresh herbs of your choice

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About Life

Dear Ella,

My son is one of the statistics you hear about on the news. He is nine years old and 20 pounds overweight. It affects his ability to play sports with his friends. He can't run bases well and they make fun of him. It breaks my heart.

He doesn't feel good about himself and I am trying to fix that. I don't really want him to go to a diet club, so with the help of his doctor, I have devised a healthy program for him to follow. I work hard to organize and prepare meals, but then his grandmother comes along with sweets and treats. When dining out, she often asks him what he would like for dessert. She even offers him her leftovers. Although I've explained our goals to her many times, she argues that he needs to eat, since he is a growing boy. Am I fighting a losing battle?

Food Pusher

Dear Food Pusher

You are right that child obesity is a problem. A number of risk factors are associated with increased levels of obesity in youth. With that knowledge, I commend you on being proactive in trying to nip this problem in the bud.

Grandma loves her grandson dearly, and feeding him is one way she shows it. For the time being, try to stay out of restaurants. Celebrate special occasions at home, where you control the meals. That old adage, "You can't teach an old dog new tricks" runs deeper than you might think, so a different strategy may be in order.

Your son is nine, and although I'm sure he loves treats from his grandmother, I think that at his age he can be taught to understand they are not permitted. Have a standby treat for him so that he does not feel deprived, something that is not food-related, such as a small toy or craft.

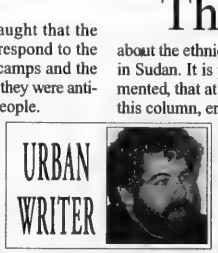
Let him know how proud you are of him every time he makes a good decision. Enlist the help of other family members, his teacher, literature – anything you can to help him see you are all on the same page. Make this a positive experience and show him he is making progress. Eventually, grandma will jump on the bandwagon, too.

Readers may submit their questions to Ella at The CJN., *email: eb@cjnews.com. But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional.*

The Holocaust – in Sudan

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

For years, we have been taught that the world's citizens were slow to respond to the realities of the concentration camps and the barbarism of the Nazis, because they were anti-Semitic and hated the Jewish people.



But, sadly, I believe, that this is only the partial truth. If you want to know where the rest of the world was during the Holocaust, check your scheduler today. People were car-pooling their children, watching movies and running their businesses, just as we are in July 2004 during the genocide in Sudan.

People were busy. They had their own problems, just as we do today while babies are torn away from their mothers in Darfur as part of the genocide in Sudan. Regular folk went about their business, unless forced to become involved, and the Holocaust was allowed to unfold. Generally, we are not anti-Sudanese. We're just too busy.

We will never be able to say we didn't know about the ethnic cleansing, torture and slavery in Sudan. It is painfully clear, and well documented, that at this very moment, as you read this column, entire villages are being levelled as part of the genocide in Sudan. This is an indisputable fact.

But most of us will read this, then put down *The CJN* and go about our business as though Sudan does not exist. We might justify our indifference by saying we can't change the realities of war – indeed, this is what most of the world's citizens lazily stated during the Holocaust.

First and foremost, I am disappointed in myself as a Jew. As Sudan played out, I was too busy with budgets and forecasts. I allowed Sudan to happen until a couple of Jewish community members who couldn't live with the hypocrisy of "Never again" reminded me of my responsibilities.

I now share this with you. We still have a chance. I call upon community leaders and all those who are able to respond to the great tragedy in Sudan. This is what we expected from the world during the Holocaust.

Here is what you can do.

• Put notes in your scheduler that read, "Fight the genocide in Sudan." Force yourself to find time to fight for the lives of the two million Sudanese who could die very soon.

• Learn about the genocide. Type "Sudan" into your favourite search engine. The more you know, the more able you are to respond. The graphic information is all painfully there.

• Become involved in C.A.S.T.S – Canadians Against Slavery and Torture in Sudan, a committee administered by Norman Epstein. Its website address is http://www.geocities.com/castsudan/.

• Play a role in Ve'ahavta's response to the genocide. Visit www.veahavta.org to find out about its plan of action.

• Involve your children, family and colleagues in this struggle. Call or write your MP and the United Nations.

• Launch a "Never Again"committee at your shul and/or company and co-ordinate a vigil and other active responses. In New York, the Reform movement marched in front of the Sudanese embassy calling for a halt to the genocide. Do the same in Canada.

After the genocide in Rwanda, the Jewish community in Toronto shared its post-Holocaust experiences of healing with Rwandan survivors. This was a genuine expression of caring, but it was, ultimately, too little and too late. We cannot do the same with Sudan.

The time to respond is now. We have the ability to do so, and the moral responsibility to act. Let us finally stop bemoaning the indifference of the world, as though the world is not us, and instead soar courageously into the dominion of deeds and action.

"Never Again" is upon us, today. It is called Sudan!

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This Week

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Human chain of protest

An estimated 130,000 Israelis formed a human chain on the weekend from Nitzanim in the Gaza Strip to Jerusalem to protest Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's disengagement plan. Inset are Yaakov Feldman, left, and David Weinberg, formerly of Toronto, and two of Weinberg's children Dovi and Mordechai, who took part in the protest. *Please see related story on page 25.* *[Israel photo]*

Canada abstains on UN security fence vote

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Dan Gillerman
Israel's UN ambassador

To the chagrin of the Canada-Israel Committee, Canada has once again opted for neutrality in a United Nations' General Assembly debate on Israeli policy.

On July 20, Canada joined nine other countries in abstaining on a resolution demanding Israel's compliance with a non-binding International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruling against the Jewish state's controversial separation barrier. The ICJ's July 9 decision called on Israel to dismantle sections of the fence, which snakes through the West Bank and around eastern Jerusalem.

One hundred and fifty countries, including all 25 from the European Union, voted for the Palestinian resolution, while six nations opposed it: Israel, the United States, Australia, Micronesia, the Marshall Islands and the Pacific island of Palau.

Apart from Canada, the abstainers were Uruguay, Cameroon, Tonga, Vanuatu, El Salvador, Uganda, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Nauru.

Shimon Fogel, chief executive officer of the Canada-Israel Committee, voiced disappointment with Ottawa's abstention, but noted that Canada had not gone the way of the EU.

"It's a significant development that Canada broke with the European Union," Fogel said in an interview from Ottawa."But Canada's position falls far short of where Canada should be. That's problematic, and we have to work on it."

The Hague-based ICJ is an inappropriate forum for debating what is a political rather than a legal issue, he said. "It has been dragged into a political debate and hijacked for partisan political gain. Canada should oppose that."

Continued on page 19

Jewish members stay in cabinet

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Irwin Cotler said he is confident his national action plan against hate and racism will not be delayed because of the minority Liberal government.

The Mount Royal MP, who was reappointed justice minister and attorney general, believes there is support among the other parties for the plan, whose cornerstone is codifying the various anti-hate provisions that now exist to protect minorities.

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Holocaust restitution to be centralized — please see page 26

CANADA

New Envoy Named

JERUSALEM — Alan Baker will be Israel's next ambassador to Canada. A legal adviser to the Foreign Affairs Ministry in Jerusalem, Baker led Israel's response to the International Court of Justice hearings on the West Bank security barrier. North American Jewish leaders were told of his appointment July 9 in a conference call with Baker about the ICJ's fence ruling. He is slated to start his new job in September, replacing Haim Divon, the ambassador since September 2000.

Fund for Sderot Youth

TORONTO — UJA Federation of Greater Toronto has set up a fund to give 500 Israeli kids from Sderot, the target of frequent Palestinian rocket attacks, the chance to go to overnight camp near Be'er Sheva. The Afik Memorial Fund is named for Afik Ohayon-Zehavi, a three-year-old boy killed June 28 by a rocket fired from Gaza that also seriously injured his mother. To donate, call 416-631-5816 or visit www.jewishtoronto.com.

Honest Ed Turns 90

TORONTO — The City of Toronto honoured retailer and impresario "Honest" Ed Mirvish on his 90th birthday with a granite sidewalk plaque outside his store at Bloor and Bathurst streets "for his outstanding contributions and service to the City of Toronto."

Cancer Funds Raised

KELOWNA — The Okanagan Jewish Community raised $20,000 at its annual golf tournament earlier this month, with half going to a cancer unit for Kelowna being set up by the B.C. Cancer Foundation.

WORLD

False Victim Says Sorry

PARIS — A French woman who falsely claimed to be the victim of an anti-Semitic attack apologized on national TV. Reading from a prepared statement July 17, Marie-Leonie Leblanc, 23, said she was "deeply sorry… and I ask forgiveness from all those I tricked and hurt." On July 9, Leblanc alleged six men, thinking she was Jewish, attacked her on a train near Paris and drew swastikas on her stomach and overturned her baby carriage. She later admitted there was no attack and that she drew the swastikas herself. She is charged with reporting an imaginary crime and faces six months in jail and a fine.

France Livid After Sharon Urges Jews to Leave

PARIS — A diplomatic crisis erupted between France and Israel over Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's call last week for French Jews to immigrate to Israel because of "the wildest anti-Semitism" in France.

Outraged, President Jacques Chirac responded by having his office inform Jerusalem that Sharon would not be welcome in Paris. However, the message was mainly a show of displeasure, since no visit is planned.

In a speech to Jewish leaders in Jerusalem, Sharon acknowledged France was trying to stem anti-Semitism, but he said the threat was so grave, French Jews should head for Israel without delay. "If I have to advise our brothers in France, I'll tell them one thing – move to Israel, as early as possible. I say that to Jews all around the world, but [in France], I think it's a must and they have to move immediately," he said.

The French embassy in Israel protested to Sharon's office, and the charge d'affaires of Israel's embassy in Paris was summoned to meet Chirac's political advisor, who said Chirac is furious and wants an explanation. Israel has yet to give one.

Survivors Compensated

NEW YORK — Germany has agreed to compensate Jews forced to work in Bulgarian labour camps in World War II. Documentation newly unearthed by the Claims Conference about the Nazi-era camps convinced Germany to add Bulgaria to the list of countries from which former slave labourers could apply for compensation. The change makes Jewish victims from 112 Bulgarian camps eligible for monthly pensions and a one-time payment. As well, the Claims Conference has identified more Jewish victims of Nazi medical experiments and sent them compensation. It identified 704 victims of 178 different kinds of gruesome experiments in more than 30 concentration camps or ghettos. Each victim was sent a one-time payment from a German fund of $5,400 (US). Already, 1,178 such survivors have received funds since last January.

Presbyterians Criticized

NEW YORK — B'nai B'rith has called for an end to interfaith dialogue with the U.S. Presbyterian church. It cited three decisions by the church at its recent general assembly: to fund conversion missions targeting Jews; to divest holdings in Israel and call on others to do so; and labelling Israel an apartheid state. "For a dialogue to take place between two parties – interfaith or political – both sides must accept the right of the other to exist," B'nai B'rith said. The church has some three million U.S. members.

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Al-Jazeera ruling evokes varied response

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

Canada's two main Jewish advocacy groups had divergent responses to this month's contentious regulatory decision allowing Al-Jazeera to air in Canada, with Canadian Jewish Congress welcoming the stringent regulations placed on the Arabic all-news channel and B'nai Brith Canada turning thumbs down to the ruling altogether.

And cable providers are still trying to make sense of the decision to approve Al-Jazeera, saying that restrictions put in place by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) are so onerous and impractical that it's hard to see how the network will air in Canada at all.

In a ruling that has had editorial pages and talk shows bubbling with opinions on free speech for the past two weeks, the CRTC on July 15 approved the carriage of the controversial Qatar-based news station, which has been accused of airing virulent anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial, but the commission ruled that cable and satellite providers must "alter or delete" Al-Jazeera programming to ensure that no "abusive comment" is broadcast.

The decision also requires cable providers to continuously record Al-Jazeera programs "in the event of any future concerns about abusive comment."

The broadcast regulator said its ruling will "minimally" impair freedom of expression.

The Canadian Cable Television Association (CCTA), which had lobbied the CRTC to carry Al-Jazeera on behalf of some 80 cable companies, complained that the requirement to scrutinize, edit and, in effect, censor the network may make it all but impossible for its members to add the service to their listings.

The CCTA said that the CRTC's ruling will require cable companies to monitor Al-Jazeera around the clock and make decisions about what to air and what to cut.

Stated Michael Hennessy, CCTA president: "Cable companies do not want to be forced into the position of having to decide what is appropriate for Canadians to watch. This sets a frightening precedent and virtually ensures that no distributor will ever carry this service in Canada."

Taanta Gupta, a spokesperson for Rogers Cable, Canada's largest cable company, was quoted as saying that the chances of any cable firm carrying Al-Jazeera are "pretty slim."

After calling on the CRTC to bar Al-Jazeera a year ago, CJC welcomed the commission's strict broadcast conditions.

"By specifying these licensing conditions on Al-Jazeera distributors, the CRTC has struck an appropriate balance between freedom of expression and the obligation under Canadian law and broadcast regulations prohibiting discriminatory and hateful speech," Congress president Ed Morgan said in a statement.

"Because of the history of anti-Semitic comment on Al-Jazeera, our first choice was not to have this broadcaster distributed in Canada. However, we are pleased that the alternatives CJC recommended to the CRTC to protect minority communities in Canada from vilification while still protecting free speech have been accepted."

B'nai Brith Canada rejected the ruling altogether, saying it has "challenged" the CRTC's decision.

"It is a sad state of affairs when an Arab-language network that is widely known for incorporating hateful messaging and anti-Semitic themes into its programming is granted a license to operate here in Canada," B'nai Brith said in a news release.

"Government officials say that anti-Semitism and bigotry will not be tolerated in this country. The CRTC ruling conveys just the opposite. It effectively provides official approval for incendiary programming to be broadcast."

It also noted that in the wake of the commission's decision not to renew the licence of a popular French-language Quebec City radio station because of offensive content, the Al-Jazeera "decision shows an inconsistent approach in relation to stations broadcasting offensive and inflammatory material."

Continued on page 17

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Greater Toronto Area

News musings

From the editor's desk

When you take a week's vacation, the news piles up. I comment upon only a small selection.

* * *

"The only way to deal with terrorists is to bring them to justice and to close rank."

This is the plea that successive Israeli prime ministers have made to the civilized world since the first PLO, Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine or like-minded murderers Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Hezbollah, struck down the life of an innocent civilian in the name of their hate-distorted cause.

But wait. These words were not spoken by Ariel Sharon.

They were the heartfelt cry of Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi directed to an increasingly vulnerable world, at a press conference on the weekend in, of all places, Damascus. Allawi was surely not directing his words to the government of Syria, which continues to be a funder, sponsor and enthusiastic booster of terrorism. Rather, he was likely speaking from his unlikely rostrum to the government of Egypt, in the wake of the kidnapping of an Egyptian diplomat in Baghdad.

At least nine people were kidnapped in Iraq in the week beginning last Monday, when the Philippine government completed withdrawing its troops there in exchange for the life of a Filipino truck driver.

Emboldened by the temerarious timidity of the governments of the Philippines and of Spain, the terrorists have clearly decided to press what has become their woeful advantage.

Thus it is not surprising that Australia has now been threatened by Al Qaeda. Alter its foreign policy, Osama bin Laden dictates to Canberra, or suffer the consequences. To its everlasting credit, the Australian government refuses to surrender its freedom to the fanatic's evil dictates.

Hatred and terror are their own justifications. No "root causes" bring justice to the deliberate targeting and slaughter of innocents. Pandering to the bully, appeasing the thug, currying favour with the terrorist are the surest path to ruin. This is a truism we hope our own government understands. Alas, we see little evidence of that understanding in the parliament of the European Union.

* * *

The watershed incident of terror on this continent, of course, was Sept. 11, 2001.

Last week the 9/11 commission finally released its long-awaited report to the public, some 567 pages of meticulous detail, including 116 pages of footnotes. By all accounts, it is a superb document, tightly written and boldly forceful. Among the report's many recommendations is a call to overhaul the American intelligence establishment and to treat the terror threat urgently.

One of the findings of the report, according to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency (JTA), was that "long before the Sept. 11 attacks, Al-Qaeda was planning terrorist attacks against Israeli and American Jewish sites."

The report shows that anti-Semitism and raw hatred of Israel, of Jews and of the United States were among the driving motivations for the terrorism. Apparently Al Qaeda had developed a plan to attack Eilat. They had intended to recruit a Saudi air force pilot to commandeer a Saudi jet and then crash it into the Israeli port city. Bin Laden supported the plan, the report states, but it was put on hold to enable the group to focus on the Sept. 11 atrocities.

Israeli authorities were not surprised by the commission's report. Nor were the leaders and spokespersons of the American Jewish community.

"We didn't need this report to tell us that Jews were and are a target," Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, told JTA.

Canada's profile among the terrorists is far lower than that of the United States. And thus, we may not be within their sights. Yet. But since we are a western democracy, is it not only a matter of time?

Our government must be ready.

* * *

No further evidence is necessary to prove the topsy-turvy, morally inverted state of the United Nations.

But how can one ignore the following?

Last week in the Security Council, Russia, China, Pakistan and Algeria opposed issuing a threat of sanctions against the government of Sudan for its support of the marauding and murderous Arab janjawid militia against black fellow countrymen.

As of this writing, the resolution had not yet come to a vote. Council delegates were still trying to find appropriately acceptable language.

If ever a conflict cried out for sanctions against one of the parties, this one does. More than 30,000 black Sudanese have been killed in the conflict. Millions have been made homeless and now face the ghastly and unimaginably cruel spectre of starvation.

The governments of Russia and China – whose judicial representatives were among the 14 judges on the International Court of Justice in the Hague – found no difficulty in condemning Israel's security wall. But regarding the ongoing degradation, expulsion, starvation and slaughter of the black Sudanese of Darfur, they are equivocating.

Our moral compass, at least, must always point true. *—MBD*

SeeJN

ZEMER CHORALE CELEBRATES 25 YEARS:

The Zemer Chorale of Beth Emeth Bais Yehudah Synagogue recently celebrated its 25th anniversary. Founded and directed by Charles Heller, whose arrangements and compositions have been performed in recordings, concerts and broadcasts, the group has a diverse repertoire and performs in Hebrew, Yiddish, Ladino, Russian, French and English. The choir is largely made up of members of Beth Emeth but also welcomes singers from the community. In 1996, the group received the Silver Jubilee Award of the Ontario Choral Federation. The Zemer Chorale is seen performing at Holy Blossom Temple last year. Conductor Charles Heller is second from the right.

Jerusalem the focus of economic revitalization project

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Jerusalem-based lawyer and venture capitalist Alan Feld is all business – organized, articulate and armed with statistics – when he talks up his latest volunteer involvement, an endeavour aimed at bringing Israel's capital out of an economic slump.

But there's a passion behind the facts and figures that is evident when Feld discusses the non-profit organization StartUp Jerusalem, and, more overtly, when the 42-year-old Toronto native recalls his reasons for moving to Jerusalem three years ago, seven years after making aliyah.

"I love the place," he said in a phone interview during a recent visit to Toronto. "There's no more amazing city in the world than Jerusalem… It's such a fundamentally important place, not only for the Jewish people [but] for everybody."

Capital is now the poorest city in Israel

Earlier this summer, Jerusalem "earned the unfortunate title of the poorest city in Israel," edging out Bnei Brak, Feld said.

"I think one of the major issues is that a lot of young, well-educated people are leaving the city. Over the last decade, about 6,000 people a year have left, and of those, over 50 per cent have had bachelor's degrees or higher. Fifty per cent of them were between the ages of 24 and 35."

Underemployment, said Feld, is one of the reasons people leave.

With StartUp Jerusalem, "we're trying to create or foster the creation of more employment in the city, in higher paying jobs," said Feld, who is chairing the project. It was started four months ago by high tech entrepreneur Nir Barkat, a candidate for mayor of Jerusalem last year, and is being managed by Eli Kazhdan, the former chief of staff for the Israeli Minister of Trade and Industry.

Another key figure is Harvard University business professor Michael Porter, an "international guru" on competitiveness among nations – and StartUp Jerusalem's honorary chair – who has worked on similar projects in other countries.

The Jerusalem initiative, which aims to create thousands of jobs within five years, will focus on three areas: medical, health and biotech; outsourcing and business services; and spirituality and tourism.

Jerusalem already has some competitive advantages in these sectors, Feld said.

In the medical field, he said, there is "world class research" being done at Hadassah and Shaare Zedek hospitals, as well as at Hebrew University. The latter, he noted, is among the top 10 campuses in the world in generating patents from technology developed on site.

"What we're trying to focus on is attracting international companies to open up in Jerusalem, and helping foster domestic companies to create employment in Jerusalem."

The idea, Feld said, is based on Porter's philosophy of creating "cluster models" of people and organizations whose work ties into the area being focused on.

In business outsourcing, Feld noted, Jerusalem's existing assets include a well-educated workforce, cultural similarity to Europe and North America, and the many languages spoken in the city.

The plan for tourism will be closely modelled on Porter's work in Turkey, where he brought together people from diverse sectors, including hotel representatives and archeologists, to create "attractive packages."

Jerusalem has few rivals when it comes to archeological, historical and spiritual infrastructure, Feld said, but "if you look at [number of] nights in hotels, and dollars spent, the amount is far less in Jerusalem than in Tel Aviv, for example."

StartUp Jerusalem has received letters of support from Ehud Olmert, Israel's deputy prime minister and minister of industry, trade, labor and communications; Natan Sharansky, minister for Jerusalem and Diaspora affairs; and Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Organizers also hope North American businesspeople will provide financial and practical support, which Feld said is already starting to happen.

In addition to bringing sectors together, StartUp Jerusalem has a diverse board of 18 people, including Arab hotel owner Sami Abu-Dayyeh and Adina Bar Shalom, CEO of the Ultra-Orthodox College.

"We have very different views of the city's future," Feld said. "But everybody feels a commonality when it comes to the economic future of the city, and making sure it can be strong."

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Greater Toronto Area

Jabotinsky remembered as Israel faces tough decisions

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

A number of audience members interrupted Israeli consul general Yaacov Brosh with cries of "Shame, Shame," "No, no, no," and "Never" when he suggested at a memorial for Ze'ev Jabotinsky last week that Israel has to give up some of its "historical rights."

At the Monday evening event, co-sponsored by Herut-Likud Canada, B'nai Brith Canada, the Hadar Centre, State of Israel Bonds and Betar-Tagar, and held at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation, Brosh recalled the Zionist leader, who died in 1940, as a "romanticist, but at the same time a very practical person."

From left B'nai Brith president Harold Davis, Martin Himel, Israeli consul general Yaacov Brosh and Harry Wolle. [Frances Kraft photos]

Just as Jewish Palestinians had to cede the east bank of the Jordan River in 1921, "today after more than 80 years we stand in a position where we have to give up again some of our historical rights," Brosh said. "We're not happy to do it, we don't want to do it, but we must do it for ourselves and for our future."

> ***Zionist leader a 'romanticist, but at the same time a very practical person'***

Brosh, who otherwise spoke without incident, offered lessons that he said were the legacy of Jabotinsky: to continue to be sensitive to human life and human rights, to "stretch our hands to people and nations who want peace with us," and to "stand very strong against nations and people who don't want to accept our existence and our rights."

Israel is committed to building a stronger, and flourishing, society, he said.

The crowd of approximately 500 people included students affiliated with Betar-Tagar, the youth arm of Herut-Likud and another Jabotinsky legacy.

Rose Lax, who is succeeding Harry Wolle as president of Herut-Likud, presented four Ze'ev Jabotinsky National Awards for Campus Activism.

The recipients were Patrick Amar, former president of Concordia Hillel and more recently a co-ordinator with Hasbara Fellowships in New York; Josh Cooper, a candidate in the recent federal election who has been active in helping students combat campus anti-Semitism; Paul Cooper, the co-founder of the Young Zionist Partnership who won the presidency of York University's Federation of Students after a lengthy, well-publicized battle involving conflict between pro-Israel and pro-Palestinian students; and David Horowitz, campus affairs officer for B'nai Brith and founder of Betar-Tagar at the University of Toronto.

Journalist Martin Himel, the keynote speaker, discussed "media minefields," pointing out disproportionate or one-sided coverage that sometimes gives the impression "that Israel is the most menacing country in the world."

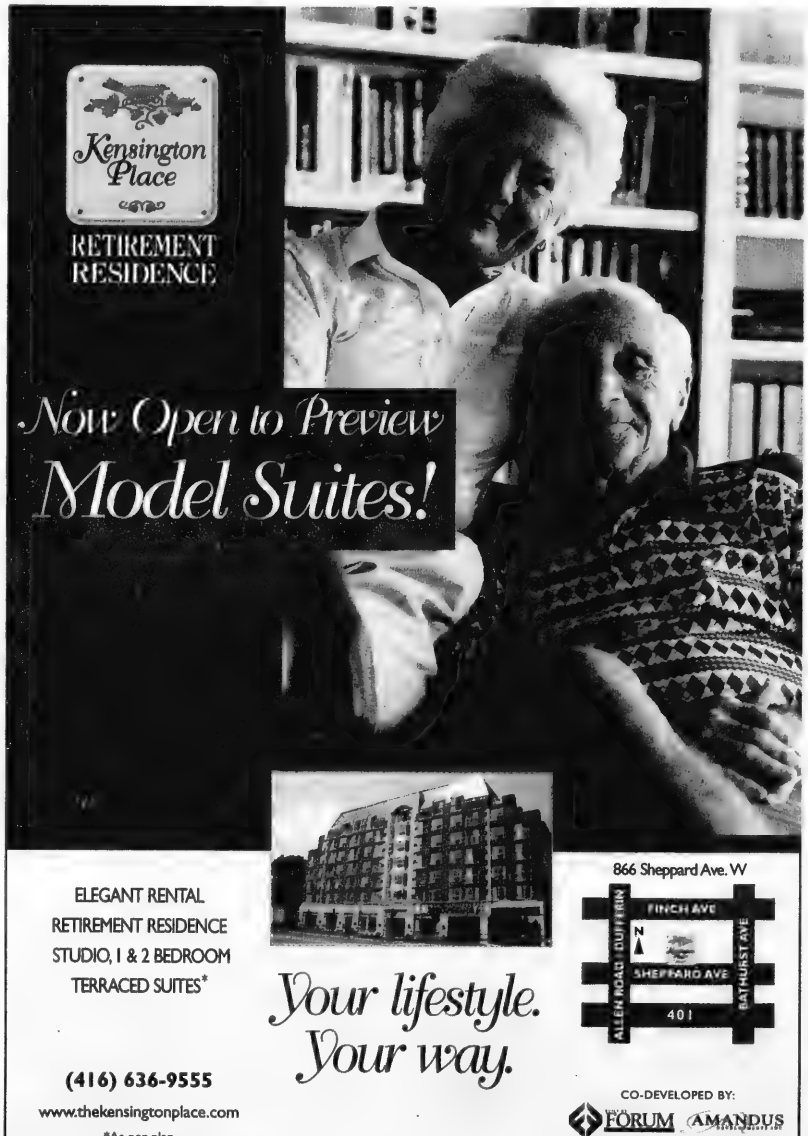
He compared coverage of events in Jenin in 2002 – which he dealt with in his documentary *Jenin: Massacring Truth* – when 26 Palestinians were killed in an Israeli incursion designed to root out suicide bomb-makers, to the less prominent coverage of the expulsion of 1.2 million black Africans from the Darfur region of Sudan, and "thousands of women raped and untold [numbers of] children killed."

The next big media minefield involves accusations that Israel is an apartheid state, said Himel, who believes Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is trying to avert those criticisms with his recent decision to pull Jewish communities from Gaza, thus "removing from the equation" at least 1.5 million Palestinians.

"The price might be very heavy, but it is an issue that has to be raised," Himel said.

Other participants in the program were B'nai Brith president Harold Davis; Ron Furman of Betar; Avi Ben-Zvi, president of Zionists at McMaster; Shoel Silver, president of Canadian Friends of the Menachem Begin Heritage Foundation, and cantor Rudy Bromberg.

Rose Lax, left, presents an award for campus activism to Patrick Amar.



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Aspire to justice, not consistency

Canada is a highly regarded friend of Israel. One need only speak to policy-makers in Israel or members of Israel's foreign service or read the political commentaries about Canada's relations with the Jewish state that occasionally appear in the Israeli press to confirm this observation. For example, in Israel, Canada's abstention last week in the vote on the UN General Assembly's resolution demanding that Israel comply with the contentious, deeply flawed decision by the International Court of Justice concerning the security fence was viewed in a positive light. We however, as Canadians, take a dimmer view.

We expect more. We expect our government to vote in the UN, indeed in every international venue, in a manner that affirms the values that Canadians cherish. High among those values, of course, are justice and fairness.

Surely, at the roll call in the General Assembly last week, justice and fairness would have meant opposing the obviously malign intent of the drafters of the resolution toward the Jewish state. It would have meant standing resolutely against the blatant corruption of the court's legal process. It would have also meant supporting a fellow democracy in its vanguard struggle against the forces of tyranny and terrorism.

Reynald Doiron, a Foreign Affairs spokesperson told *The CJN* that Canada's vote was consistent with its position on the security fence. To be sure, Canada's abstention was a vastly higher statement of values and principles than the bloc vote of the European Union, some members of which, by voting in unison, even contradicted their own earlier positions against the sham legal proceedings in the Hague. But, as Canadians, we beseech our government, especially in disputes where matters of life and death are at stake, to aspire higher than the technocrat's ideal for consistency. Rather, Canada must always aspire to the more important democratic ideal of justice.

Remember AMIA

The youngest victim, Sebastian Barreiro, was 5 years old; the oldest victim, Faiwel Dyjament, was 73. Along with them, 83 others were killed and some 300 people were wounded when the AMIA Jewish community center in Buenos Aires was bombed by terrorists 10 years ago on July 18, 1994. A trial against several Argentines suspected of involvement in the attack has been under way for several years, but no one has been convicted.

The building was targeted for one reason. It was the *Jewish* community centre. For the vile perpetrators, that was sufficient justification. Their hatred is a sick and evil contempt against which all freedom-loving peoples around the world – not just Jews – must be on guard.

But while we stand on guard, we must also remember the victims of that hatred. We must remember the AMIA.

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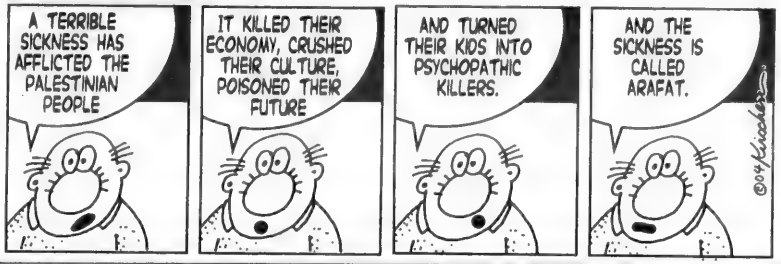
Dry Bones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Land is disputed, not Palestinian

In his letter, "Court ruling better than nothing" (*CJN*, July 15), Jordy Cummings refers to the decision of Israel's Supreme Court regarding the "security barrier" (*his quotes*) "on Palestinian land" (*his quotes*).

Given this, I wonder if Cummings is of the view that the Old City of Jerusalem, where Jews had lived continuously for more than 3,000 years before being expelled by Jordan in 1949, also constitutes "occupied Palestinian land" (*my quotes*). The territories occupied by Israel after the 1967 war are not now, nor have they ever been, "occupied Palestinian land." They are disputed territories, and the final determination of their status has yet to be determined. A reading of UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, which remain the cornerstones on which any Middle East peace agreement will be based, make this abundantly clear. To state otherwise is simply incorrect.

Steven Chaimberg
Montreal

* * *

CJC wrong on Al-Jazeera

It is upsetting enough to read that Al-Jazeera, the Qatar-based anti-democratic and anti-Semitic network, has been cleared for Canadians to view, but it was even more upsetting to read Canadian Jewish Congress president Ed Morgan's comments to various media on this unfortunate precedent.

The CJC and Morgan have been quoted as applauding this decision. The CJC has once again lost its moral grounding. Instead, it expressed its gratitude to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC), an organization that should be criticized and condemned. When will Congress and its president speak for the Canadian Jewish community? The counterproductive statements by Morgan discredit the dismay that many of us in the Jewish community feel about Al-Jazeera being allowed into our country.

Avi Ben-Zvi
Toronto

* * *

UN should move to Switzerland

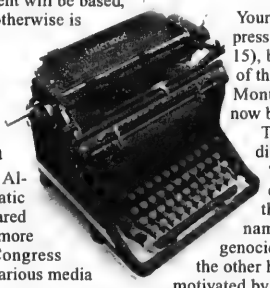
Nathan Pila's comments ("Should not tolerate the UN," *CJN*, Letters to the editor, July 8), in reference to Bert Raphael's July 1 letter were right on the mark. My only objection to the Pila letter is that he was being too kind and diplomatic.

The United Nations richly deserves its nickname, "the Asylum." The food-for-oil program supervised by the UN enriched Saddam Hussein and the petty bureaucrats of the UN to the tune of literally billions of dollars, among other corrupt actions. I suggest that your readers look at American writer Jed Babbin's *Inside the Asylum* to get a view of how widespread the ineptitude and incompetence is in this dirty organization. I totally agree with Pila. Who cares how they vote and for what purpose? It's about time they packed their bags and set up tents somewhere in Europe. How about Switzerland? They might feel more at home there and would definitely be better received.

David Honigsberg
Toronto

* * *

Hate crime confusion



Your front page article, "Jewish groups won't press for hate charges in UTT case" (*CJN*, July 15), begs for a clarification. The firebombing of the United Talmud Torahs School (UTT) in Montreal was a hate-motivated crime and is now being prosecuted as such.

Though we do not, in common parlance, differentiate between a "hate crime" and a "hate-motivated crime," the Criminal Code does. "Hate crimes" are acts that violate the specific hate provisions of the code, namely prohibitions against "inciting genocide," or "public incitement of hatred." On the other hand, under the code, any crime that was motivated by hate of a specific group is considered a "hate-motivated crime" and this, if proven, is taken to be an aggravating factor during sentencing, making for a much harsher sentence than might otherwise have been imposed.

The firebombing was clearly aimed at instilling fear and apprehension in the Jewish community. What is abundantly clear is that UTT was targeted because it is a Jewish institution and that the motivation for attacking it was one of hatred for Jews.

Since we first learned about the dastardly attack, B'nai Brith Canada has done everything in its power to bring the perpetrators to justice, even going to the point of raising the reward offered in the case to $50,000. We have been in constant contact with the police and prosecutors to ensure that they do not spare any effort in investigating and prosecuting those responsible.

We will continue to monitor and evaluate the legal proceedings to ensure that justice is rendered and that the hate-motivation for this crime is properly reflected in the charges and sentencing of the perpetrators.

Steve Slimovitch
B'nai Brith Legal Counsel
Montreal

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A tale of two courts and two rulings

By BEN ARCHIBALD

This month's advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on "The Legal Consequences of The Construction Of a Wall In The Occupied Palestinian Territory" further reinforces the international community's obsession with censuring Israel for any and all policies it implements while defending itself from the horrors of Palestinian terrorism.

It is tragically ironic that indiscriminate terror attacks against Israeli population centres have not outraged the United Nations or the world's left-wing peace movements enough to condemn, or mobilize against, Palestinian terrorism. By contrast, Israel's responses to the unyielding assault on its citizens continue to meet with the international community's moral opprobrium. The very fact that judges on the ICJ are elected by UN member states has the effect of barring Israeli judges from ever obtaining a seat on the international court. However, jurists from dictatorships and "thugocracies" are in a position to judge Israel's behaviour, reflecting the size of the grain of salt Israel should take when digesting the ICJ's opinion.

Despite the ICJ's inherent bias, one cannot help but feel discouraged by both the tone and substance of its advisory opinion, which largely ignores the fact that from September 2000 until April 2004, Palestinian terror groups carried out more than 780 attacks within Israel and 8,200 attacks within the disputed territories. The ICJ held that "the court, from the material available to it, is not convinced that the specific course Israel has chosen for the wall was necessary to attain its security objectives."

Naturally, the ICJ drew this sweeping conclusion without any substantial analysis of the factual circumstances and the military exigencies leading to the Sharon government's decision to build the separation barrier. As Justice Thomas Buergenthal noted in his dissent, "lacking is an examination of the facts that might show why the alleged defenses of military exigencies... are not applicable to the wall as a whole or to the individual segments of its route. The court says that it is 'not convinced' but it fails to demonstrate why it is not convinced, and this is why these conclusions are not convincing."

Israel should take the ICJ conclusion a step further and respond that what is lacking is any semblance of good faith on the part of the United Nations General Assembly and the ICJ. This is why the advisory opinion should be placed in the dust bin while Prime Minister Ariel Sharon works to comply with the decision of the Israeli Supreme Court in the case of Beit Sourik Village Council v. the Government Of Israel.

The Beit Sourik decision is not an easy one to digest. In Beit Sourik, the Supreme Court held that the Government of Israel must re-route portions of the separation barrier due to the hardships that the planned route would cause the Palestinian petitioners. Many critics of judicial review are surprised that Israel's Supreme Court would override military experts with respect to the specific route of the separation barrier. While the Supreme Court certainly has the jurisdiction to review the procedural implementation of land seizures, appeals and payments of compensation for the loss of private land, it is startling to some that it would assume a role in the substantive review of the barrier's specific route. Furthermore, the Supreme Court's language may be difficult for some of Israel's supporters to comprehend. Despite these two concerns, the decision and the response of the Israeli government to it are a tribute to the unending depths of Israeli resolve to build a just and democratic state governed by the rule of law. Perhaps more importantly, the Supreme Court's decision can be contrasted with the ICJ's blatantly biased one in order to demonstrate that Israel is in fact capable of responding to harsh criticism when it comes from a legitimate source.

In reaching a conclusion, the three-judge panel, led by court president Aharon Barak, outlined the fact that Israel holds the disputed territories in belligerent occupation, and as such, has a responsibility towards the population living within the territory. However, unlike the ICJ, the Supreme Court did not ignore the established international legal principle that responsibility toward the population within the territory must be balanced against the legitimate security interests of the holder of the territory. As Justice Barak held, "the obligation of the military administration... is to preserve the order and public life of the local population, but to do so while properly balancing between the interests of the population in the territory and the military and security needs of soldiers and citizens located in the territory."

It is this balance, the Supreme Court held, that must be struck by the military in setting the route of the temporary separation barrier as a response to terror attacks, which it noted are "directed against citizens and soldiers, men and women, elderly and infants, regular citizens and public figures. Terror attacks are carried out everywhere: in public transportation, in shopping centres and markets, in coffee houses and restaurants. Terror organizations use gunfire attacks, suicide attacks, mortar fire, Katyusha rocket fire and car bombs."

Despite all of the horrifying facts considered by the Supreme Court, the judicial and executive branches of the Israeli government are engaged in a sustained dialogue on how to respond to terror without unduly upending the lives of the Palestinian population in the disputed territories. It is unfortunate that the international community cannot seriously take part in this dialogue, given the cynical manipulation of international institutions by Israel's detractors.

Declaring the separation barrier legal, the Israeli Supreme Court imposed a standard of "proportionality" in its construction. As noted by the court, the principle of proportionality focuses "on the relationship between the objective whose achievement is being attempted, and the means used to achieve it." The objective of defending Israel and its citizens justifies the building of a separation barrier along a line that maximizes Israel's security interests. However, the proportionality principle subjects the route of the barrier to a test that considers the route's impact on the lives of Palestinians living in the disputed territories.

The effect of the decision in Beit Sourik has been real and immediate for both the Palestinian petitioners and the Israeli government. Although Israel may build the barrier within the disputed territory and beyond the Green Line, it has a duty to mitigate the harm the barrier will inevitably cause the Palestinian population in the disputed territories. Similarly, the effect of the decision of the ICJ has been real and immediate in slandering Israel and undermining the very purpose and promise of international law – to defend the defenceless – as evidenced by the ensuing debate of the advisory opinion in the General Assembly.

Left-wing peace activists and advocates of international law need to re-consider their serial opposition to any and all things Israeli if they are actually interested in their stated aim of creating a viable and peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. From Durban to the Hague, no amount of legal formalism or pomp and circumstance will create a peaceful life for Israelis and Palestinians. Time and again, the international community has created dubious forums for Israel-bashing, which yields neither peace nor security.

Instead, it justifiably hardens Israel's opposition to international involvement in its affairs and renders international institutions irrelevant in bettering the lives of ordinary Israelis and Palestinians. The international community should pause and read the decision of the Israeli Supreme Court in Beit Sourik and observe the response of Israel's government. Should the justices at the Hague and left-wing peace activists want Israel to return their calls, they must stop cynically isolating Israel, and, at the very least, acknowledge its plight. One would hope international courts and peace activists are interested in peace. Sadly, hope must triumph over experience for Israel to have any faith in the goodwill of the international community.

Ben Archibald is an attorney in the New York office of Boston-based international law firm Bingham McCutchen LLP. He is a graduate of McGill University's faculty of law.

Nasser Al-Kidwa, the permanent observer of the Palestine Authority to the United Nations, addresses the judges at the International Court of Justice in The Hague, The Netherlands February 23, 2004. Al-Kidwa subsequently spearheaded the passing of the anti-Israel resolutions based on the court's ruling at the United Nations.

[RNS/Reuters photo]

Just dance

Having just experienced my son's wedding – my baby, my *mezinik* – I want to extol the artform of dance. Dance is merely human movement to some rhythm. But it is no simple matter.

Norma Baumel Joseph in Montreal

It might be uncomplicated and basic, but superficial it is not. It enables complete human expression like no other form. It addresses our needs to move and to involve our entire body in articulating our emotions and our experiences. It is useful for all types of ritual and human interaction.

Dance comes in many forms. At the wedding, we danced in so many different ways and styles. From line dances, to circles, from folk to pop, from couples to groups, each represented our attempt to celebrate.

And wow did we celebrate. We followed the wonderful Jewish tradition that commands guests to dance in order to make the couple happy. Whether they sat in chairs or twirled in circles, the bride and groom were happy and knew we were doing it for them.

But we did it for us, too. The movement emanated from, and generated, joy – and a lot of sweat. To the tune of *Kaitsad Mirakdim* ("*How do we dance before a bride?*"), we found crazy ways to join and romp. We just danced and mimed for the fun of it; for the enjoyment and entertainment; and for the bride and groom.

It seems to me that we as a community have lost contact with our heritage in this respect. When the Jews were liberated from Egypt, Miriam led the women in song and dance, as we read in Exodus: "And Miriam the prophetess… took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dance." That dance was a show of gratitude to God for redeeming the people. It was a prayer.

But what would happen if I and a group of women stood up in synagogue and started dancing? Truly, it would be unacceptable. I don't know if the swaying (shuckling) of people in prayer is a minor form of dance, but I do know it is helpful to involve one's entire body in the moment. I am certainly grateful we still dance at simchahs like weddings.

In my daughter's wedding speech, she noted that the glass broken under the chupah reminds us that in the moment of our great happiness, we must remember the heartbreaking reality of the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. But, she said, in our troubled times, we must equally remember the existence and experience of great gladness. I agree.

"Life may not be the party we hoped for, but while we're here, we should dance" (anonymous, *The Gazette*, Montreal, July 12, 2004).

Let's dance!

Remembering my father, the minister

As the yahrzeit for my father approaches, I think about the way he led his life and about how I, as a daughter, met his expectations for me.

His family was from the "leather-apron class," small businessmen and craftsmen, good Evangelical Christians. They descended, so the family story goes, from Hessian soldiers brought over to fight King George's war and were captured by George Washington on his daring Christmas Day raid on their camp near Trenton, N.J., during the American Revolution.

Jean M. Gerber in Vancouver

They settled in the German-speaking Pennsylvania farm country, but eventually moved to the city, where my father grew up and entered his father's painting and paper-hanging business.

My parents met at church. Mother was the preacher's eldest daughter, just fired from her teaching job as the Depression worsened (superfluous women lost their jobs to men who were the anointed breadwinners in those days). Their love story wouldn't make a dramatic movie, but it was deep and lifelong.

Mother thought she had married a prosperous businessman. But one day he told her he "felt the call" and decided to become a minister. He held a variety of parishes until his retirement. My mother, an accomplished musician and mathematics teacher, followed him and, as was the custom, enriched his ministry as church organist, Bible teacher and choirmaster.

Who was my father? He was a straightforward, honest and kind man with a simple faith that made him a good shepherd for his flock. He led with a kindly hand. He was a peacemaker for situations in and out of his ministry. He never turned away beggars who found their way to our door with regularity.

He had a wonderful sense of humour, and was a great storyteller. People, women especially, warmed to him immediately, and he loved a crowd. Our home was always full of guests and laughter.

I was his only child, and clearly not a boy. He sighed inwardly and taught me to ride a bicycle, play baseball (to the detriment of the church's stained-glass window), roller-skate, put up and take down screens and storm windows, carry out ashes from the coal furnace, drive a car at age 16, hammer a nail and generally behave like a boy until I was about 14, when the world changed.

He forbade me to leave the house in blue jeans. They were for working men, certainly not for young ladies. And he expected I would take a secretarial course and marry a nice religious boy.

He was a very stubborn man once an idea had taken hold, and only my mother could change his mind. So, with his reluctant blessing, I went to university, not secretarial school and into the Peace Corps, not into business, and I did marry a nice religious boy – but he was Jewish.

I know this caused my father pain, not because he didn't love his son-in-law and his three grandchildren, but because he genuinely feared for our immortal souls. Until the day he died, I think he could not reconcile this love and fear.

We had wonderful times together, travelling to Israel twice. He loved the place and the people, whom he saw as present-day Daniels, and he visited scenes he had only read about in the Bible – a dream fulfilled.

Do I see in myself my father? I am a stubborn woman once an idea has taken hold, and only my husband can change my mind. I rejoice in a weird sense of humour, and I try to be the compassionate person my father was. While I could not share his beliefs, either religious or political, I was proud of him, and I hope he was proud of me.

Do our children in turn see themselves in us? Will they see me in themselves when the time comes for the rabbi to pronounce my eulogy? I hope at least the good things will be reflected in the lives they lead. How like my parents I am, not in the way I lead my life or in the choices I make, but in my approach to life, the inner part of my being.

My father cared deeply for people and their lives on earth, as well as the eventual destiny of their souls. While I admittedly do not worry about the soul's destiny, I hope that his life's mantra – do good to your fellow man – influences the choices I make and will be the one thing I can bestow on my children.

A complete legal washout

The International Court of Justice advisory opinion on the legality of Israel's security fence is a shoddy piece of legal workmanship. It denies the right of self-defence against terrorism. It makes assumptions of fact against Israel that are contrary to reality without making findings of fact. It is self-contradictory, treating the West Bank and Gaza sometimes as a state and sometimes not, depending on whether it suits the ultimate outcome the judges want. It is such a mess that any lawyer familiar with international law would have to wonder how a group of judges could have been so far off the mark.

David Matas in Winnipeg

For all but one of the judges, the explanation is political. The court is an organ of the United Nations, and there is no doubt what opinion the General Assembly wanted the court to give.

The General Assembly resolution requesting the advisory opinion was an anti-Israel diatribe. The resolution did not ask the court to determine whether or not Israel is in violation of international law. In substance, the question the General Assembly posed was: what are the legal consequences of Israel's blatant violations of international law? Given the tendentious nature of the question, for the judges to have held Israel in compliance with international law would have meant thumbing their noses at the General Assembly.

Judges of the court are elected by the General Assembly – that is to say, by the very body posing the question. Members of the court are elected for nine years and may be re-elected. This system creates a bias. For the judges to have held that the Israel security fence conforms to international law would have been rejecting the firmly held views of those who put them on the court – and would be deciding whether or not they stay on the court.

The General Assembly elects judges to the court from candidates nominated from regional groupings. All the judges on the court but one were nominated from states or regions that had already declared that the fence is illegal. Even the European Union, long before the advisory opinion, had expressed the view that the fence violates international law. For many of the judges, a pro-Israel opinion would have been a career-ending move.

Just one judge, American Thomas Buergenthal, who voted in Israel's favour, was left to express an independent view, a view not tainted by a prior expression of legal opinion by those who would decide on the judge's future legal career. The U.S. Government, to my knowledge, has not expressed an opinion on the legality of the fence.

Yet, even Buergenthal's dissenting opinion was not all it should have been. He made some gratuitous legal comments about the illegality of Jews living in the West Bank and Gaza that are surprising and unfounded.

The problem with the Buergenthal opinion, though it is untainted by the bias from which every other opinion suffers, is that it is undermined by the failure to respect the rule that both sides must be heard. Buergenthal himself, when criticizing the opinions of his colleagues, took note of the fact Israel did not participate fully in the advisory court proceedings.

My own view is that, given the stacking of the court against Israel, Israel's less-than-full participation in the proceedings was wise. Israeli participation would have given an undeserved veneer of legitimacy to a kangaroo court.

But the absence of that full participation meant that none of the judges, including Buergenthal, had a fully argued case before him. In that situation, though the comments by Buergenthal against Israel were a good deal fewer and farther between than the adverse comments of the other judges, even his comments should not be given legal weight.

For these reasons, the opinion of the court is a complete legal washout that does not deserve to be taken seriously. It's being used as fodder for anti-Israel propaganda, but that's about all it's good for.

David Matas is senior counsel to B'nai Brith Canada.

The Kirshner File

Separation fence has been militarily effective

The separation fence Israel is currently building through the West Bank and around Jerusalem, the subject of a stinging rebuke by the International Court of Justice earlier this month and a United Nations condemnation last week in which Canada abstained, has clearly worsened Israel's political problems.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Yet from a purely military point of view, the 788-kilometre fence, which is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2005, barring no unexpected delays in construction, has been a resounding success and enjoys the support of most Israelis.

Even Israelis who have grave reservations about its controversial route into the West Bank acknowledge that it has saved countless lives by making it infinitely more difficult for Palestinian terrorists, particularly suicide bombers, to infiltrate Israel.

In a nearly unanimous, but non-binding, decision on July 9, the court ruled that sections of the fence that veer into the West Bank breach international law and should be dismantled.

On July 20, by a wide margin, the UN General Assembly demanded that Israel comply with the ICJ's ruling.

The barrier, which is one-third complete, is problematic because it has imposed hardships on Palestinians, whose leadership opposes its route but not Israel's right to build a fence along the pre-1967 border.

Farmers have been cut off from their fields, children from their schools and the sick from hospitals, clinics and social services. The fence has also inhibited the movement of goods, a grievous blow to a Palestinian economy still reeling from the impact of the second intifadah, which broke out in September 2000.

Palestinian spokespeople claim that only 11 per cent of the fence, as presently planned, follows the old Green Line, and will force at least 270,000 Palestinians in 122 villages to live in closed areas.

According to a United Nations report, the fence – which has sparked a succession of clashes between Palestinian demonstrators and Israeli soldiers and exposed Israel to a fresh barrage of global criticism – will necessitate the expropriation of some 14 per cent of the West Bank, which would otherwise be incorporated into a Palestinian state as part of a two-state solution.

To the Palestinians, the fence – a combination of electric fencing, barbed wire, ditches, observation posts, patrol roads, footpaths and concrete walls – creates unilateral facts on the ground and is a pretext to gobble up and eventually annex large swaths of land.

But to the Israeli government, the fence is a defensive measure whose sole purpose is "to prevent terror," David Baker, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson and Israel's incoming ambassador to Canada, told me in an e-mail on July 13, four days after the court issued its scathing judgment.

When asked about its route, he wrote, "The only considerations are based on security and topography." In a commentary in *The New York Times*, Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's finance minister and former prime minister, claimed that a fence running along the Green Line would be indefensible.

Defenders of the fence – which will enclose about 80 per cent of the Jewish residents of the West Bank in settlement clusters on Israel's side – say that it does not constitute a permanent political border and can be torn down at will. But to the Palestinians, who originally brought the case to the ICJ, and to the Arab League, which raised the issue before the United Nations' General Assembly and called for sanctions should Israel fail to comply, Israel's arguments ring hollow.

In retrospect, the fence, along with vigorous military measures the Israeli army has taken in the past two years, has paid undeniable dividends.

Responding to the bloodiest single month of violence since the outbreak of the intifadah, capped by the suicide bombing in Netanya's Park Hotel on Passover that killed 30 civilians, Israel launched Operation Defensive Shield in March 2002.

The raids, the biggest in years, targeted the West Bank. Hundreds of key Palestinian terrorists were killed and arrested and their cells broken up. Excoriated abroad, the incursions seemed ineffective because the deadly suicide bombings did not taper off. But as time wore on, Israel's continuing raids had an impact, as did the targeted assassinations of prominent Hamas leaders, namely Sheik Ahmed Yassin and his successor, Abdul Aziz Rantisi.

More recently, as the Israeli army has confirmed, the Palestinian Authority has begun cracking down on terrorist activity and stopping the transfer of funds to the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, a Fatah offshoot that has carried out numerous suicide bombings.

One can speculate about the PA's sudden interest in squelching terrorism, but one salient factor surely turns on Israel's planned withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, which is supposed to be implemented toward the close of next year.

As a result of all these measures, better intelligence gathering on Israel's part and the looming presence of the fence, terrorism has drastically dropped. This prompted Israeli Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz to observe: "We are seeing a new trend. The level of terror is slowly declining… The pressure is working."

The statistics tell the story graphically.

Palestinian bombers and gunmen from the northern half of the West Bank, where the fence has been finished, launched 89 attacks in 2002, the worst phase of the intifadah. The figure dropped to 46 in 2003. During the first six months of this year, even fewer attacks were recorded than during the same period last year.

Shaul Mofaz

All told, there has been a 75 per cent decrease in suicide and attempted suicide attacks so far in 2004. During this period, 58 would-be bombers were intercepted. Since March, when terrorists struck in Ashdod, killing 10 Israelis, there has been only one successful suicide attack. Exactly a day after the ICJ handed down its verdict, a 19-year-old Israeli female soldier waiting for a bus in Tel Aviv was killed by a remote-controlled bomb.

"It may not be fashionable to say so publicly, but the evidence at the moment suggests that [the fence] has made a huge difference and that, at least for the moment, the Israelis have the upper hand," *Jane's Foreign Report*, an authoritative security journal, reported two weeks ago.

Charles Krauthammer, a conservative syndicated columnist for *The Washington Post*, takes this train of thought one step further. Citing the relationship between the fence and the dramatic decrease in suicide bombings, he concluded that Israel has won a strategic victory because the intifadah has failed "to demoralize Israel, destroy its economy, bring it to its knees, and thus force it to withdraw and surrender to Palestinian demands, just as Israel withdrew in defeat from southern Lebanon in May 2000."

Krauthammer overstates his case. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who initially opposed the concept of a fence, probably would not have considered a full withdrawal from Gaza had the current intifadah not worsened in terms of lives lost. But Krauthammer's overall point concerning its effectiveness remains fundamentally valid. The barrier that partially separates Israel from the West Bank has proven to be as virtually impenetrable as the fence surrounding the Gaza Strip, which was built in the earliest days of the now-defunct Oslo peace process.

Only twice in the last decade has the Gaza fence been penetrated, and then only indirectly – first by two British Muslims, Omar Sharif and Asif Hanif, who passed through the border in the guise of tourists and bombed a nightclub in Tel Aviv near the U.S. embassy, and second, by Palestinian terrorists who were smuggled through the frontier in a crate and set off bombs in the port of Ashdod.

Observers agree that much of the fence snaking through the West Bank and around Jerusalem would have been completed by now had it not been for petitions presented to Israel's Supreme Court by the Palestinians on mainly humanitarian grounds.

On June 30, the Israeli court ordered the Defence Ministry, which is in charge of the project, to reroute a small portion of the fence near the Israeli town of Mevasseret Zion. The following day, the court froze construction on the southeastern edge of Jerusalem. And on July 6, it issued an interim injunction to halt work on a stretch east of Rosh Ha'ayin.

In contrast to their defiance over the ICJ verdict, Israeli officials from Sharon on down said they would obey these rulings and reroute the fence so that it does not create undue hardship for West Bank Arabs. But these apparently cosmetic adjustments will hardly satisfy Palestinians and their supporters.

In the face of continuing terrorism, and amid growing concerns about the fluid demographic picture (the proportion of Jews between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River has been dropping, despite the massive influx of Soviet Jews into Israel since the late 1980s), Sharon is determined to finish the fence down to the last kilometre, the sooner the better.

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This August, Toronto may once again be targetted by missionaries. We anticipate Jews for Jesus and Chosen People Ministries will take to the streets of our city to distribute their missionary literature.

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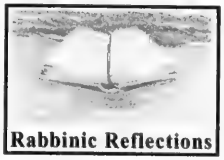
Jewish Life

Moral relativism undermines the Divine

By RABBI MENDEL KAPLAN

The verdict of the International Court of Justice that Israel's security fence is illegal and must be dismantled to satisfy "humanitarian rights" is part of an unmistakable pattern at the United Nations.

I posit, however, that this is not just an attack against Israel, but also an attack against Judaism and God himself. The Bible is unequivocal about the relationship between the Holy Land and the Jewish people. It says the Land shall be given to the Children of Israel as an eternal inheritance. This is a strange concept, since the word inheritance usually refers to an estate passing from the deceased owner to the heir. Who died? Whose estate are we referring to?



The Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson of righteous memory, explained the unique connotation of the term "inheritance" regarding Eretz Yisrael by highlighting its meaning in halachic jurisprudence. When one legally buys an item, Halachah dictates that the object must first "leave" the original jurisdiction. By contrast, when one receives possessions via an inheritance, Halachah maintains, the object never "moves." Instead, the individual who inherits becomes the owner by stepping into the place of the original owner. The item doesn't "change hands" in order to legally belong to its new owner, but remains in its previous legal jurisdiction.

This means that when the Jewish people occupy Israel, in a sense they do so on behalf of God Himself.

It is said that history repeats itself. At the dawn of civilization, Genesis says, humankind's great evil and selfishness resulted in the *mabul*, the flood that destroyed most of the world's life. The scriptures tell us the generation that followed "spoke one language and had conforming ideas." They then united in a "global village" with a singular intent, namely, Rashi says: "Let us ascend to the sky and wage war against Him [God]." In fact, the scriptures tell us that the great tower in Babel had that very purpose.

The Rebbe, who himself narrowly escaped the Nazis, often referred to World War II in general (60 million dead), and the Holocaust in particular (six million Jews murdered), as the modern day *mabul* (genocidal flood). Eerily, the number of victims the war claimed closely resembles the probable number of the world's population in Noah's days.

Assuming the *mabul* metaphor is appropriate, history should have repeated itself. I would suggest that indeed it has. Out of World War II's genocide, the UN was born with an unprecedented unification of the world's governments. And yet, despite great hopes, the forces of hate and intolerance have consistently hijacked the UN in the name of righteousness and equality, and it has become a vortex of hate and discrimination directed primarily against the Jewish people and the State of Israel. It has failed miserably in protecting the global victims of brutality and oppression. By creating moral equivalence between terrorists and those who seek to preserve law and order, the UN has stained its spirit and succeeded in debasing the meaning of human rights.

The notion that ethos, ethics and morality are God-based is the essence of a divine involvement with earth and God's relationship with humankind. The respect for the intrinsic value and virtue of human life, which is at the root of "humanitarian rights," is important because we, the human race, were created in His image.

Finally, the concept of maintaining justice and a lawful, orderly society is based on the divinely-inspired laws that apply to everyone. In contrast, the new moral relativism undermines the concept of the divinely ordained and therefore precludes the possibility of absolute ethics, thereby coddling those who worship a cult of suicide, death and murder. This challenges the rudiments of the biblically prescribed sanctity of human life and perverts justice.

It also represents an attack against the most basic notion of Godliness. This is a battle about the very essence of religion, which maintains that humankind can and should have a relationship with God. History has indeed repeated itself, the Tower of Babel generation has returned.

I can only hope and pray that the UN will continue to evolve into irrelevance, and that an age of true unity and peace will soon be ushered in by our righteous Redeemer.

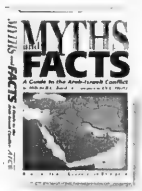
Rabbi Kaplan is spiritual leader of Chabad@Flamingo in Thornhill, Ont.

Israeli Supreme Court considers Palestinian grievances

MYTH:

Israel's Supreme Court ruled that the security fence is illegal and a land grab by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's government.

FACT:



In a speech to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee in 1989, Harvard University law professor Alan Dershowitz observed, "For the first time in Mideast history, there is an independent judiciary willing to listen to grievances of Arabs – that judiciary is called the Israeli Supreme Court."

That court took up the grievances of Palestinians who claimed the Israeli security fence causes hardships for them, is illegal according to Israeli and international law, and is meant to disguise the Israeli objective of annexing additional territory to Israel.

The Court ruled that a small segment of the fence – an 18-mile stretch near Jerusalem (out of the 125 miles built at that time) – needed to be rerouted because of the hardships caused to the Palestinians in the area who were cut off from their farms, schools and villages.

The Court also said, however, that it could not accept the argument that the fence's route was determined by politics rather than security. The justices rejected the idea that the fence should be constructed on the Green Line, noting that "it is the security perspective – and not the political one – which must examine a route based on its security merits alone, without regard for the location of the 'Green Line.'"

The justices also concluded: "It is permitted, by the international law applicable to an area under belligerent occupation to take possession of an individual's land in order to erect a separation fence upon it, on the condition that this is necessitated by military needs. To the extent that construction of the fence is a military necessity, it is permitted, therefore, by international law. Indeed, the obstacle is intended to take the place of combat military operations, by physically blocking terrorist infiltration into Israeli population centres."

The fundamental question for the Court was how to satisfy Israel's security concerns without causing disproportionate injury to the residents affected by the fence. The justices ruled that international humanitarian law and Israeli administrative law "require making every possible effort to ensure that injury will be proportionate. Where construction of the separation fence demands that inhabitants be separated from their lands, access to these lands must be ensured, in order to minimize the damage to the extent possible."

The justices acknowledged that the ruling would have an impact on the fight against terrorism. "We are aware this decision does not make it easier to deal with that reality. This is the destiny of a democracy: She does not see all means as acceptable, and the ways of her enemies are not always open before her. A democracy must sometimes fight with one arm tied behind her back. Even so, a democracy has the upper hand. The rule of law and individual liberties constitute an important aspect of her security stance."

The Supreme Court once again demonstrated that in Israel, the rule of law and judicial review is applied even to matters of national security and that it can balance the state's need to protect its citizens with humanitarian matters.

Though the Court's decision made the government's job of securing the population from terrorist threats more difficult, costly and time-consuming, Sharon immediately accepted the decision and began to reroute the section of the fence near Jerusalem. In addition, the Court's ruling is also being factored into the planning of the rest of the barrier.

Jewish Life

Handbook combines three volumes

***The Complete How To Handbook For Jewish Living* by Kerry M. Olitsky and Ronald H. Isaacs, KTAV Publishing House, $25.**

Books
Bernard Baskin

What are the 613 biblical commandments as arranged by Moses Maimonides? Who were the seven female prophets? What are the steps involved in obtaining a *get*, a Jewish bill of divorce? What are the husband's obligation to his wife as outlined in the Jewish marriage contract? What are the seven laws of Noah and why are they significant? What are the 39 labours traditionally prohibited on Shabbat? What are the basic rules for kashrut? What are the six divisions or orders of the Babylonian Talmud?

How do you make a living will? How do you act properly in making a shivah call? How to construct your own Jewish theology? How do you talk to your kids about God, or explain the idea of death to them? How do you put on tfillin or build a sukkah? How do you plan a spiritual trip to Israel? Who are the most important of the biblical and rabbinic commentators?

These are just some of the questions that are considered in this oversized paperbound volume of 560 pages, a compilation of three previous books by the same authors.

What follows are excerpts from some of the entries that I found especially interesting.

• There are 2,800 personal names in the Bible, some of which are used to name children today. All Hebrew names have meanings. Different communities have different naming customs. For example, Ashkenazic Jews generally do not name their children in honour of a living person (only in memory of someone who is dead) but Sephardic Jews have a system (beginning with the paternal grandfather) of honouring living people by naming babies in their honour.

• There is no specific time to erect a grave marker. It has become customary to do so at the conclusion of the first year of mourning, but it can take place anytime after 30 days. Unveilings may take place whenever grave visitations in general are permissible. Unveiling is a western custom that has evolved over time.

• It is customary for a mourner concluding shivah to take a walk around the block, "to get up from shivah," as a way of symbolically re-entering routine life. If you happen to make your call at the end of the shivah period, be prepared to take this walk with your bereaved friend or relative.

For a variety of reasons, which primarily have to do with focusing the attention of the mourners on the process of mourning rather than on themselves, it is customary to cover the mirrors in a shivah home.

• The word "amen" (meaning "may it be so") is found in the Torah as an affirmation used in the form of a response. In Deuteronomy 27:15-26, the people respond "amen" to a series of statements by the Levites.

When a person says "amen," he or she is publicly agreeing with what has just been said or endorsing it. It is an affirmation of one's belief.

Rabbi Chanina, a talmudic sage, stated that "amen" is an acronym for the three Hebrew words "El Melech Ne'eman," meaning "God, Faithful Ruler." As such, saying "amen" acknowledges God as Ruler.

Jewish law instructs us to respond "amen" after we hear another person recite a blessing.

Special features of *The Complete How To Handbook For Jewish Living* include key Hebrew words and phrases, a bibliography for each entry, and a 20-year calendar of Jewish holidays, starting in 2001/5762.

There are few readers who will not be enlightened – or perhaps even activated – by this manual. My advice: Obtain a copy for your family library.

Jews and the Olympics: glory and pain

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

In a couple of weeks, the entire world will be watching as elite athletes meet to compete in the 28th Olympiad in Athens. Although Jewish athletes have shared in Olympic glory, for Jews, the Olympics also have also included racism, violence and death. Today, a look at that history, courtesy the World Wide Web.

I never would have imagined that close to 700 hundred Jewish athletes have competed since the modern Games were first held in Athens in 1896. To find out more about them, I highly recommend the Jews in Sports website. More than a list, this site has researched biographies for 682 Jewish athletes who have competed in the Games. **[www.jewsinsports.org/olympics_list.as]** One of the stars of the first Games was Alfred Flatow of Germany, who brought home three gold and a silver in gymnastics. Those four medals tied Flatow with the second most in Athens. The International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame lists the medal count for every Jewish Olympian from Athens to Atlanta. **[www.jewishsports.net/medalists.htm]**

Yet, for Jews, the memory of the Olympics is not always pleasant. One of the greatest blots on the history of the Games is Nazi Germany's hosting of the 1936 Summer Olympics. The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum has a comprehensive site about those Games, starting in 1931 with the International Olympic Committee's awarding of the 11th Olympiad to Berlin. Although Hitler was elated with the Games and Germany's athletes captured the most medals overall, the site notes that 13 Jewish athletes and 10 African-American competitors (including Jesse Owens) won medals there. **[www.ushmm.org/museum/exhibit/online/olympics/]**

And, of course, there was the tragedy of the 1972 Munich Olympics, when Palestinian terrorists murdered 11 members of the Israeli Olympic delegation. The Olympics maintains a very large website, but I couldn't find a memorial to the slain athletes on it. There is one paragraph titled "The Games Must Go On!" that mentions the murders, the temporary suspension of the Games and the resolve of IOC President Avery Brundage that the Olympics continue. **[http://tinyurl.com/3jp98]** To learn more, I recommend a comprehensive section put together by *Sports Illustrated* to mark the 30th anniversary of the killings.**[http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/si_online/news/2002/08/20/main/]** The Looksmart web directory has links to much more about the Munich Massacre and Israel's decision to hunt down the terrorists responsible for it. **[http://tinyurl.com/6yu9z]**

The 1988 Seoul Olympics provoked a different kind of controversy in Israel. Two Israeli yachtsmen who were in medal contention decided not to sail on Yom Kippur and finished fourth. However, another pair of Israelis did compete on Yom Kippur, and the Israeli Sports Association suspended them for five years. The yachtsmen appealed to the Israeli High Court – and won. As Steve Israel writes in his history of sport in Israel, this "case brought into center stage for discussion the issue of how much the athletes were competing for themselves and how much they were competing for the state." **[http://tinyurl.com/2dub7]**

Two of those best-known Jewish Olympians competed a half-century apart. The United States' Mark Spitz was the first athlete to win seven gold medals in a single Games. **[http://espn.go.com/sportscentury/features/00016480.html]** You can watch a short film about Spitz's Munich exploits at the Olympic website. **[http://tinyurl.com/3c3gt]** Britain's Harold Abrahams won gold in the 100-metre final at the 1924 Paris Olympics. Abrahams' story is well known, thanks to the 1981 film *Chariots of Fire*. **[http://tinyurl.com/5oag9]** (You can listen to a rendition of Vangelis' famous theme from that movie. **[www.cws.per.sg/midi/themes.htm]**

If you're not cut out for the 100-metre dash, or even a round of beach volleyball, there may still be a sport for you. A couple of sites have suggested events in which Jews could perform swifter, higher, stronger. Here are some from Ohr Somayach: the Clean and Jerk Torah Lift, Kippah Frisbee and Underwater Shofar Blowing. **[www.ohr.org.il/judaism/humor/top10/olympics.htm]**

Stuart Spector **[http://tinyurl.com/2cvra]** suggests such events as the Oyga Vault, a sound-enhanced pole vault competition in which the vaulter gains extra points for exclaiming, "Oy, such tsuris this is causing me!" My favourite, and what must be a truly gruelling competition, is the Naches Shlep, in which proud bubies and zaides have two minutes to boast about their grandchildren.

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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OAS should investigate 1994 Buenos Aires terrorism: Cotler

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Justice Minister Irwin Cotler called on the Organization of American States (OAS) last week to set up a task force to investigate the car bombing 10 years ago of the main Jewish community centre in Buenos Aires.

Cotler said the 34-member OAS, through its Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism, has a responsibility to become involved in the case, which he termed a "vicious anti-Semitic act" and the worst attack on a Diaspora community since World War II.

The perpetrators of the bombing – which killed 85 people, injured hundreds and destroyed the AMIA building – have never been found, although the trial of a number of suspected accomplices continues.

The Argentine government should make available "all necessary resources" including witnesses and evidence, Cotler said at a ceremony commemorating the anniversary of the bombing held at the Gelber Conference Centre by Canadian Jewish Congress, FEDERATION CJA and Jewish Immigrant Aid Services.

Cotler also called on Iran and Syria to extradite any suspects and provide access to witnesses or evidence. International warrants have been issued for four Iranians believed to be connected to the attack.

He described the bombing as still causing "suffering to the Jewish community – individually and collectively – psychological, economically and morally." And he said Argentina must adopt a policy of "zero tolerance for hate and terrorism."

Federation first vice-president Richard Vineberg remarked that it was an "eerie sensation" holding the event on the Jewish Community Campus, because the AMIA complex was so similar. The attack was an "anti-Semitic outrage," he said, one motivated by a "baffling hatred beyond all reason."

Argentine consul general Jorge Riaboi stressed that his government views the July 18, 1994 bombing, as well as another deadly one at the Israeli embassy two years earlier, as terrorist acts that have affected all of Argentina.

"This is a national problem, not a community problem," he said.

Quoting a recent address by President Nestor Kirchner to the American Jewish Committee, Riaboi said the attacks "cause us pain and shame that we have not been able to arrest the culprits."

He said that Argentina "will not stop until justice is done in both attacks." He also underlined the 150-year history of Jews in Argentina and the government's policy of "fighting any expression of racism, including anti-Semitism."

CJC, Quebec Region, president Jeffrey Boro said the victims were "targeted solely because they belonged to a particular faith and ethnic community, because they were Jewish, because they were innocent civilians.

Argentinian immigrants, from left, Damian Nisenson and Marianna Semino read the names of the victims of the 1994 bombing of the Buenos Aires Jewish community centre, while Yael Heymann and Gabriela Lerner light memorial candles.
[Michael Gerstel photo]

"We are here to underline that the lives tragically lost to terrorism have names, and so do their perpetrators. The architects of terrorism, they have names, too. They have addresses and they have financial and state support. As we remember, we also underline that those architects, those perpetrators, must be found, they must be prosecuted."

He said he welcomed Kirchner's recent opening of files related to the case, and urged the government to make available the human and financial resources needed to see that justice is served.

The commemoration, Boro said, offered an opportunity to "reflect on the fragility of our condition," given that terrorism has increased worldwide over the past decade.

There were a large number of recent immigrants from Argentina among the standing-room-only audience of 120. Among them was Meerta Chaya, who worked at AMIA for 24 years, but was absent at the time of the blast because of a school holiday. She is still seeking justice, she said.

Chaya, who emigrated to Montreal two years ago with her husband and four children, thanked the organizers for holding the commemoration, saying it helped make her feel part of the community.

"I loved my job in the administration of AMIA. I always felt at home. It was a busy, vibrant place, like this. We thought we were safe. We never thought anything like that could happen to us… Here in Montreal we have to realize this can happen anywhere."

Rallies mark AMIA anniversary

CJN News Services

NEW YORK — Moshe Ronen, chair of Canadian Jewish Congress' board of governors and CJC acting executive director Manuel Prutschi joined leaders of the World Jewish Congress in New York last Monday for a rally and memorial service marking the 10th anniversary of the terrorist bombing of the AMIA Jewish community and cultural centre in Buenos Aires.

Gilbert Lewy, president of the DAIA (Delegacion De Asociaciones Israelitas Argentinas) the political arm of the Argentine Jewish community, was among those who addressed the gathering.

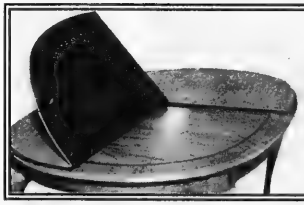
The demonstration was one of many around the world commemorating the anniversary, including one the day before in Buenos Aires at the site of the rebuilt AMIA building attended by tens of thousands of people.

There were also events in Montreal and Winnipeg, where a July 18 ceremony in the Asper Centre's Berney Theatre began at 9:53 a.m., the exact time of the 1994 bombing. Attendees, who were encouraged to sign a petition urging Argentina to find and punish the AMIA perpetrators, watched a 10-minute film with footage of the attack's aftermath, the *Winnipeg Free Press* reported.

"Many of you sitting here knew people [in the AMIA centre]," event co-organizer David Kroft said, noting that Winnipeg's Jewish community is a sister community to Buenos Aires' and actively recruits Jewish immigrants from Argentina.

Earlier this month, CJC president Ed Morgan wrote to Argentina's ambassador to Canada, Arturo Bothamley, saying Congress welcomes "the commitment of [Argentine] President Nestor Kirchner to redress this terrible injustice," which in a speech earlier this year, Kirchner called "'a source of shame' and an 'affront against the Argentine people.'"

Morgan called the creation of the Unidad de Revelación (Collection of Information Unit), whose mandate it is to open up various secret files, "an important step forward."He also praised the appointment of a new judge and prosecutors, "but only if they are provided with all the necessary human and financial resources equal to the immensity of the task ahead."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N.Z. passport case won't hurt Canada-Israel relations, Cdn. official says

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

A political storm in which a dual Canadian and Israeli citizen has been jailed for illegally trying to obtain a New Zealand passport and accused of being a Mossad spy by Prime Minister Helen Clark won't affect Canada-Israel relations, a Department of Foreign Affairs spokesperson says.

"In this case, we don't believe it will have an impact on Canada's ties with Israel," and Ottawa won't make an issue out of it, Reynald Doiron said last week.

He was referring to Uriel Zoshe Kelman's use of a Canadian passport to enter and leave New Zealand, despite a pledge by Israel seven years ago that it would refrain from using Canadian passports in covert operations.

Doiron said Canada has not asked Israel for an official explanation of the New Zealand affair because Kelman – who, along with associate Eli Cara, was sentenced earlier this month to six months in jail by the Auckland High Court – acquired his Canadian passport legitimately.

"As a Canadian, [Kelman's] entitled to a Canadian passport," Doiron said from Ottawa. "Whatever he does with his life belongs to him."

Authorities in Wellington, New Zealand's capital, have concluded Kelman, 31, initially entered the country five years ago with a Canadian passport, and left after eight weeks with yet another Canadian passport.

The New Zealand case is reminiscent of a 1997 one in which two Mossad agents posing as Canadian tourists attempted to assassinate senior Hamas leader Khalid Mashal in Amman, Jordan, and were caught red-handed.

The incident forced Israel to release the spiritual leader of Hamas, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, who was killed by an Israeli strike in Gaza several months ago.

As a result of the Mashal affair, Canada temporarily recalled its ambassador in Tel Aviv and Israel promised to stop using Canadian passports.

New Zealand's foreign minister, Phil Goff, told *Ha'aretz* recently that he suspects Kelman and Cara, 50, tried to obtain New Zealand passports for an assassination operation in a third country.

Under questioning, the pair admitted taking part in a criminal conspiracy to obtain a New Zealand passport by fraudulent means.

In addition to jail time, Kelman and Cara were each ordered to pay $65,000 (US) to the Cerebral Palsy Association of New Zealand as a fine.

Last week, they announced they will appeal their sentences, Israel Radio reported.

Clark, New Zealand's prime minister, said she has "strong reasons" to suspect the men were "acting on behalf of Israel's intelligence service."

According to information that came out in court, they used the identity of a wheelchair-bound man suffering from cerebral palsy to apply for the passport.

The case has prompted New Zealand to impose diplomatic sanctions on Israel.

High-level visits to and from Israel will be suspended. Israelis visiting New Zealand in an official government capacity will be required to apply for visas. Approval for the appointment of the new Israeli ambassador to New Zealand will be delayed.

New Zealand has asked Israel to apologize, admit responsibility, provide an explanation and offer assurances that no such incident will occur again.

In a statement, Orna Sagiv, an Israeli diplomat based in Australia, declared that Israel values its relations with New Zealand and "will do everything possible to restore them to normal."

Ofir Gendelman, a spokesperson at the Israeli Embassy in Ottawa, sounded a similar theme. "We would like to maintain a good relationship with New Zealand. Israel values its relationship with New Zealand, and will exert a lot of effort to improve it."

Doiron said Kelman holds both Canadian and Israeli citizenship and is possibly a British citizen as well. He declined to say when Kelman immigrated to Israel, nor would he comment on the allegation he is a Mossad agent.

The media in New Zealand have reported that Kelman and Cara were employed by an Israeli company that designs surveillance systems and listening devices.

The firm in question, YTS Systems, says it designed security systems for six embassies and for buildings in the United States, Germany and Africa.

Cara also said he owned a travel agency in Sydney, Australia, where he had lived with his wife and children since 2001. But attempts to locate the agency proved fruitless, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency reported.

According to various reports, two other men were allegedly involved in the fraud. Zev William Barkan, who lived near the cerebral palsy sufferer and applied for the passport, has disappeared, while a fourth man suspected in the case remains unidentified.

Last week, it was reported that Barkan has held posts with Israeli missions in Austria and Belgium, and that he used his Canadian passport to work for an aid organization in North Korea.

After New Zealand froze relations with Israel, vandals last week smashed 16 headstones and gouged swastikas and Nazi slogans in a Jewish cemetery in Wellington.

Clark condemned the desecration. David Zwartz, head of the New Zealand Jewish Council, linked the vandalism with the passport case.

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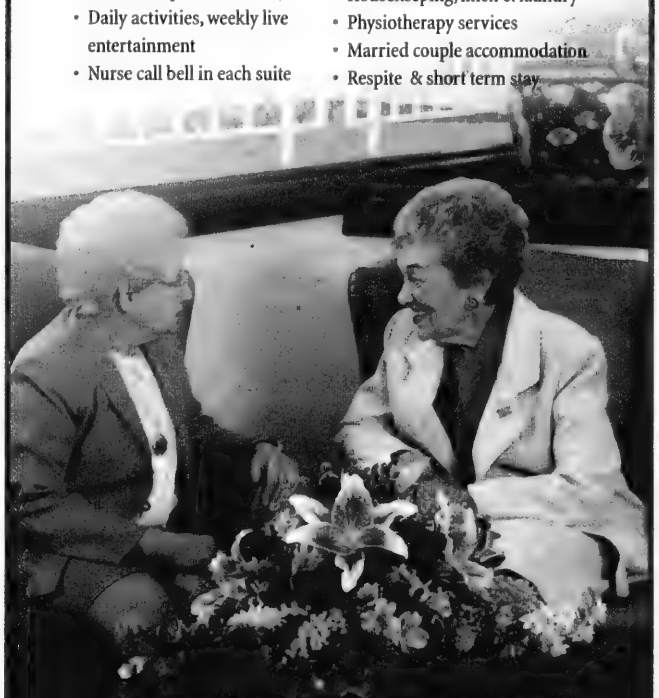

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Coast to Coast

Wiesel inspires Sudan relief groups

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Elie Wiesel and Sarah Zelcer

The only two Canadians at a recent summit meeting organized by American Jewish World Services and other Jewish and non-Jewish humanitarian agencies to discuss the current crisis in Sudan say they are "cautiously optimistic" that the groups can be effective if they work together.

Sarah Zelcer, director of education and assistant director of international programs for Ve'ahavta – the Canadian Jewish Humanitarian and Relief Committee, and Dr. Norman Epstein, founder of CASTS (Canadian Against Slavery and Torture in Sudan), travelled to New York to attend the summit, which featured Nobel Peace Prize-winner Elie Wiesel as a guest speaker.

Zelcer, who was "thrilled" to meet Wiesel, said he was "truly inspiring as he talked about our obligation as Jews to respond to the crisis. [He embodied] the spirit of 'Never again.'"

The summit, attended by some 60 organizations, received a first-hand report from two field workers with the International Rescue Committee and the International Crisis Group.

"They said they saw wells of water stuffed with human bodies, and they reported that out of 135 refugee camps, only 75 had been accessed by humanitarian groups," Zelcer said.

"There is a potential for at least one million people to die because of a lack of water."

The reports were incredibly disturbing, she said, "but necessary in order to motivate people to take action."

In her report to the meeting, Zelcer said, "I urged the committee to join with us and respond to the crisis."

She said Ve'ahavta is planning a "Never Again Day," in which she envisions "people marching to Ottawa, to the White House, to the UN. I see them rolling up their shirt sleeves and going out into the streets screaming 'Never again.'"

Her organization's three-pronged effort to deal with the crisis include raising awareness, raising funds for relief items, and engaging in hands-on relief efforts.

It currently has $100,000 worth of pharmaceuticals – including multi-vitamins, antibiotics and hydration fluids – donated by Walter Arbib, but needs to raise $25,000 to have them shipped from Holland, she said.

The group walked away from the meeting with an elevated sense of urgency and a heightened awareness, Zelcer said. "Elie Wiesel emphasized that feeling. We have to seize upon that. We have made an important first step."

Epstein said Canadians can take a leadership role in dealing with the crisis. "We must [unite] the western world and induce it to take action.

"In view of our current knowledge, we must invoke resolutions that insist if the genocide does not desist, multinational forces will go into Sudan to stop it and secure the area for humanitarian relief."

He said that if action is not taken immediately, "the death toll could eclipse the Rwanda genocide. This [fact] has been corroborated by many humanitarian groups."

The next few weeks are critical, Epstein said, because as the rainy season in Sudan unfolds, people will be harder to reach. "This will raise the death toll exponentially."

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CRTC grants conditional licence to Al-Jazeera

Continued from page 3

Yet, by imposing conditions to ensure Al-Jazeera's compliance with Canadian broadcast standards, the CRTC "acknowledged that the concerns B'nai Brith raised in its submission are indeed warranted," B'nai Brith said.

In separate submissions to the CRTC a year ago, both CJC and B'nai Brith detailed instances in which Al-Jazeera broadcast anti-Semitic content, lionized suicide bombers as "martyrs" and denied the Holocaust took place.

CJC cited specific broadcasts in which Jews were referred to as "sons of apes and pigs;" "the most despicable people... worms... all evil;" "whoremongers" and enemies of Islam. Congress found several instances of Holocaust denial or trivialization, and regular diatribes against Israel.

In its 25-page ruling, the CRTC noted that one of the intervenors before the commission, the Canadian Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-CAN), conceded that the reference to Jews as apes and pigs was broadcast, but that it was in the form of an e-mail from a viewer, and was aired years ago.

In fact, "most" of the statements provided by those opposed to the granting of a license to Al-Jazeera "were provided in isolation with almost no context in which to evaluate them," the CRTC said.

"Context, including cultural context, is particularly important given that the statements provided were translations from Arabic and, as such, may not have conveyed the full intent and meaning or the original words in the Arabic culture."

The CRTC noted that about 1,200 comments were filed in support of adding Al-Jazeera to cable listings, while more than 500 were filed in opposition and nine offered general remarks.

"Comments were generally very polarized," the commission said.

It also noted that both CJC and B'nai Brith had argued that approving Al-Jazeera and then pulling the plug if it contravened Canadian broadcast regulations was a poor solution.

> ***Onerous requirements de facto censorship, cable firms say***

"The CJC submitted that this unsatisfactory solution, which has rarely been used by the commission in the past, would be tantamount to shutting the door after the proverbial horse has left the barn. Or in the words of B'nai Brith, once Al-Jazeera was placed on the digital lists, the 'genie would be out of the bottle.'"

Founded in 1996, Al-Jazeera is perhaps best known for broadcasting exclusive interviews with Osama bin Laden and for airing the Al Qaeda leader's taped threats against the West.

Sometimes referred to as the Arabic CNN, the 24-hour-a-day channel recently aired gruesome footage of hostages in Iraq shown being held or beheaded by their captors.

Earlier this month, Al-Jazeera issued a code of ethics, saying it would distinguish between news, analysis and commentary to avoid "falling into the trap of propaganda and speculation."

It also promised to "acknowledge any mistake as soon as it is made and take the initiative to correct it and avoid repeating it."

Canadian "grey market" subscribers to the U.S.-based DirecTV satellite service already receive Al-Jazeera, whose bureaus have been shut down in Jordan, Bahrain, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia because it has consistently sought out Israeli perspectives on Mideast issues.

CJC said it will work with the CRTC and Al-Jazeera distributors "to facilitate and ensure the conditions of licence are strictly adhered to."

B'nai Brith said it will examine its options and continue to monitor the situation. It pledged to "examine carefully all Arabic-language programming emanating from the Middle East, which is today the world's centre for the distribution of vile anti-Semitic materials."

B'nai Brith also called on the CRTC "to adopt an expedited process to deal with complaints and will examine all options to ensure that hate is not imported into Canada."

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Hate posters found in downtown Ottawa

By ADAM GRACHNIK
Special to The CJN

OTTAWA — Less than a month after the Beth Shalom West Synagogue was vandalized, a human rights lawyer has filed a complaint with the Ottawa Police hate crimes unit after spotting posters downtown that he described as "anti-Semitic."

Richard Warman said he found three different posters July 13 near the National Archives on Wellington Street, not far from Parliament Hill. Each one reads: "In Iraq Israel and the United Kingdom deliberately mislead the Americans into a never ending war."

The posters are the size of a piece of computer paper, and on one full-colour print there is an upside down U.S. flag with Stars of David and backward swastikas inside red stripes. In the corner, where 50 stars usually appear, is a large Star of David.

"I felt there was an association because of swastikas and the Star of David and thought that this should be investigated," Warman told *The CJN*.

Sgt. Ralph Heyerhoff of the hate crimes unit said police are investigating the posters but are treating them as an isolated incident, separate from the June shul attack in the former suburb of Nepean.

"There is no link between the two whatsoever," said Heyerhoff, adding that the posters contain confusing messages and police are still trying to figure out what they mean.

He said that "the swastikas on the synagogue were the right way around" and that by vandalizing the shul, the perpetrators were trying to send a clear message. "It appears to be different groups with different agendas."

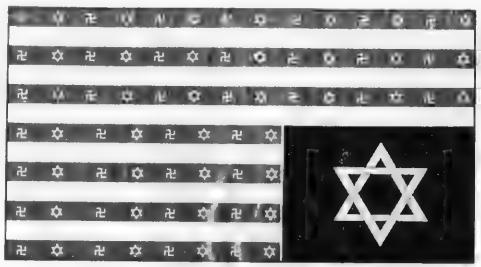
Rubin Friedman, community relations for the Jewish Community Council of Ottawa, said his organization is very concerned about the latest incident. He agreed the messages are odd, largely because the swastikas are backward and blame Israel and the U.K. for the violence in Iraq.

"Someone clearly has an axe to grind against Great Britain," he said.

Warman said he's particularly concerned because someone put time and effort into making the posters using graphics and computer imaging.

"These things are the tip of the iceberg," he said. "If you pay attention in the form of posters, [you are] not going to have Molotov cocktails going through the windows."

A spokesperson for the Israeli Embassy in Ottawa said it was aware the posters existed, but refused to comment further.



In Iraq
Israel and the United Kingdom deliberately mislead the Americans into a never ending war.

Police are investigating three posters found near Parliament Hill.

YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

ייִדיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פֿון: אַלעק סילווער

אפשר איז שוין די העכסטע צייט?...

פֿון **אַלעק סילווער**

די וועלט ווערן עפּשריבן דעם 26סטן מאַי, וען פֿון אונדזער דרומדיקן שכן, די פֿאַראייניקטע שטאַטן, איז אַנגעקומען די נייעס, אַז די „על קאָידא" טעראָר אַרגאַניזאַציע זייט זיך דורכצופּירן אַ גרויסן טעראָר אַקט אין אַמעריקע דעם קומענדיקן זומער. לויט דער ידיעה וועלט אויפֿגעקלערט, אַז די זיכערהייטס דעפּאַרטמענטס האָבן באַווען אויפֿצוכאַפּן געשפּרעכן צווישן די טעראָריסטן, איז וועלכע עס איז געהערט געווארן וועגן די צוגרייטונגען צו אַזאַ טעראָר אַקט.

די רעגירונג אָבן דער זיכערהייטס מיניסטער ביי אונדז איז קאַנאַדע האָט פֿאַרזיכערט די קאַנאַדער ביידגער, אַז זיי דאַרפֿן זיך נישט שרעקן. דאָס איז, לויט מיין מיינונג, אַ נאַריש דערקלערונג. טאַמער געשעט עפּעס אַזאַ זאַך איז אַמעריקע וועט עס זיכער האָבן אַן איינפֿלוס אויף קאַנאַדע אָן זיכער אויך אויפֿן גאַנצן צפֿוך אָן דרום־אַמעריקאַנער קאָנטינענט. ספּעציעל וועגן עס איז נאָר צוגעגעבן געווארן, אַז די טעראָריסטן פֿלאַנירן צו פֿאַרכאַפּן אַ קאַנאַדער עראָפּלאַן אָן אים אַריינשמעטערן איך אָן אַמעריקאַנער געבידע. איז וואָר וועט זיין אינעם קאַנאַדער עראָפּלאַן?... קאַנאַדער פּאַסאַזשירן!

וועגן די נייעס איז געווארן באַקאַנט האָט די וועלט זיך אַפּגעשטעלט אויף אַ צווייַ שעה אָן איינגעהאַלטן דעם אָטעם. אָבער נאָך דעם וויי דער עולם האָט אַראָפּגעשלינגען דעם „ביטערן" ביסן, איז דאָס לעבן צוריק גענומען צו זיין געווויינלעכן טעמפּאָ. פֿאַר וואָס?... דער ענטפֿער איז זייער פּשוט.

מיר זיינען שוין אַזוי צוגעוווינט צו הערן וועגן מענטשן, וואָס קומען אום טאָג־טעגלעך איבער דער וועלט, אַז מיר נעמען עס אויף קאַלטבלוטיק אָן גייען וויייטער אָן מיט אונדזער געוויינלעכן לעבן וויי גאָרנישט וואָלט פּאַסירט. מאַכט אויף די ראַדיאָ באַלד אין דער פּרי אַדער די טעלעווידזע, עפּנט אויף די מאָרגן־ציטונג, אָן באַלד הערט איר אָן זעט די שלעכטע נייעס וועגן שיסן, מאָרד, טעראָר־אקט, קאַטאַסטראָפֿעס, מלחמה, פּייַערן, זעלבסמאָרד, ערד־ציטערנישן, פֿאַרפֿלייצונגען אָן נאָך אַנדערע ענלעכע „גוטע" ידיעות. אַזוי איז עס ביי אונדז אין שטאָט, ביי אונדז אין לאַנד, איבער דער וועלט. אָן אויב ס'כאַפּט זיך אַריין אַ מאָל אַ גוטע נייעס, וועלט עס שנעל פֿאַרלירן. איז וואָס קען מען איין טעראָר־אקט עפֿנען אונדזער לעבנס־גאַנג? . . .

וואָס ס'זאָל נישט פֿאַסירן, גייט דער מענטש אָן מיט זיין טאָג־טעגלעכן לעבן. ער שטייט אויף אין דער פֿרי, גייט צו דער אַרבעט, עסט אַ גוטן מיטאָג, טרעפֿט זיך מיט גשעפֿטלייט אַדער פֿריינד, פֿאַרבענגט מיט זיין פֿאַמיליע אָן — באַמיט זיך צו פֿאַרגעסן, וואָס ער האָט געוען, געהערט אַדער געלייענט פֿריער.

איך געדענקט דאָך זיכער, וי מען פֿלעגט אַמאָל זאָגן: „געוויסהייט איז אַ צוויסטע נאָטור", אַדער „אַז מען געוויינט זיך צו צו די צרות לעבט מען מיט זיי אין פֿריידן". האָט זיך טאַקע דער מענטש אין פֿריערדיקן אָן איצטיקן אַרומגערט צוגעוווינט צו דעם אַלעם, וואָס סקומט פֿאָר אויף דער וועלט אָן... לעבט דערמיט. אמת, פֿון צייט צו צייט, שרייט דער מענטש אויס אין צאָרן קעגן דעם רשעות, וואָס הערשט אויף דער וועלט. טייל מאָל שאָפּן זיך גרופּן, וואָס פֿראָטעסטירן קעגן דעם שלעכטן אין פֿאַרשידענע מדינות, וי דיסקרימינאַציע, ראַסן־האָס, קרעאַנקהייטן אָן פֿאַרלעצונג פֿון מענטשלעכע רעכט. וועט אַ הרהא . . . מען רופט זיי צוזאַמען, מען שאָפּט קאָמיטעטן, מען שרייבט פֿראָטעסטירן קאָלן, מען גיט אַרויס דעקלאַראַציעס, אָן שוין, שוין וועט מען דאָס אַלץ אויסגלייכן. צום באַדויערן אַבער בלייבט עס ביי דעם. אַ סך געהערט אָן גאָרנישט געטאָן. איז אפשר איז שוין די העכסטע צייט עפּעס צו טאָן? . . . שוין די העכסטע צייט, אַז די מענטשהייט זאָל הערן אַ ביסל גוטע אָן דערפֿרייענדיקע נייעסן. אָן איבער אַלעם — שוין די העכסטע צייט עס זאָל הערשן שלום, מנוחה אָן צופֿרידנקייט אין יעדן וויינקל פֿון אונדזער וועלט.

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Canada's abstention on UN fence resolution disappoints CIC

Continued from page 1

Fogel acknowledged Canada was uncomfortable with the court's intrusion into the question of the legitimacy of the barrier, most of which has yet to be built.

Canada abstained in the last UN General Assembly vote on the fence, on Dec. 8, 2003. That resolution, also sponsored by the Palestinian delegation, asked the ICJ to rule on the fence's legality.

Fogel, echoing the official view of the Israeli government, said the fence is a temporary measure to prevent terrorism, and its route beyond the Green Line in the West Bank stems from security and strategic considerations.

Reynald Doiron, a spokesperson in Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs, said Canada has been consistent in its position on the fence.

"There is no change of policy on this issue. As you know, in December, we expressed strong reservations about taking this issue to the International Court of Justice. We didn't think it was the appropriate course to take then, and we don't think it is the appropriate course to take now. So that is why we abstained, basically."

He added: "We do believe that Israel has its preoccupations of security, and it is not taken into account sufficiently in the present process. We want to help everything that contributes to the peace process in the Middle East and not work on anything that is weakening [it]."

In an official statement, the Department of Foreign Affairs said: "Canada remains concerned with the highly prejudicial impact the barrier may have on prospects for peace. The barrier's adverse effect on the ever more dire humanitarian and socio-economic situation of the Palestinian population in the Occupied Territories is troubling. Although Israel has a right and a duty to protect its citizens, measures taken in this regard must be consistent with the applicable international humanitarian law, which is binding on all parties to the [Arab-Israeli] conflict.

"While we have serious concerns regarding the route of the barrier, the issue of the barrier cannot be viewed in isolation from Israel's security concerns. As the court itself maintained, Israel has the right to take necessary measures to protect the security of its citizens and its borders from attacks by Palestinian terrorist groups… but must do so in accordance with international law…

"The resolution does not adequately reflect this reality… we do not believe that this resolution, which seeks to implement the Court's opinion as if it were a binding decision instead of an advisory opinion, and which does not adequately reflect the current situation of the larger conflict, will help advance the cause of peace.

"For these reasons, Canada has chosen to abstain on the resolution."

After the UN vote, Israel vowed to press on with constructing the fence.

"Israel will not stop building it or abdicate its inalienable right to self-defence," said Ra'anan Gissin, one of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's senior advisors.

Dan Gillerman, Israel's UN representative, also struck a defiant note. "Thank God that the fate of Israel and of the Jewish people is not decided in this hall."

Describing the resolution as "magnificent," Nasser al-Kidwa, the Palestinian observer at the UN, said he would now urge the Security Council to pass a binding resolution.

Last October, the United States vetoed a Security Council resolution condemning the fence.

According to the Canada-Israel Committee, Canada has a record of abstaining on UN resolutions.

Last year, Canada supported 15 Israel-related resolutions and abstained on the remaining five.

Canada's position is unsatisfactory, according to David Goldberg, CIC research director. Writing in *The CJN* about a resolution on Palestinian children, he observed:"It reflects Ottawa's practice of applying a moral equivalency between Palestinian terrorist atrocities on the one hand and Israeli defensive measures on the other hand."

Please see commentaries on the fence on pages 8, 9, 11 and 12.

Martin re-appoints Cotler and Austin, shifts Saada

Continued from page 1

Cotler, who unveiled the plan during the recent federal election campaign, said anti-hate provisions can be found in constitutional, criminal, administrative and international law and, unless they specialize in the area, jurists often do not have these tools readily at hand.

First appointed to the cabinet last December by Prime Minister Paul Martin, Cotler said he expects to encounter more challenges from the opposition on such contentious proposed legislation as same-sex marriage and the decriminalization of possession of small amounts of marijuana. He is hoping a "consensus" can be found on these issues.

"A minority government means our priorities have to be clearly defined," he said. "But there are broad-based policy initiatives that can find support. I don't expect to be frustrated."

It is not widely known, he said, but much of his work involves more than drawing up legislation.

"Perhaps the most important [aspect] is judicial appointments. These appointments are extremely crucial and can affect the administration of justice for a generation," he said.

Cotler will also be preparing the government's interventions before the courts, acting, in essence, as legal advisor to the Crown.

The other Jewish cabinet minister from Quebec, Jacques Saada, is now minister of economic development for the regions of Quebec and minister responsible for the Francophonie. The Brossard-La Prairie MP had been House leader and minister responsible for democratic reform in Martin's first cabinet.

In this new role, Saada will be at the helm of the government's plan to spend an extra $2 billion over the next five years on the economic development of Quebec, outside the Montreal area. Saada is the only one of the eight ministers from Quebec whose riding is not on the Island of Montreal.

Saada said he is pleased with his new role. "To participate in the front line of Quebec's development is extremely stimulating. It will give me an opportunity to deepen my knowledge of Quebec and to better represent the province in the cabinet."

The Tunisian-born, French-raised Saada is also excited about being involved with the Francophonie. "This is an area that I have dreamed of taking part in for a long time. I have always been passionate about the international arena, and now I have the chance to put this into practice. This is extremely precious to me."

The third Jewish member of the cabinet is Jack Austin of Vancouver, who returns as leader of the government in the Senate.

With a minority government, Austin's responsibilities of planning and managing the government's legislative program in the upper house will take on more importance. He must maintain relations with the Opposition on all matters concerning Senate activities. He will work with new House leader Tony Valeri in getting legislation through Parliament, which in a minority situation means negotiating with the other parties.

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Five generations of Wagman family gather for reunion

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

More than 400 people representing five generations of Ruchel and Isaac Wagman's descendants gathered earlier this month in Chicago for the latest in a series of reunions held every four years in a different city.

"It has now been 20 years since the first international reunion of the family," said Toronto's Mel Katzman, who chaired the 1996 Wagman reunion.

He said he is pleased to see the torch passed to an enthusiastic fifth generation, many of whom will be working on organizing the next reunion in Toronto – the family's sixth – in 2008.

"It was amazing," Katzman said of the recent four-day event. "I walked into the dining room of the hotel in Chicago and I was greeted by hundreds of family from across Canada, the United States, Israel, Africa, China, Argentina and Brazil. It is impossible to describe the feeling unless one experiences the emotion of that moment."

Ruchel and Isaac Wagman (Wegman) were born in Bogoria, Poland, a shtetl 150 kilometres south of Warsaw. They married in 1861 and operated a bakery and general store. After the Kishinev pogrom in 1895 and the institution of repressive measures by the Russian government of the time, the Wagman children and their families began immigrating to North America, and when they were established, they brought others.

Some of the Canadians at the Wagman reunion in Chicago were, from left, Esther Steinman, Brenda Sands, Gerald Sands, Mel Katzman, Irving Warsh, Rene Katzman, Anne Picov, Frank Steinman, Marcia Warsh, Heather Ordon, Jack Mitchel, Bev Basson, Estelle Samotny (a Chicago host), Belle Weinstein and Bernard Weinstein.

Anne Picov told *The CJN* that 1,500 Wagman descendants have been identified, and of those, 900 are living.

"At the reunion, the youngest relative was five days old and the oldest was 89," Picov said.

"It is exciting and very uplifting to be with so many relatives in one place… [there is a] wonderful feeling and warmth we have at these reunions."

At the reunion, family members unveiled a family history in the form of a 127-page book. There was also a slide show and an elaborate family tree, and recently the family, which calls itself the Ruchel Isaac Cousins' Club, designed a website with links to family information and photos.

"Our distant cousins have become close family and friends," Katzman said. "We call each other throughout the year and share our joys and adversities. The ruach and the glow of the memories these reunions create will be with all of us forever."

To mark each reunion, family members make charitable contributions to the communities that have given them a good life. This year, the Chicago cousins held a family blood donor drive, while the Toronto cousins donated $10,000 to the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care.

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On Campus

Universities revisit Israel study policies

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

The University of Toronto has lifted a two-year restriction on undergraduate students wishing to study in Israel, and the University of Western Ontario is reassessing restrictions on funding for study at Hebrew University that have also been in place for the past two years.

U of T's policy of neither promoting nor endorsing study in Israel was based on travel advisories issued by Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs, said Miranda Cheng, director of the school's international student exchange office.

It was prompted by concerns for students' safety, not anti-Israel sentiment, she said. As a comparable example, she noted that U of T cancelled a 2003 summer program in Hong Kong – affecting more than 300 students – because of a travel ban imposed by the World Health Organization.

Restrictions are different for graduate students, who may need to travel during "key times" for their research, she said.

She said that almost a dozen U of T students will be attending Hebrew University in the 2004-2005 year, while Tel Aviv University (TAU), Technion, and Haifa University will each host a U of T student.

"I'm incredibly happy that we have a large group going to Israel in '04-'05, and representing very different disciplines, and very happy that we have a number of students coming from Israel," she added, referring to exchange programs with U of T partners at TAU and Technion.

Merle Goldman, director of national programs and academic affairs for Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, said there are more than 60 Canadian students, graduate and undergraduate, scheduled to attend the Israeli institution this year. "We're pretty well back to where we were a few years ago."

In addition to U of T, the students are from York University, the University of Waterloo, Western, Queen's University, McGill University, the University of Manitoba and the University of Winnipeg.

"We encourage students to engage in study abroad," said Kathleen Kevany, director of Western's Centre for New and Exchange Students. "The challenge we faced was when there was money involved. There was some question about whether the university was giving its endorsement [by releasing funds]."

In the case of exchange programs, Western assesses the safety of a country, but if a student decides independently to study elsewhere, "we haven't said, 'Go,' and we don't say, 'Don't go.'"

The university does provide "letters of permission" saying only that a course is academically equivalent, Kevany said.

At least one Canadian university will not provide such letters until the students return, said Orna Benayon, academic affairs director of Canadian Friends of Tel Aviv University.

York University, which has more than a dozen students going to Israeli universities this year, has never had restrictions, said Martin Lockshin, director of York's Centre for Jewish Studies.

"My feeling is that students are adults," he said. "There are many decisions they make about what type of risks they will take."

York rescinds suspension of pro-Palestinian student

By JESSICA HELLEN
CJN Intern

York University has decided to allow Daniel Freeman-Maloy, a suspended York student and pro-Palestinian activist, to return to school in the fall.

This comes after Superior Court Justice Gloria Epstein ruled that a judicial review of Freeman-Maloy's suspension could proceed.

"We reflected on the matter and believe we've made our point," York spokesperson Nancy White said of the school's decision. "We wanted to give the student a second chance and we hope the young man will take that chance."

Freeman-Maloy, 22, was suspended for three years last April after taking part in two protests in an unauthorized area of campus and using a megaphone, which is prohibited at York.

Last March, after one of the protests, York temporarily suspended the club privileges of a pro-Palestinian group and two Jewish groups, including Hillel.

York president Lorna Marsden suspended Freeman-Maloy, who is Jewish, using a York regulation that did not require her to grant him a hearing or appeal.

Once the case had already gone to court, she agreed to hear his appeal at a full internal discipline tribunal, which Epstein declared to be inadequate for this situation.

Freeman-Maloy has announced he will pursue a lawsuit against Marsden.

White said the suspension sends a strong message to other students.

"I think we will continue to be very clear in standing behind our message that we are against threats and confrontations and hold everyone accountable to our code of conduct," she said.

White added that it is important for students to understand that York "fully supports freedom of expression and debate on campus," but is "against violence, threats and confrontations."

Talia Klein, director of Hillel at York, said she is happy to see the issue being resolved, although Hillel was not involved in the case.

Family Moments

only from The Canadian Jewish news

Mazel Tov to...

Mazel Tov to
Nancee Vajda and David Blumenfeld
on their engagement
With love from
Sandi & Andy Vajda, Lynn Blumenfeld and Larry Blumenfeld

Marla (nee Fruitman) and Ronald Struminger proudly announce the birth of their son **Jarod Ryan** at 6:54 am on Thursday, March 4th in New Jersey. Jarod was 6 lbs 11oz and 20" long. Thrilled Grandparents are Betsy and Lou Fruitman and Leny Struminger. Excited Great-Grandparents are Mary and David Dale. **Jarod Ryan** is lovingly named after his Grandfather, the late Jay Struminger. **Jarod** is truly our dream come true!

On Friday, June 18, 2004, Sandra Czarny graduated with a Bachelor of Laws degree from Osgoode Hall Law School. Her family and friends are elated.

Bonnie & Stan Arbus & Nancy & Arthur Ameis
take pleasure in announcing the engagement of their children
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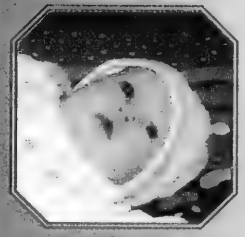

Joey Zelig, born to parents Rena & Joshua. Grandparents: Shaindy & Zev Goldstein, Helen & Sheldon Zelig; great-grandparents: Dodo & Jeff Cohen, Susan Goldstein.

Mazel tov to our parents Sam and Fay Rosen on your 55th wedding anniversary and to my Mom on your 75th birthday. Love from your kids and family.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!
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Thursday, July 29

CULTURAL CLASH

The Entertainment Committee of Shaarei Shomayim Congregation presents **Brian Moskowitz** discussing "How I Shanghaied From the Israeli Army and Wound Up Teaching in Shanghai, China: The Cultural Clash of Canada, Israel and China." 8 p.m. Members free, guests $2. 416-789-3213.

Friday, July 30

PHAT PHRIDAYS SERVICE

Generation Hutzpa presents "Phat Phridays: Not Yer Average Kabbalat Shabbat" led by **Rabbi Aubrey Glazer**, a blend of Jewish music from Israeli folk and devotional to Latin sounds with fusion musicians **Ernie Tollar**, **Aaron Lightstone** and **Debashish Sinha**. 6 p.m. in the Beth Tzedec Youth Chapel. 416-781-3514, ext. 34.

Sunday, Aug. 1

FEMINIST BOOK GROUP

Feminist Book Discussion Group, Older Women's Network, is discussing the book *Tara Road* by **Maeve Binchey** at 1:45 p.m. For location and information, call **Marge Mintz**, 416-630-5049.

TU B'AV: LET'S GO CRAZY

Bring your favourite love poem to Gen h "Love Poetry Slam For Tu B'Av." 8 p.m. Bistro Grande, 1000 Eglinton Ave. W. $26 includes martini and appetizers. To reserve, call 416-781-3511.

Wednesday, Aug. 4

VOLUNTEER IN ISRAEL

Canadian Volunteers for Israel are holding an information evening about the Canadian Sar-El group, who will be civilian volunteers on Israeli army supply/maintenance bases beginning October 17. 7:30 p.m. at 788 Marlee Ave. For information, call 416-781-6089 or visit www.serve.com/CVI.

Other News

WOW EVENTS

WOW, a social group for widowed people, invites widowed men ages 50-70 to join them for friendship and socializing at a lunch on Sunday, Aug. 8. For information, call **Norm**, 905-770-0478; **Ruth**, 905-709-8801; or **Marilyn**, 416-226-6622.

SINGLES EVENING

Shaar Shalom Singles and Intersynagogue Singles (35+) are hosting a Wine and Cheese Evening at Shaar Shalom Synagogue Sunday, Aug. 15 at 7:30 p.m. Admission is $12 and includes wine tasting and a glass of wine. 2 Simonston Blvd. For information, call **David** at 416-224-9494.

HEBREW CLASSES

Keren Hatarbut Institute is now accepting registration for fall session Hebrew-language classes. Classes are offered for adults, teenagers and preteens at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels. Beginners will speak, write and read Hebrew in 14 sessions. Classes are taught on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, beginning the week of Sept. 7. Reasonable tuition. 788 Marlee Ave. For registration, call **Joseph Klinger** at 416-787-0197.

YIDDISH MASTER CLASS

Internationally renowned French-Yiddish actor and mime **Rafael Goldwasser** will be conducting a master class in Yiddish drama Wednesday, Sept. 1 and Thursday Sept. 2 from 1:30-4:30 p.m. The cost is $20 per session or $36 for both. Space is limited. To reserve, call the Committee for Yiddish of UJA Federation at 416-635-2883, ext. 155.

LEARN YIDDISH

Adath Israel is offering conversational Yiddish classes for the 17th year. The 10-session program begins Tuesday, Aug. 31 at 7:30 p.m. For information, call **Louis Gula**, 416-495-0919.

Continued on page 23

Richler makes 'natural transition' to head of Congress' Ontario branch

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

As far as lawyer Joel Richler is concerned, switching from his former role as litigator for Canadian Jewish Congress to his current position as chair of the organization's Ontario wing is merely a "natural transition."

In his capacity as legal counsel for Congress, Richler was handed some high profile cases. In one, he urged a Canadian Human Rights tribunal to shut down the website operated by the notorious anti-Semite, Ernst Zundel. He also represented Congress at the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission in the Malcolm Ross case, arguing the case in the end in the Supreme Court of Canada, and he's handled various "odds and sods" along the way.

Considering that Ontario is experiencing a nasty resurgence of anti-Semitism, he takes the reins at a time when his legal skills and advocacy abilities will be put to the test.

> ***Legal skills and advocacy abilities will be put to the test***

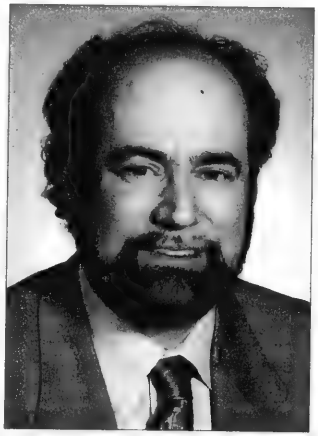
Richler, a senior litigator with Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP, says "two obvious issues" come to mind when considering his agenda at Congress: contemporary anti-Semitism and school funding.

As the federation-linked community's primary advocacy agency charged with countering hatred of Jews, Congress has a key role to play in addressing manifestations of contemporary anti-Semitism, which should be distinguished from "old fashioned, right wing anti-semitism," Richler said.

"We can make sure that the community's concerns regarding anti-Semitism are brought to the attention of the appropriate authorities," he said. In addition, he intends to maintain Congress' contacts with other community groups that share its anti-racist and human rights agendas.

A rally organized in part by Congress, held in late March after a Jewish cemetery was vandalized and homes and a synagogue were defaced with Nazi symbols, was attended by political figures from all major parties, as well as leaders from a number of communities, he noted.

Richler pointed to CJC's good relations with Islamic groups, whose representatives attended the March rally against anti-Semitism. He also noted that Congress stood with the Muslim community when a mosque was attacked, and that "we have good relations with other communities."



Joel Richler

With the formation of the Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy (CIJA), a co-ordinating agency created late in the term of Ed Morgan, Richler's predecessor as chair of Congress' Ontario region, CJC's exact role in advocacy is somewhat vague.

"It's in a state of flux," Richler acknowledged. "No one's sure of the precise organizational structure."

Nevertheless, Richler plans to maintain good relations with CIJA, which sets the operating budgets for the community's various advocacy agencies, while forging ahead with his broad policy goals.

"No one has suggested to us that Congress' role will be lessened," he said.

As for CJC's budget, given the demands on the organization and the rising incidence of anti-Semitism, "I don't expect to get less," he said. "We have every indication it will get adequate funding for its functions."

School funding, the second major item on his agenda, "is not an issue that's going to go away," Richler said.

Upon taking office last year, the new provincial Liberal government immediately repealed the education tax credit put in place by the outgoing Tories. Richler promised that Congress "will make the government aware of how disappointed the community is" about the move.

As to a specific proposal Congress might advance to replace the tax credit, Richler said announcing that would be premature.

"There might be other alternatives, as in other provinces," he said.

What's New

Continued from page 22

WRITING COMPETITION

The Association of Jewish Libraries announces the 20th annual Sydney Taylor Manuscript Competition for aspiring authors of children's books. A $1,000 prize will be awarded for the best fiction manuscript appropriate for readers ages 8-11 written by an unpublished author. The story should have universal appeal, yet serve to deepen the understanding of Judaism and reveal positive aspects of Jewish life. For entry forms and rules, visit www.jewishlibraries.org or contact **Rachel Glasser** at rkglasser@aol.com. Deadline for submission of manuscripts is December 31.

FOR SENIORS

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Dances every Saturday night through July and August; Casino Niagara, Thursday, Aug. 26. Hebrew classes, Tuesday mornings 10 a.m.-noon, $25/month. Call 416-395-7881 Monday to Thursdays 9 a.m-1 p.m.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the boardroom at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Call 416-630-9444.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. July 29, trip to Niagara Falls and casino. Call **Menachem Wallach**, 905-731-7748, or **Malka Colla**, 416-630-5771.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew-speaking seniors meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m., Aug. 3, movie; Aug. 10, picnic at Earl Bales at 11 a.m.; August 17, lecture. Call **Galit Osadtsuk** at ext. 115.

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

The next fitness session begins on Monday, Aug. 16 and continues into December. Registration takes place on Tuesday, Aug. 3 and Wednesday, Aug. 4 in the Wagman Centre Lobby, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1-3 p.m.

Bereavement Group meetings are open to all Wagman members and people living in the community. This group is for those aged 55 and older and offers understanding about the issues of loss, loneliness, pain and healing. No charge. Call for information.

The Wagman Annual Barbecue will take place on Tuesday, Aug. 24, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Tickets must be purchased in advance at the service desk.

The annual all-day outing on Tim Horton's Coach Bus is scheduled for Monday, Sept. 27. For information, call **Mara Swartz**, ext. 2275.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

The Koffler Gallery presents **Mitch Robertson**: "S & P 100," though Sept. 26.

The BJCC and Mount Sinai offer prenatal classes Aug. 8 and 15 from 10-4 p.m. The cost is $136 per couple. To register, call ext. 390.

The BJCC School and Daycare has day-care spaces available for September 2004, a new extended Tic Tac Two morning program 9-11:30 a.m. and new preschool, nursery, junior kindergarten and senior kindergarten, morning options of 9-11:30 a.m. or 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Call ext. 248 to book a tour or for more information.

The Koffler School of Music registration for fall classes open for Babies and Toddlers Music, preschool music, piano, guitar, violin, flute, saxophone, ensembles, Suzuki piano and violin, Nashir Children's Choir, opera master classes, opera appreciation and Resa's Pieces Band.

Register now for drama classes at Leah Posluns Theatre School. Call ext. 464 for information or ext. 231 to register.

Cirque Du Soleil's *Alegria*, Sept. 9, 8 p.m. at Ontario Place. Tickets are $180. With the purchase of every ticket, you are entered into a draw to win a weekend for two to Las Vegas. Call ext 271.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or wwwmilesnadaljcc.ca.

Registration for fall programs at the Miles Nadal JCC starts Sunday, Aug. 1 at 9 a.m. Program book now available. Exciting programs for adults and children, including fitness, recreation, cultural arts, adult education and community celebrations.

Summer Yiddish Seminar 2004, Aug. 29-Sept. 3. This program includes an intensive study of Yiddish language for beginners and advanced students and a cultural component, which includes guest lecturers, music workshops and films. There is also a special, one-day Yiddish marathon for absolute beginners. Advanced program, members $550, non-members $600. Beginner's program, members $200, non-members $250. One-day Yiddish marathon, members $75, non-members $89. Cost includes materials. Call for information and registration.

Volunteers Wanted

BAYCREST CENTRE

Volunteers are needed in The Wagman Computer Lab to assist in providing instruction in Word and e-mailing, Tuesdays 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and Thursdays 1-3 p.m. Volunteers are also needed in the Wagman Convenience Store, to help with cash, bagging groceries and shelving. Varied days available. A facilitator is needed for the Reform service Friday evenings 6-7:30 p.m. For information, call 416-785-2500, ext. 2572, or visit www.baycrest.org.

People in the News

ISRAEL MUSEUM

Four Canadians recently received Honorary Fellowships from the Israel Museum, Jerusalem, during its International Council. **Wendy and Elliott Eisen**, of Toronto, and **Stephanie and David Azrieli**, of Montreal, were honoured by the museum for years of involvement and support. The Eisens are national co-chairs of the Canadian Friends of the Israel Museum and were cited for the role they played in promoting the Israel Museum's exhibitions in museums in Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal. The Azrielis were recognized for their support of the Museum's Judaica Department. Among the others receiving Honorary Fellowships this year was **Aura Herzog**, wife of the late **Chaim Herzog**.

BAYCREST CENTRE

Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care has appointed **Fran Sonshine** chair of the Baycrest Board of Directors. Ms. Sonshine has been actively involved with Baycrest for more than 15 years, including as past chair of the Baycrest Centre Foundation Board. She initiated Baycrest's first-ever annual campaign in 2002 and has played an important role in introducing new grassroots supporters and corporate partners to Baycrest.

TABLECLOTH OF HOPE: Arlene Caplan, of KitchenAid Canada, Sarah Ray, breast cancer survivor, Judy Urowitz, host, and Carol Seidman, CEO Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation, launch the national tour of the Tablecloth of Hope at a pink-themed picnic held recently at Queen's Park. The tapestry honours Canadians who have supported the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation.

AZOULAYS HONOURED: Joe and Esther Azoulay received the Yachin ou Boaz Award at the recent Or Haemet Sephardic School dinner. With the award, presented to them by Rabbi Amram Assayag, they were recognized for their contribution to the Jewish community. From left are Rabbi Assayag and the Azoulay family.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 19

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OBITUARIES and Related Notices

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BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Max Cassels	Jul 5/04	27 Beaver Valley Rd
Max Shafir	Jul 6/04	59 Acton Ave
Marshall Margolis	Jul 6/04	64 Admiral Rd
Jack Isen	Jul 6/04	225 Bamburgh Circle
Miklos Raab	Jul 6/04	10 Old York Mills Rd
Shirley Brightman	Jul 7/04	3560 Bathurst St
Adrienne Miller	Jul 7/04	645 Castlefield Ave
Bram Perzow	Jul 7/04	45 Hetherington Cres
John Zeldin	Jul 8/04	23 Bedford Rd
Milton Cadsby	Jul 8/04	61 St. Clair Ave W
Sharyn Yolles	Jul 8/04	18 Poplar Plains Cres
Myer Reitapple	Jul 9/04	19 Lower Village Gate
Rose Bisgould	Jul 9/04	3560 Bathurst St
Avi Wollner	Jul 10/04	20 Windsor Court Rd
William McKay	Jul 10/04	1750 Bayview Ave
Abraham Scher	Jul 11/04	79 Walmer Rd
Lillie Gorman	Jul 11/04	3303 Don Mills Rd
Bernice Herst-Wortzman	Jul 11/04	333 Clark Ave W
Colin Krivy	Jul 11/04	124 Roseheath Ave
Sam Schneider	Jul 13/04	720 Mt. Pleasant Rd
David Zeitchyk	Jul 13/04	9800 Yonge St
Manuel Faith	Jul 14/04	3560 Bathurst St
Samuel Abrams	Jul 14/04	217 Park Home Ave

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Jacob, Chaya Helena	July 10, 2004	Private
Lokshtanov, Larisa	July 13, 2004	Private
Mikhailovski, Alexandre	July 13, 2004	Private
Schuller, Anna Erzsebet	July 14, 2004	Private
Rochwerg, Sophie	July 14, 2004	42 Binscarth Cres
Grossman, Sofia	July 15, 2004	150 Dollery Crt
Minkowski, Mariam	July 15, 2004	79 Reiner Rd
Yarmon, Charlotte	July 15, 2004	Private
Vaserman, Rakhil	July 15, 2004	601 Clark Ave W
Geller, Faye Anne	July 15, 2004	Private
Ross, Faye	July 16, 2004	3560 Bathurst St
Weitzner, Esther	July 17, 2004	535 Sheppard Ave W
Clements, John	July 17, 2004	Private

HEBREW BASIC BURIAL

Bernice Bordan	Jul 8/04	11 Hannaford St
Margarita Reinsburg	Jul 11/04	429 Walmer Rd
Joan Ceresne	Jul 13/04	17 Farmstead Rd

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Judean Benevolent Society
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The family of the late
Guta Boimal z"l
would like to express sincere and heartfelt appreciation to all their friends and relatives for the many acts of kindness, support and for many donations made in her memory. Your support has brought us comfort and given strength during our recent bereavement.
Sincerely,
Hedy and Peter Moses,
Lora and Ronnie Lindzon.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
Alter Steinfeld ז"ל
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Sunday, August 8th at 10:00 a.m.
Lambton Cemetery
Chmelniker Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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Human chain protests disengagement plan

By DAN BARON
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — They've already spoken out against Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's Gaza withdrawal plan. Last weekend, they took their battle to the streets.

Joining hands in a human chain that stretched from the Gaza Strip to Jerusalem, some 130,000 protesters – both young and old, from the political fringes and from the mainstream – gathered on Sunday to send Sharon the clearest message of dissent yet from a camp he long considered his own.

And although the chain was peaceful, its timing – amid Shin Bet warnings of growing anger among radical Jews at Sharon's plan to disengage from the Palestinian territories – appeared likely to unnerve the government.

"I think what is happening today is a message by the real, beautiful Israel to those people in mainstream Israel who have lost their will to fight, and therefore I came to say thank you to the wonderful people of Gush Katif," said demonstrator Kfir Shachar of Rishon Lezion, referring to the main Gaza settlement bloc.

In a grim twist, Palestinian terrorists wounded six Israeli children and a soldier in two separate attacks Sunday on Gush Katif, demonstrating the vulnerability of the heavily fortified enclaves.

Sharon, who has vowed to remove all 8,100 Gaza settlers in 2005 under his disengagement plan, did not immediately comment on the demonstration.

But in a cabinet briefing leaked to the media, the head of military intelligence gave a boost to the unilateral plan that has caused a rift so deep in Israel's right-wing camp as to pit Sharon against fellow senior members of the ruling Likud Party, including Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom and Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"Disengagement will be beneficial in terms of containing Palestinian terrorism and even raising the chances of restarting peace negotiations," Maj.-Gen. Aharon Ze'evi-Farkash was quoted as telling cabinet ministers.

A longtime Sharon confidant, Knesset Speaker Reuven Rivlin, cast the human-chain demonstration as a show of pride by settlers, rather than a show of political force.

"I see this as a matter of solidarity rather than a protest, by a community of pioneers that long did the country's bidding and has recently been subjected to a process of delegitimation," Rivlin told reporters at the Western Wall, as shofars were sounded and psalms read to signal the end of the demonstration.

But some assessments of the dissent from Jerusalem were less rosy.

Internal Security Minister Tzachi Hanegbi noted mounting concern at the possibility of a groundswell of targeted attacks on Palestinians by far-right Jews.

"The threat level against the Temple Mount by Jewish extremists and fanatics in order to disrupt the entire peace process has risen in the past few months, and especially in the last few weeks, more than ever before," Hanegbi told Israel's Channel Two television in an interview broadcast Saturday.

Other media said Jews could go so far as ramming an airplane, a la Al-Qaeda, into the two Muslim shrines on the Temple Mount in hopes of sparking an Arab jihad against Israel that would sweep away the disengagement plan.

But Hanegbi said the Shin Bet had no hard evidence against any specific suspects, prompting members of Israel's right-wing to accuse him of needlessly alarming the Israeli public.

Holocaust restitution to be centralized

By URIEL HEILMAN
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

NEW YORK — Was it a revolution or a resolution? After a stormy few weeks leading up to last week's annual board meeting of the Claims Conference, the main group charged with Holocaust restitution, an agreement was reached to centralize world Jewry's restitution efforts.

"Instead of sitting here and fighting about the pie, let's go out and get a bigger pie," Amir Shaviv, assistant executive vice-president of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), said. The JDC is a member of the Claims Conference.

The meeting may also have quelled – for the time being – the controversy surrounding the distribution of unclaimed funds left from the $1.25-billion Swiss banks settlement. A presentation by Claims Conference officials showed there may be no funds left once all claims have been resolved.

That assessment may render moot or at least defer the debate over who should get the leftover money.

Depending on whom one talks to, the agreement on centralizing restitution either marked a historic revolution against Claims Conference control or resolved criticism against the restitution group and signalled that the organization is more influential than ever.

For now, both sides are claiming victory.

On July 22, toward the end of the two-day meeting in New York, board members approved a resolution to create a panel to "discuss coordination of restitution efforts outside Germany and Austria" that "should include the participation of all relevant groups involved in the restitution of funds."

It was not immediately clear which groups would be included outside of the Claims Conference and the World Jewish Restitution Organization (WJRO). The Claims Conference deals with Germany and Austria, while the WJRO is charged with securing restitution elsewhere.

Critics have charged that the Claims Conference, created in 1951 to press Jewish material claims against Germany, is not sufficiently representative of today's Jewish world and does too much of its work behind closed doors.

One of the conference's most vocal critics, Elan Steinberg, executive vice-president of the World Jewish Congress and a Claims Conference board member, said the new resolution would open the restitution process to the entire Jewish world.

The Claims Conference's chairman, Julius Berman, said the decision to create the panel is a sign that Jewish groups want to make use of the group's expertise in seeking restitution from other European countries involved in the Holocaust.

The WJRO has had limited success in getting eastern European countries to return Jewish assets, seized by the Nazis or their allies.

Bobby Brown, senior adviser on Holocaust-era property at the Jewish Agency for Israel, said the resolution would result in "the first real and open discussion on the restitution issue that has taken place since the early 1950s."

Part of the impetus for creating a panel to centralize restitution efforts arose out of the divisiveness engendered by the distribution of unclaimed funds from the 1998 Swiss banks settlement.

On June 10, the Claims Conference reached an agreement with the U.S. District Court and Swiss banks to publish an additional 5,000 names of Holocaust-era Swiss account owners, allow the Claims Conference limited access to search certain bank records and check Jewish claimants against records of 4.1 million Swiss bank accounts.

That deal, which still needs Swiss government approval, could use up all the money in the settlement because it would find more account holders, conference officials said.

"Ashdod Spared Mega-Terror Attack" "Who's next after Madrid?"
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Tel Aviv judge murdered

A 49-year-old Tel Aviv District Court judge was killed in a drive-by shooting last week in the Tel Aviv suburb of Ramat Hasharon, marking the first judicial assassination in Israel's history. Judge Adi Azar was shot at point-blank range from a motorcycle on Hatzorfim Street, outside his home. The assailant escaped. "I am shocked to the depths of my soul… this must give us food for thought about where Israel's society is headed," said Justice Minister Yosef Lapid. Though the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade claimed responsibility, police aren't ruling out other motives in the case.

Israel expresses displeasure

Opposition leader Shimon Peres told visiting European Union envoy Javier Solana that the EU must sever all ties with the Palestinians unless changes are made to the Palestinian Authority, Israel Radio reported. Peres was meeting with the EU's Mideast envoy in Tel Aviv at the end of his two-day visit, in which Israeli officials made clear their displeasure over the EU vote in favour of a UN resolution against Israel's separation barrier.

Al Qaeda targeted Israel too

According to the report by the U.S. Sept. 11 commission, a high-ranking Al Qaeda operations official, Khaled Sheikh Mohammed, currently in U.S. custody, admitted during questioning that the terror group was also planning to attack Israel as well as Jewish targets in New York. During the summer of 2001, the report said, Sheikh Mohammed proposed to Al Qaeda leader Osama Bin Laden that they try to recruit a Saudi air force pilot to use a Saudi combat plane in an air attack on Eilat. The report also details an attempt by Israeli passenger Daniel Lewin to stop the hijackers from entering the cockpit of one of the two planes flown into the World Trade Center.

Iran nukes loom

Israeli intelligence believes Iran will have nuclear weapons by 2007. The projection was made by intelligence chiefs in a report to cabinet ministers, Israel Radio said. Recent U.S. assessments have predicted Iran's atomic program will produce nuclear arms by the end of the decade. The intelligence chiefs also warned that missiles held by Syria and Hezbollah pose a serious threat to Israel.

Close call a 'miracle'

A rocket launched from Gaza hit an Israeli home but failed to explode. The Qassam rocket, fired by Hamas terrorists, reached a kibbutz in the western Negev Desert, landing in a family's bedroom. The homeowner and three of her children were in the room but escaped unscathed as the homemade rocket's warhead apparently was damaged while penetrating the roof. "This is simply a miracle," said Israeli district police chief Yaki Artzi. Authorities withheld the name of the kibbutz to avoid giving Hamas a gauge of the rocket's accuracy.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

A chance for a Mideast breakthrough?

By LESLIE SUSSER
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

Analysis

Few doubt that Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's disengagement plan has the potential to become a watershed event in Middle Eastern politics, and it already is causing major upheavals in both internal Israeli and Palestinian politics.

Sharon is being forced to widen his coalition to ensure a parliamentary and cabinet majority for the plan, while on the Palestinian side, the impending Israeli pullout from Gaza has triggered an unprecedented challenge to Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's authority, as well as demands for a new style of governance.

It's not yet clear what kind of coalition Sharon will form, nor how the violence and confusion among the Palestinians will play out. But if Sharon is able to build a strong coalition and if a new, more pragmatic Palestinian government emerges from the present chaos, the current turmoil could be a prelude to a significant breakthrough in Israeli-Palestinian relations.

Sharon's coalition negotiations, though, are going to be very tricky. Given the widespread opposition in his own Likud Party to the plan for Israeli disengagement from the Palestinians, Sharon needs to bring in the pro-disengagement Labor Party to ensure approval for his plan in cabinet and the Knesset.

Ideally, Sharon would like to build a secular coalition with center-right Likud, center-left Labor and the centrist Shinui Party, which would command more than 70 seats in the 120-seat Knesset and agree on a disengagement agenda.

But Sharon's Likud opponents argue that such a coalition would lead to policies too accommodating toward the Palestinians and a dilution of Likud's conservative economic policy, which is pulling Israel out of recession.

Worse, they maintain, if Sharon forms a coalition with only Likud, Labor and Shinui, it will be perceived as too middle-class and Ashkenazi, and the Likud would lose at least half its working-class, Sephardi constituency in the next elections.

"We would drop from 40 to around 20 Knesset seats," says Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom, who is considered a political savant in the Likud.

But Shalom is part of the problem: He's concerned that if Labor joins the government, he might lose the Foreign Ministry to Labor leader Shimon Peres.

So far, Sharon is not making any promises, but he will be very wary of taking on Shalom in the Likud Central Committee. The foreign minister wields tremendous clout in that forum, which he intended to display at a huge rally that was to be held July 25.

Moreover, Shalom is hinting he's ready to form an alliance with his nemesis, Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, if he feels Sharon isn't treating him right. Such an alliance could seriously threaten Sharon's hold on power in the party and the government, if the policy and personal differences lead to a showdown.

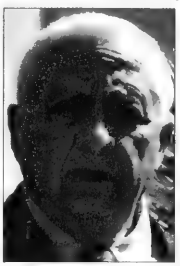
That's why Sharon has been forced into coalition talks with two Orthodox parties, the Ashkenazi United Torah Judaism bloc and the Sephardi Shas Party. Together, they have 16 MKs and could replace Shinui – which now has 14 seats – to form a stable government with Likud and Labor.

That would allow Sharon to be generous to Labor with Shinui's portfolios. As well, Peres could be given a special peace portfolio rather than the Foreign Ministry, and Likud would be able to keep its working-class voters.

But that would be less than ideal for Sharon. The Orthodox parties, which lean to the right, could undermine the disengagement plan or threaten to undermine it unless they get concessions on religious issues or bigger budgets for religious institutions.

Sharon would like to see Orthodox parties balanced by the staunchly secular Shinui, but each side refuses to sit in a coalition with the other.

Shinui's leader, Justice Minister Yosef "Tommy" Lapid, is livid with Labor for its willingness to serve in a government that includes Orthodox parties but not Shinui. He warns that if Labor joins such a coalition, it will be signing its death warrant, because Shinui in opposition would capture most of Labor's traditional support.


Ariel Sharon

"If Labor joins a government with the [haredim], we will give it a donkey's burial," Lapid declared.

Some Labor leaders, such as Haim Ramon, are still trying get Shinui into the coalition as part of a longer term political vision. Ramon sees a Likud-Labor-Shinui coalition burgeoning into a new centrist party that could dominate Israeli politics for years to come.

To get more support for a coalition with Labor and Shinui, with or without the Orthodox parties, Sharon is warning Likud rebels that if they don't support him, the inevitable result will be new elections, which could cost many of them their Knesset seats.

To solve the Shalom problem, pundits believe Sharon will leave him at the Foreign Ministry and offer Peres, in addition to the special portfolio, a "forum-of-two" mechanism, whereby the two elder statesmen would make key decisions together, regardless of whether Shinui, the Orthodox parties or both wind up in the coalition.

Sharon and Peres, however, take very different views of the current chaos on the Palestinian side. Sharon says the chaos highlights the fact there is no Palestinian partner and that Israel has no choice but to take unilateral action.

Peres says the chaos shows the danger of pulling out of Gaza without talking to Palestinians in a position to maintain law and order afterward.

Israeli intelligence analysts say it's too early to count out Arafat, despite the unprecedentedly overt criticism of him and his regime by Palestinians.

But if the voices of reform are able to enforce law and order by reforming the Palestinians' myriad armed forces, or if they can force Arafat to do so, a new chapter in Israeli-Palestinian relations could open.

Israel has virtually won the intifadah war, and more and more Palestinians are questioning its rationale and acknowledging its failure to bring any political gains. Indeed, this sense of failure is the mainspring behind the growing criticism of Arafat.

The question now is whether Sharon, by building a new coalition and pushing his disengagement plan through, can turn Israel's advantage on the ground into political coin.

Leslie Susser is the diplomatic correspondent for the Jerusalem Report.

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Israel & the Jewish World

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By JENNY HAZAN
CJN Israel Bureau

JERUSALEM — Since first making aliyah in July 1990, ex-Hamiltonian Josh Schwartz has come a long way.

Currently the director general of the Jewish Agency, Schwartz, 34, has had a 14-year Israel experience marked by extraordinary professional success.

Canadian olim

His adventure started after he completed his undergraduate studies in political science at McMaster University.

Having previously completed a one-year exchange program at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, he took a job as a counsellor for Canadian youth on a kibbutz summer program run by Canada-Israel Experience.

Josh Schwartz

"I woke up one day on the kibbutz and I went directly to the Ministry of Interior in Jerusalem and said I wanted to change my status," recalls Schwartz, who had already opened his aliyah file at the Jewish Agency office in Toronto.

"I just wanted to stay in Israel. I couldn't wait to go back to Canada to make aliyah from there."

Shwartz says his passion for Israel derived at least partly from growing up in Hamilton, where despite his participation in the city's relatively strong 5,000-member Jewish community, he still felt something was missing.

"Perhaps one of the reasons why I decided to make aliyah is that I grew up and went to university in such a non-Jewish environment," he says. "Had I grown up in North York or Forest Hill and went to [the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto], I would probably be in Toronto right now.

"In Canada, I never had any real problems, but… I never felt like I belonged 100 per cent."

Hebrew U's one-year exchange program was another key motivator.

"There is no question about it, I decided to move here when I came on the one-year program," he says.

"I spent a year here living with Israelis and Jews from around the world, and I enjoyed every single minute of it. It wasn't like being in Canada, where there were good days and bad days. Every single day [in Israel] was fun, from morning to night. So, I asked myself, 'Why do I want to go back?'"

But after about a year of living in Israel, Schwartz decided to do just that.

"I realized I wasn't ready to live in Israel yet," he says, because the challenges of leaving his family and finding his own way as a new immigrant were much greater than he anticipated.

And, he adds, "I wanted to go back to school."

After first completing his master's degree in international affairs at Columbia University in New York, Schwartz returned to Canada, where he worked for a year in Toronto as the Ontario regional director of human rights for B'nai Brith Canada.

He says the Jewish communities in both Toronto and New York were tempting alternatives to living in Israel.

"When I was at Columbia, which is 60 per cent Jewish, all of my friends were Jewish, and I almost stayed in New York because it was a very fulfilling Jewish life," he said.

The biggest temptation was to enrol in Columbia's PhD program in Islamic history, to which he was accepted.

"But, in the end, I knew that if I stayed, I would never get to Israel."

So Schwartz returned to Israel in 1994, and that's when his Zionist adventure really got underway.

"I got off the plane and within a week I found an apartment, and within 10 days I had a job."

His first position was as researcher/director of public affairs for Peace Watch, an NGO co-founded by politician Natan Sharansky with the approval of the Israeli Foreign Ministry whose mandate was to monitor Palestinian and Israeli violations of the Oslo peace process.

During his two-year stint with Peace Watch, Schwartz served as an observer of the Palestinian elections, and in that capacity he was invited to lecture to groups from abroad that were visiting Israel through the Jewish Agency.

"I started doing a lot of lectures," he says, explaining that he would give the groups a two-hour talk about the peace process. "I actually started taking groups to the territories, to Hebron and other places, mostly those on one-year programs through the Jewish Agency."

In the meantime, having completed his shortened army service in a combat unit, Schwartz moved up the ranks in the Israel Defence Forces to become a reserve lieutenant in the IDF Spokesman's Office.

Says Schwartz, "The army was challenging, eye-opening and fun."

Perhaps equally challenging and fun was his next job as a full-time lecturer for the Jewish Agency, which created the position for him in 1996.

In 1998, a year after the Jewish Agency inaugurated its new education department, the director general of the new unit brought Schwartz on board as his advisor.

When Sallai Meridor was elected chairman of the Jewish Agency in 1999, he asked Schwartz to be his advisor. He accepted and worked with Meridor for the next two years.

"The biggest challenge has been working with Sallai," says Shwartz. "He is brilliant and hard-working, and he is an incredible person. Keeping up with him is a full-time job."

In 2001, Schwartz was appointed director general of the Jewish Agency and, "The rest is history," he says.

"I love working in this country. Israel is where I belong. I feel like I'm at home here. I feel like this country belongs to me."

N.A. aliyah increases

Jewish Telegraphic Agency

NEW YORK — More than 1,100 North American Jews are expected to immigrate to Israel this summer.

As well, more than 1,800 North Americans will have immigrated to Israel from January to September of this year, a 20 per cent increase compared to the same period in 2003, the Jewish Agency said.

"This year we estimate seeing the highest number of olim from North America in 15 years," said Michael Landsberg, executive director of the agency's North American aliyah delegation.

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Two Canadians among bidders for Israel Discount Bank

By SHLOMI SHEFFER
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Canadians are leading two of five foreign bids vying to buy majority ownership in the state-controlled Israel Discount Bank, the country's third largest.

One bid is headed by New York-based Matthew Bronfman, the brother of Edgar Bronfman Jr., whose family once ran the now-defunct Seagram liquor empire of Montreal, while another is led by Gerald Schwartz, chairman and CEO of Toronto-based Onex Corp.

Gerald Schwartz

Last Thursday was the deadline for bids. The state holds a 57 per cent stake, which it has made several unsuccessful attempts to unload, and intends to sell 51 per cent of the bank.

Schwartz, 62, failed in previous bids to take control of Air Canada and Labatt Breweries. Onex employs 90,000 people worldwide, and has assets of $14 billion (Cdn). Schwartz owns 17 per cent of the firm and most of the voting rights.

Bronfman is a partner with Dudi Weismann in the energy group Alon-Dor, which also owns the Blue Square supermarket chain. The Bronfman family has long been linked to prominent Jewish causes.

A third bid is headed by New Jersey entrepreneur Daniel Strauss, who made his fortune running old-age homes in the United States, while two other unexpected contenders submitted bids at the last moment, including one represented by the Rothschild investment bank, owned by the legendary family.

The bids are "an expression of faith by foreign investors in the Israeli economy," said Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"The bank's privatization will march forward, accelerate the process of increasing competitiveness in the Israeli banking system, which will lead to lower fees for customers and cheaper credit for businesses."

The sell-off process is expected to last six months.

After three straight years of losses, the bank returned to profitability last year with earnings of 168 million NIS ($49 million Cdn). Analysts are forecasting a profit of 492 million NIS ($86 million Cdn) this year, a 175 per cent increase. The bank is said to be worth 6.5 billion NIS ($1.9 billion Cdn).

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Gitai's *Alila* offers a glimpse of life in Israel

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Alila, Amos Gitai's latest film, unfolds in a dilapidated Tel Aviv neighbourhood against the backdrop of lust, jealousy, patriotism and Palestinian suicide bombings.

It's quite an explosive mixture and Gitai, one of Israel's most accomplished directors, usually juggles these disparate themes with panache.

Adapted from a novel by Yehoshua Kenaz, *Alila*, scheduled to open at the Carlton Cinemas on July 30, is composed of a series of interlocking vignettes that shed light on nearly 12 distinct characters.

Ezra (Uri Klausner), a divorced building contractor, is having an intense conversation with his teenaged son, Eyal (Amit Mestechkin), as this gritty film opens.

For reasons only known to himself, Eyal does not want to serve in the army. Eyal's position is a source of deep disappointment to Ezra, a patriot who believes the country has lost its idealism.

"It's not the way it used to be," he says, echoing a fairly common lament heard in certain Israeli circles these days.

As father and son talk, Ezra stops his car to hire several itinerant Chinese workers to finish repairs at an apartment building in the centre of the city.

This scene enables Gitai to focus attention on a fairly new social and economic phenomenon in Israel – the influx of foreign workers.

Shifting gears once more, Gitai introduces us to Hezi (Amos Lavie), a husky middle-aged man who has rented one of the flats in the building for secret trysts with Gabi (Yael Abecassis), a younger, self-deprecating woman.

She and Hezi engage in such loud and vigorous sex that some of the neighbours complain.

Schwartz (Yosef Carmon), a tenant in the building and a Holocaust survivor still tormented by his horrific experiences, is one of the complainers whose normally peaceful existence is being disrupted by the passionate lovers next door.

Schwartz's Filipino caregiver Linda (Lyn Shiao Zamir), who gives him his medication and provides him with a measure of company, blithely drowns out the news on the radio of the latest suicide bombing by playing music from the Philippines.

Rounding out the cast is Mali (Hanna Laslo), Ezra's ex-wife, who maintains a steamy romantic relationship with Ilan (Liron Levo), a man considerably younger than herself.

Although Ezra is gnawingly jealous of Ilan, he enlists his help in a desperate search for Eyal, who has disappeared and gone AWOL from the army.

Not every character in *Alila* is particularly compelling, but taken as a whole, they tend to rivet a viewer.

In *Alila*, Gitai offers a raw, unfiltered glimpse of life in one grimy corner of contemporary Israel.

Omar Sharif shines in Monsieur Ibrahim

By LARRY ANKLEWICZ
Special to The CJN

Two exciting new films have just arrived in video stores everywhere: *Broken Wings* and *Monsieur Ibrahim*.

Broken Wings is the best film to come out of Israel in some time. It is a beautifully nuanced film about a family tragedy and how that event touched the lives of each member of that family.

It is the extraordinarily moving story of the very ordinary Ullman family. The father died suddenly, leaving his wife, Dafna, and their four children trying to cope with the after effects. Each family member deals with the loss in his or her own particular way.

After nine months of mourning, Dafna returns to her job as a midwife at a local hospital. The 16- year-old son, Yair, quits school and hides from life inside a mouse costume. The 11- year old son, Ido, jumps into an empty swimming pool in an effort to set the world free jump record, while the six-year-old daughter, Bahr, begins her first day of school with nervous anticipation.

That leaves it up to the oldest child, 17- year-old Maya, a gifted and upcoming singer/songwriter, to look after her younger siblings while trying to break into the Israeli music industry.

Frequently these two goals conflict and Maya's dreams are in danger of getting lost in the family shuffle.

Everyone is left to their own devices to get through each day, as obstacles spring up at every turn. Then Maya forgets to pick her younger sister up from school and her brother, Ido, is injured while jumping into the pool. This shakes the entire family out of its lethargy and finally galvanizes each of them into action, forcing a unity onto the family that vindicates one's belief in familial cohesiveness and love.

Told with sincerity, drama and humour, this film has a universality rarely matched in an Israeli film.

Broken Wings is director Nir Bergman's first feature film and features renowned Israeli stage actress Orli Zilberschatz-Banai as the mother, Dafna Ullman; newcomer Maya Maron as the oldest child Maya; Nitai Gvirtz as Yair; Daniel Magon as Ido; and Eliana Magon as Bahr.

Monsieur Ibrahim is a French film that won a lot of attention when it was released theatrically earlier this year because of its message of peace and brotherhood between Muslims and Jews. It is an important film at a time when the western world has seen a steep rise in anti-Semitism, especially in countries such as France.

The film's star, Omar Sharif. has aged over the past 40 years, but his acting abilities have improved. Although he tends to ham it up at times, this is one of the best performances of his career.

Monsieur Ibrahim is set in the 1960s, in a poor section of Paris. Moses is a young Jewish adolescent living in a rundown apartment with a father who has difficulty supporting the family and a mother and older brother who have both run away from the depressing living conditions. Eventually, the father also flees and winds up commiting suicide.

Moses, called Momo in the film, turns to the neighbourhood grocer, Monsieur Ibrahim, an elderly Muslim widower who believes the answer to all problems can be found in the Koran.

M. Ibrahim adopts the boy and the two of them live together in peace and harmony, thus showing that a Muslim and a Jew can live together.

But all is not that simple and Momo adds an element of adventure to M. Ibrahim's life. As a result, they go off together in a red convertible to drive across Europe to visit M. Ibrahim's home town in Turkey.

While the story is heartwarming and leaves the viewer with some pleasant feelings, there are a lot of unanswered questions and many holes in the story. But it is definitely worth seeing, if only for Sharif's performance.

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Improv performer's humour comes out of truth

By JESSICA HELLEN
CJN Intern

Backstage before his solo improvisational show, David Shore is "freaking out."

He will perform onstage alone, and with no script.

"It's a really terrifying thing to do," he said. "It's really nerve-wracking."

Shore, a writer, producer and improv performer, said being a solo improviser is "scary," because you can't rely on others, "you have to trust yourself.

"[Before the show] I'm a wreck," he said. "I'm so in my head, I can't relax. But once I'm in the show, it's very enjoyable. The energy of the crowd is what feeds me."

Shore, 36, was the first solo improviser to perform a type of long-form improv, called the harold, in Canada.

The harold, developed by the late comedian Del Close at the Improv Olympic in Chicago, is the most common type of long-form improvisation.

From an audience suggestion, a harold team of five to 12 – or just one person – perform an opening monologue or word association game. That generates ideas and inspires a series of scenes. The team then performs three separate scenes based on the ideas from the opening. Soon the characters from the scenes begin to interact, while the story lines overlap.

Because Shore has no idea what the audience will suggest, he said the only way to prepare for the show is to "practise the form" and rehearse with his musical accompanist.

He said people often don't understand that he is making everything up on the spot.

"My sisters' friends saw the show and said, 'That's a really funny show David wrote.'"

It was during frosh week at the University of Western Ontario that Shore first began taking sketch comedy classes at The Second City in London.

After graduating from Western, Shore attended Ryerson University's radio and television program. During the writing and production of a show, his father passed away.

"It hit me a couple of days before the show," he said.

After his father's death, Shore decided to give up performing, and headed to Los Angeles to find a job as a sitcom writer.

It wasn't until Shore saw an hour-long, completely improvised live "movie" that he became "addicted" to long-form improv, he said.

"It blew my mind and it scared me. I found it really, really scary. I just couldn't fathom how they did it."

Shore soon became a member of L.A.'s Improv Olympic and took classes at the Groundlings School of Improvisation.

"I performed every week for a couple of years and eventually ended up coaching a team," he said. "We had to rehearse every week and we didn't get paid one dime to do it."

Shore said everyone thinks he or she is able to go on onstage and do improv.

"The great improvisers rehearse and rehearse and rehearse," he said. "It takes a long time to learn. I don't walk into a hospital and say I can go perform brain surgery. This has taken me years."

Shore said being a good improviser involves having "the nerve to do it" and being able to "embrace mistakes and criticism.

"A lot of stuff I do in improv is to face my fears. If I'm not scared before the show, then I know there's something wrong."

Shore is an alumnus of The Second City Mainstage in Toronto and Paramount Television's comedy writer's apprenticeship program. He has been teaching at the The Second City Training Centre in Toronto for three years.

"[Teaching] can be really rewarding and really frustrating," Shore said.

He explains to his students that they don't have to try to be funny all the time.

"Improv is not about being funny; it's about telling the truth, and the humour comes from the truth."

David Shore [Tina Adam photo]

Shore's opening monologue of life stories often contains a lot of Jewish content.

"I like to 'Jew-it-up,'" he said. "Being Jewish is a big part of my life. I'm a Jewish guy, and it's going to come out."

Shore said it is important for improvisers to be willing to hear the truth about themselves from someone with a critical eye.

One of Shore's coaches in L.A. did not allow him to talk about Canada or Judaism for a year, because that was his "crutch" or "go-to."

"For me, it was hard to hear, 'you always talk about Canada and you always talk about being Jewish.' But [learning not to rely on these topics] made me a more well-rounded player."

Shore said he is writing a book of stories from his life and he is working on a sketch comedy show.

He currently performs in *Monkey Toast,* a two-act, long-form improv that he also produces.

The show, which includes 12 improvisers, one monologist and one musical accompanist, allows Shore to perform with other improvisers, which he prefers to working alone.

"Good improvisers love to perform with other good improvisers. No one gets into improv for money. You do it because you love it. If I could do just one thing for the rest of my life, it would be improv."

Monkey Toast starts at 10 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of each month, at the The Second City. Tickets are $7.99 + GST. Call 416-343-0011.

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

SUMMER LITERARY COLUMN, PART II: I. B. SINGER, PROLIFIC EVEN IN DEATH

In *Love and Exile*, **Isaac Bashevis Singer's** revealing autobiographical trilogy, he describes an early story, *In the World of Chaos*, that was never published.

The story's hero, Singer recounted, "was nothing less than a corpse who didn't know that he was dead. He wandered across Poland, attended fairs, called on rabbis, even allowed himself to be proposed for marriage." The story ends when the protagonist seeks out a kabbalist rabbi to explain his life's mystery to him. "Unbutton your gabardine and you'll see that you're wearing shrouds," the rabbi tells him.

Singer admitted that he identified with this strange hero because "I lived yet was ashamed to live, ashamed to eat and ashamed to go to the outhouse. I longed for sex and I was ashamed of my passions... Man is the only creature who is ashamed to be what he is. The whole human culture is one mighty effort to cover and embellish itself, one huge and complex fig leaf."

For a somewhat different reason, Singer's "dead man walking" seems an apt symbol for the writer himself as we mark the 100th anniversary of his birth this summer. Why is it not surprising that this impressively prolific writer, who habitually dipped his pen in the inkpot of the supernatural, still seems to be churning out new stories and novels from beyond the grave?

Since his death at age 87 in 1991, Singer's production has hardly seemed to flag. That year brought a first English translation of *Scum*, a novel evoking Warsaw's back streets from early in the century. The first English edition of *The Certificate* appeared in 1992. *Meshugah*, a newly discovered novel about Holocaust survivors in New York, made its English debut in 1994.

As a prized contributor to the New York-based Yiddish *Forverts* for decades, Singer was generally too busy creating new material to worry about the ultimate disposition of the various novels that the *Forverts* serialized in Yiddish. He was often content to let them languish in obscurity.

Shadows On The Hudson, another novel mined from the *Forverts'* back pages, was published in 1998. It was the author's fourth major work to be published posthumously and the first of his novels set on American soil; it was widely reviewed and may even have appeared on some bestseller lists. Some critics, however, astutely observed that its bleak vision and unsavoury characters may have been a large part of the reason it had lain undisturbed for so long.

For many readers, the Nobel laureate's masterful collection of autobiographical stories *In My Father's Court* (1956) ranks among the best work of his long career. Many of us were astonished and delighted, therefore, when a new vintage collection on the same theme, *More Stories from My Father's Court*, appeared in 2000.

Isaac Bashevis Singer looks at the first bound copy of *Satan in Goray* with the book's artist Ira Moskowitz.

In *The Hidden Isaac Bashevis Singer*, a 2001 anthology of essays by diverse authors, literary scholar **Nathan Cohen** observed that despite the profusion of works by Singer already extant in many languages, "many others still remain hidden in the yellowing pages of *Forverts* and other Yiddish newspapers and periodicals – enough to provide years of work for translators, publishers, and researchers alike."

As an example, Cohen described one important early autobiographical novel that had previously received scant, if any, critical attention. *Varshe 1914-1918* was partially serialized in a Polish Zionist newspaper in 1935, just as its author was readying his first novel, *Satan in Goray*, for publication in Yiddish. He left for America soon afterwards and apparently abandoned the autobiographical work, which described his own youthful experiences in Warsaw.

At least one other Singer novel, *Yarme un Keyle*, still lies undisturbed since its original appearance in instalments in the *Forverts* of half a century ago. **Joseph Sherman**, who translated a chapter for *The Hidden Isaac Bashevis Singer*, noted that it was a radical departure for Singer. Sherman described it as a gangster novel peopled by forgers, blackmailers, gangsters, seducers, white slavers and murderers, set in Warsaw before World War I.

Last month the *Forward*, the Yiddish paper's English-language sister, published an eight-page special section on Singer, and included *Two*, a newly translated tale of depraved love.

This summer, the Library of America, a U.S. publishing house, is also commemorating the centenary of Singer's birth with the release of a fancy, three-volume "authoritative" boxed set of his stories, edited by Ilan Stavans, that includes several stories never seen before in English.

As pundits and critics shine a fresh spotlight this season on the extraordinary career and legacy of the world's most famous Yiddish writer, it is remarkable to note the steady stream of high-quality, newly translated works that have appeared under his monicker since his demise.

For all we know, Singer is taking an impish delight in all of this. I'm positive that many established writers would be thrilled to maintain that level of production while they are still alive, never mind when they're dead.

* * *

Arts in Brief

• The entertainment and cultural committee and the Shaarei Shomayim Brotherhood present **Brian Moskowitz,** speaking on "How I Was Shanghaied from the Israeli Army and Wound Up Teaching in Shanghai, China." Shaarei Shomayim, 470 Glencairn Ave. Members free, guests $2. Thursday, July 29, 8 p.m.

• **Adrienne Cooper**, the renowned Yiddish singer-songwriter from New York, and pianist **Marilyn Lerner** perform "Froyen: Women in Yiddish Song," described as "an unusual repertoire of Yiddish songs by and about women." The Toronto Music Garden concert is free and takes place in the park at 475 Queens Quay W., between Bathurst and Spadina. Thursday, July 29, 7 p.m.

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THORNHILL & TORONTO LISTINGS

bathurst/clark $1,598,000. 5 bdrms, 6 baths,hrdwd flrs, elegant lr and dr., mn flr office, huge fam rm w/ 3 sided gas f/place, walkout to magnificent pool. mature treed totally private exquisitely landscpd grdn. 4 car gar.

bathurst/centre $859,000. 5 bdrms, 5 baths, apprx 4000sqft + fin bsmt w/wet bar, bath, bdrm, huge rec. rm; large mn flr lib, stunning kit, granite flrs + counter tops, swimming pool, backs to park.

bathurst/centre $849,000. 4 bdrms, 5 baths, fab. kit. mn flr fam. rm., lib, lr/dr comb., huge fnshd bsmt w/rec rm, 2 bdrms, 3pc.bath, wine cellar. huge pool-size lot.

avenue rd/lawrence $629,000. 2 storey totally reno'd.mn flr fam rm, lr/dr comb. 2-sided gas f/plc. state of art kit., sep. ent. to fin bsmt apt. frnt pad pkg + mutual drv.

bathurst/clark $408,000 4 bdrms, mn flr fam.rm w/fplc, lr/dr comb., hrdwd flrs, eat-in kit., main flr lndry, entry frm dble gar., w/out to huge grdn.

bathurst/clark $349,900. 3 bdrms, 4 baths, new wndws, new roof, laminate flrs, eat-in kit., entry frm gar.,huge deck, large park-like grdn, fnshd bsmt, quiet cres.

bathurst/steeles $369,000. 1550 sq ft. superb totally reno'd luxury condo. 2 bdrms, 2 full baths, s.w. view, eat-in kit. hrdwd flrs, balcony. EXQUISITE RENO.

bathurst/clark $219,000 2 bdrms, 2 full baths w/ sep. shwr stall in master, open concept lr/dr/sol., eat-in kit.o/looks mature trees, east views, sabbath elevator.

$489,000 reno'd 4+2 bdrms, lr/dr comb, eat-in kit, fam rm, mn flr. lndry, fnshd bsmt, 2bdrms/kit/lndry/4pc. bath. SOLD

$335,000 3+1 bdrms, 4bath, fam. rm. hrdwd flrs. comb. lr/dr, deck, pie shpd pa[illegible]e huge lot. SOLD

$289,000 3 bdrm T.H., [illegible] wood flrs, gorgeous kit. SOLD

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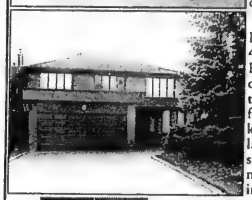
Huge 60x415 ft. deep lot. 2 storey, 5 bedroom home, w/o basement, eat-in kitchen, w/o to deck, main floor family room, brick fireplace, double garage and more. Zoning permits home occupation, group home, day school etc. Close to transit, shops, schools and new synagogue site. Call for more details. Asking $839,900.



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Ravine!! Custom built 2 storey, 4 bedroom home in south Richmond Hill, situated on a quiet court surrounded by trees. Beautifully landscaped, finished basement, large eat-in kitchen, main floor family and laundry. Close to transit, schools, shopping and much more. Call today for more info. Asking $625,000.

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$1,395,000. 3100 sq. ft., 3 bdrm., 3 bath, gourmet kitchen, custom finishes & 3 balconies.

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$629,900. Great investment property. Main floor salon w/2 bdrm. apartments on 2nd and 3rd floors, 1.5 car garage. Excellent location.

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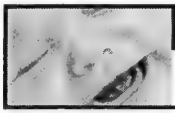

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REAL ESTATE Section

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

BATHURST/CARRVILLE
$399,000 Fabulous 3 bed., 4 bath. home backing onto quiet park. Huge fam. room with gas fireplace and cath. ceil. Renovated kit. and deck. Strip hardwood on main floor, in-ground sprinkler system, direct garage entry. Only 1 block from Vaughan JCC campus.

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$12,998,000. Newly built Bridle Path mansion, interior by Brian Gluckstein, approx. 18,000 sf of luxurious living space – 6+1 bedrooms, 10 bathrooms, two storey entry hall, a great room, handsome panelled library, temperature controlled wine cellar and much more. Beautifully gated landscaped gardens with infinity pool, fountains and tennis court.

POST ROAD PARADISE
$7,500,000 Palatial proportions on nearly 2 acres! An extraordinary neoclassic beyond your imagination! 2 Storey foyer, skylights, Italian marble, French limestone, paneled walls, gourmet kitchen + main floor family rm + spa & indoor lap pool.

FOREST HILL CONTEMPORARY
$3,980,000. This 4+2 BR residence embodies the mastery of modern distinction. Floor-to-ceiling corner windows; oak, granite & glass block. Prestige & privacy renders a relaxing poolside lifestyle in a beautifully landscaped setting.

BAYVIEW / YORK MILLS
$2,495,000. This Joe Brennan showcase displays timeless elegance & superb detailing throughout. Dramatic 11' ceilings on main floor, sun-filled foyer, beautifully proportioned rooms, 2 fireplaces, main floor family rm + library, 5 BRs + finished lower level with nanny's rm.

BAYVIEW / YORK MILLS
$2,495,000. Attention to detail & quality with remarkable finishes highlight this contemporary 4+1 bedroom masterpiece. Granite and marble add warmth, 10 & 20 ft ceilings create an atmosphere of infinite space.

NEW PRICE – ROSEDALE PERFECTION
$3,980,000. Chestnut Park 6+1 BR, 7 baths home is ready for you to move right in! Ideal for entertaining with spacious living rm, formal dining rm, kitchen with family rm, 2 fireplaces, 3 ensuites, media & exercise rooms, security system. Central vacuum, private drive.

BAYVIEW / YORK MILLS / VERSAILLES
$2,495,000. Wonderful 4+1 BR, classic architecture, superior craftsmanship & finishings with beautifully landscaped gardens, all on a prestigious & quiet cul-de-sac.

NEW PRICE – ST. CLAIR/YONGE CONDO
$1,489,000. Ultimate luxury at 33 Delisle. 2600sf, 2+1 BR designed by Robert Noakes. Honed marble floors, numerous built-ins, custom window treatments, marble baths. 9 ceilings, 24 hr concierge, exercise room & indoor pool. 2 parking spaces.

CASA LOMA – WELLS HILL
$2,598,000. Much admired 6+2 bedroom, 5 bath home with stone exterior, impressive butterfly staircase, hardwood thru-out. Separate 2 bedroom apt, finished lower level. Steps to subway & shops.

THE CHEDINGTON
$2,250,000. Bayview/Lawrence condo in a glorious setting. 2 BR+library, 2,754 sf, fireplace, grand rms, his/hers closets in master, marble/wood flrs, granite counter tops, direct elevator access, south/west/east vistas, 24hr concierge/valet.

OLD YONGE/OAKLEY
$2,898,000. Custom 5+1 BR home, deluxe kitchen, stainless steel appliances, family room with fireplace, multi walk-outs, hardwood, finished lower level. Prof. landscaped gardens with pool. 3 car garage.

BAYVIEW / YORK MILLS
$3,880,000 Spectacular home built in 2000 by Joe Brennan, shows like new! Two-storey foyer, 3 fireplaces, main floor family rm & sep. guest wing + 4 bdrms & family rm on 2nd level. Finished lower level with games rm, recreation room & laundry, landscaped gardens, 3 car garage.

YONGE / YORK MILLS
$2,589,000. Signature design built by Richard Wengle with interiors by Katherine Newman, this 4+2 BR centre hall plan features quality finishes thru-out. A true gem on a quiet secluded cul-de-sac backing onto a ravine, built-in double garage, parking for 6 cars.

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COUNTRY IN THE CITY! Executive home on gorgeous 50 x 153 ft. lot in most prestigious central location close to schools, shuls, and all amenities! 4 bedrooms, 5 baths, main floor family room, stunning inground pool. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / SHELBORNE

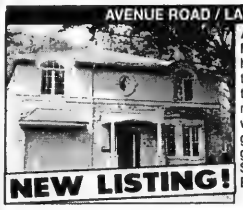
UNIQUE CONDO ALTERNATIVE! Huge raised bungalow on spectacular lot in prime central location! 58 ft. lot frontage widens to 83 x 132 ft. Dramatic skylit entrance, indoor pool, large principal rooms, ideal for entertaining. $949,999. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

* * *

BATHURST / COLDSTREAM

Magnificent Chateau-style luxurious custom home by upscale builder in prestigious location! Architectural gem with impressive front elevation, stone exterior, granite & limestone, 5 + 1 bdrms., 7 baths, dream maple kit., main floor library + fam. room ++. $1,099,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

AVENUE ROAD / LAWRENCE



AFFORDABLE LUXURY! Magnificent new custom home in prime central location, luxurious upgrades throughout! 10 ft. ceilings on main floor, dream antique white kitchen, fin. basement, gleaming hardwood floors, granite, limestone ++, $1,039,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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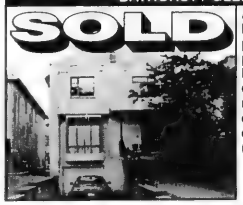
BATHURST / GLEN PARK



AN ARCHITECTURAL MASTERPIECE of contemporary design on deep lot in prime central location! 4 + 1 bedrooms, 5 baths, cathedral ceilings, dual fireplace, main floor family room, rear deck. Very bright & spacious. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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RARE OPPORTUNITY ON SPECTACULAR 67 X 432 FT. LOT! Build your dream home on this magnificent property backing onto Timberlane Ravine and surrounded by multi-million $ homes. **PRICED FOR IMMEDIATE SALE AT ONLY $1,159,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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Exquisite new custom home, 5 + 2 bdrms., 5 baths, fin. bsmt., sep. entry to in-law suite, fam. room, dream kit. Luxurious upgrades throughout! Lowest priced new home in area. **$969,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712. Visit **TERRACE LANE** on our website.

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Approx. 3,600 sq. ft. of luxury + fin. bsmt., 5 + 2 bdrms., upgrades throughout. Stone front, extensive use of limestone, marble & granite, main flr. 9.5 ft. ceilings and custom library w/ built-in bookcases, dream kit., sep. entry to 2 in-law suites, w/o to deck. **ONLY $999,000!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712. Visit **TERRACE LANE** on our website.

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YORK MILLS / BAYVIEW - $2,495,000
Refined architecture by H. Gardiner Cowan & extensive landscaping by Janet Rosenberg. Meticulously maintained, on a quiet and prestigious cul-de-sac. Jeffrey Joseph** ext. 519

MAGNIFICENT CUSTOM BUILT HOME
$1,649,000. Located on prestigious child-safe crescent at York Mills/Bayview. Builders own home. 5 bedrooms (3 with ensuite bath), family room & library. Stunning park like lot. Don't miss. Corinne Kalles* & Marion Alberga* ext. 555/287

SPACIOUS C/HALL IN CEDARVALE
$1,150,000. Impeccably remodelled and enlarged. 5 Bdrms, 4 baths, mn floor fam rm. Don't miss it! Syma Solomon* ext. 306

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$1,100K. Spectacular family home redesigned & rebuilt for present owners. Magnificent yard & pool make this the perfect home for family living & entertaining Don't miss! Cheryl Graff* 416-441-3778 & Corinne Kalles* ext. 555

BATHURST/WILSON - CARMICHAEL AVENUE
$579K. 50x115 lot –liveable 3 bedroom bungalow w/fam rm, or build your dream home or add a 2nd floor. One just sold at $570,000 in the area. Make an offer. Jeffrey Joseph** ext. 519

4+1BR – 2 STOREY
$489,900. Lovely & spacious home w/50' lot, oversized deck, private & lndscpd grdn; la[SOLD]n kit. Fin'd bsmnt, fam rm, alarm, dble gar, walk to all. Paula Bernstein* ext. 228

CONDO TOWNHOUSE - DAVENPORT
$410,000. Gorgeous 2 storey 2 BR w/walk-out to grdn. Hardwood flooring, crown mouldings, granite counters, walk to subway, George Brown, Casa Loma. Cheryl Joseph* ext. 235

1ST AD! BATHURST / LAWRENCE
Elegant 4 BR home built, 5 yrs new, large kit, mn flr fam rm, hrdwd flrs, 2nd flr laundry rm, steps to TTC, shopping & synagogues. For lease $2,500/mo. Natalie Kopman* ext. 315

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BATHURST/FINCH
Large custom built side split, 3 bdrm, 5 baths, huge liv & din family room, walkouts to yard, main floor laundry, finished bsmnt, double garage, quiet cres, steps to all.

WILMINGTON/OVERBROOK
Triplex, 2-3 b[SOLD]+1 bedroom, balconies, bath ensuites, garages + parking.

PRIMROSE CONDO
Over 1,400 sq. ft. corner unit, 2 bdrm, liv & din combined, balcony, parking, locker, A-1 buy.

SHEPPARD AVENUE WEST
56' x 205' lot, large building now used as a school, ideal for many other professional uses, lots of parking, steps to subway.

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DUFFERIN/TEN OAKS
Elegant 4 bedroom home, 2,800 sq. ft., super family room, 2 year old property. Super appliances, special electric fixtures, walkout basement. See it – love it!
SALLY ROSEN
Century 21 Heritage Group
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PERFECT FOR A LARGE FAMILY: LYTTON PARK

This tasteful 6+1 bedroom home has it all. 2 kitchens, 5 bathrooms, 2 offices, main floor family room, huge rec room, large principal rooms, 2 story entrance + circular drive. Room for a pool.

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10 PRIVATE HOUSES FOR SALE

Bathurst/Clark, Glenbury Dr., across from Promenade Mall on quiet street. 3 bed., 2.5 bath, fin. bsmnt., immaculate cond. $394,900. Call Wayne Levy, 905-761-5241.

15 HOUSES FOR RENT

Near Yorkdale Mall, 5 bdrms., 2 baths, 2 kits., prkg., hrdwd flrs., a/c, htng., newly renov., spac. backyard, $2,000 + util./mo. Call 416-910-7478 or 905-842-9976.

15 HOUSES FOR RENT

Yonge/Clark - 3 bdrm, lux TH, freshly painted, 5 new appls, new carpet, Hollywood kit, jacuzzi, fireplace, many other features, $1850/mo. Avail. Oct. 1, 2004. 905-764-0829.

30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

333 Clark Ave. W., Conser-vatory Group, 2/2 + sol, mint cond, Sept. 1. Call 416-587-2360.

Conservatory Hilda/Clark, 2 bdrm & solarium, 2 baths. Parking, locker, cable. 1350 sq. feet. Sale by owner $279,000. 905-882-5082.

BATHURST / CLARK
STUNNING fully renovated corner unit, 1433 sf, 2 bdrms., 2 full baths, jacuzzi, panoramic south east view, large balcony, 2 parking spots & locker, 5 appliances, all amenities.

* * *

JUST LISTED — BATHURST / CLARK
3 bedrooms, 2 baths, steps to schools, shuls, malls, all amenities.

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Sheppard W. Subway, 2 bdrm, 2 baths, $20,000 upgrade, $259,900. Call 416-803-7056 or visit **www.rpt.ca/sheppardsub**

35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

Bathurst/Finch. Ulta lux., 2 bdrm, 2 bath, 24-hr sec, tennis, pool, TTC. Sept. 1. 416-787-3702.

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Bathurst/Sheppard, lux., spacious, bright apts., in quiet ravine setting off main streets, newly reno'd, walk to TTC, utilities incl. 1 bdrm. avail. immed. / Aug. 2 bdrm. / Sept. 416-398-0566 / 905-474-3000.

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Designed and décor by Kathryn Newman. Stunning Pool. Must See! Beth Sokol*/Brenda Westbrook** 416-226-1987

263 CODSELL AVENUE! 3+2 BDRMS, 3 BATHS! $399K!
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109 DELL PARK AVENUE! $849,900! BATHURST/GLENCARIN!
Dare to compare! New 4+1 Bedroom, 5 Bath! Walkout basement! Move right in! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

96 LAWTON BLVD! 3 STRY, 5+1 BDRM, 5 BATH! $869K!
Yonge N/St. Clair! Totally renovated! Nanny ste! Rare garage + Private parking! Immediate! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

WONDERFUL HOME NEAR VILLAGE SHUL
3 bedroom. Cedarvale bungalow with self-contained basement. Open concept main. Marty Roth* 416-488-2875

1ST AD! 536 GLENGROVE AVE! $1,079K! BATHURST/GLENCARIN!
New 5+2 bedroom, 5 bath! Nanny ste! Exquisite finishes! Fabulous 40 x 133'! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

THE MANOR BROCKINGTON CRESCENT
Beautiful 4 bedroom family home. Mstr bdrm with Hollywood Drse Rm, Finished Rosewood basement. Ruth Bass* 416-226-1987

GREAT CEDARVALE HOME!
4+1 bedroom, main floor family and powder room. Eat-in kitchen, Prof. Landscaped. Brenda Westbrook* 416-226-1987

19 VERWOOD AVE! BATHURST S/SHEPPARD! $779K!
Value packed 5+1 bedroom, 5 baths! Main family+library+laundry+ 2pce! Nanny ste! Motivated! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

SKYMARK "CLASSIC" 2,000 SQ. FT.
2 bedroom+study, marble floors, foyer kitchen breakfast, 2 prkg, 2 lockers, luxury rec centre, 24 hr sec. Pauline Mack* 416-226-1987

BUILD OR RENOVATE YOUR DREAM HOME! SOLD
Prime North York location. On quiet street. 54 x 150 ft. lot. Motivated. Brenda Westbrook* 416-226-1987

NEWLY RENOVATED! BATHURST/LAWRENCE
3+1 bedroom bungalow, 2 kitchens, finished basement, 1 separate entrance. Brenda Westbrook* 416-226-1987

$389,000 BATHURST/WILSON DETACHED 3 BDRM
Bungalow with basement apartment. South lot backs on green belt! Heddy Blaug**/Barb Barker* 416-226-1987

BATHURST/WILSON RENO, SIDESPLIT - $599,900
Stunning 3+bdrm. Fin low lvl, Maple kit & flrs, frpl, lrg fam rm. Great 53x150 ft. lot on quiet street. Carolyn Feldman** 416-488-2875

LESLIE/YORK MILLS/8 DENLOW BLVD. PRIME LOCATION
Immaculate home. 5 bedrooms, 4 baths. 55 x 110 ft. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

PRIME UPPER FOREST HILL VILLAGE. RENO EXTENSIVELY 2002
4 bedrooms, 3 baths, main floor family, amazing basement. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

CENTRAL PROPERTIES CONT'D.

A TREASURE AT LAWRENCE/BATHURST
No details omitted in this custom built red. Located on 46 x 150 ft. lot. Must see! Anna Pollock* 416-488-2875

A SUPER DETACHED TRIPLEX $469,000
Main & second floor apartments SOLD 3 bedrooms, eat-in kitchen, large liv/din rms. Balconies & Garage. Saul Merrick* 416-488-2875

BAYVIEW/NORTH PROPERTIES

BAYVIEW/FIFESHIRE DESIRABLE CRESCENT
4 bedrooms, magnificent lot. Inground pool, hardwood floors. Skylights, lush landscaping. Ruth Bass* 416-226-1987

165 STEELES AVE E! JUST W/BAYVIEW! $969K!
Live/work @ home! 7 bedrooms, 6 baths with 2 add'l sep income units! Loads of parking! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

DENLOW ESTATES 5 BEDROOMS CUSTOM FAMILY HOME
9 ft. ceilings, hardwood floors. Main floor family room & library. Ruth Bass* 416-226-1987

74 MONTRESSOR DR! NOW $795K! BAYVIEW/YORK MILLS!
Renovated 4+1 bdrms, 3 baths! Main family+library+laundry+ 2pce! Gorg'us 52x133'! Move in! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

1ST AD! GORGEOUS CUSTOM HOME $579,000. 4,600 SQ. FT.
4+1 bedrooms, 6 baths, overs SOLD pal rooms. Hardwood floors. 9 ft. ceiling. Saul Merrick* 416-488-2875

THORNWOOD WOODS WEST, 4 BDRM $434,900.
Gorgeous family home. Large living & dining rooms & fireplace, 4 car parking. Marilyn Merrick* 416-488-2875

BATHURST/CLARK - BEST STREET

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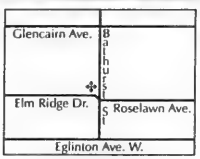

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Coast to Coast

French comic's show offensive, but not actionable: Jewish groups

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Jewish groups found controversial French comedian Dieudonné M'Bala M'Bala's one-man show in Montreal offensive, but neither B'nai Brith Canada nor Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) called it anti-Semitic and both agree he did not cross any legal lines.

The two groups took different approaches to Dieudonné's week-long appearance at the Just for Laughs Festival. B'nai Brith wrote to festival organizers asking that they ensure that Dieudonné, who was convicted in France of defamation of Jews, not incorporate any anti-Semitic remarks into his stand-up act. B'nai Brith warned against "importing French anti-Semitism into Canada."

CJC, on the other hand, did not attempt to have the show cancelled, but like B'nai Brith, it sent a representative to opening night at the Theatre du Nouveau Monde to monitor it.

"This particular performance of Dieudonné may not hold up to what qualifies legally as incitement to hate. But we still need to be cautious of the grey area between freedom of expression and incitement – an area that Dieudonné exploits to the fullest – in order to ensure that we do not fan the flames of hate and ignorance," said B'nai Brith national legal counsel Steven Slimovitch, who attended the show.

He described it as "replete with underlying racism… ridiculing the perceived idiosyncrasies of minority groups" and filled with "crass images and vulgar language that stereotyped" Jews, observant Catholics, Haitians and others. A number of times, he said, Dieudonné appeared to be mimicking the Heil Hitler salute.

(Dieudonné sparked outrage last December when, in a live performance on French television, dressed as an Orthodox Jewish settler, he raised his arm in the Nazi salute and shouted "Isra-Heil!")

Slimovitch feels Dieudonné is making racism "more palatable," and not, as many comics who deal in ethnic humour claim, highlighting differences as an ironic means of illustrating a common humanity.

Slimovitch said he was disturbed by the positive response of the sold-out audience, which gave Dieudonné a standing ovation at the end.

CJC, Quebec region executive director David Birnbaum, who was also at the show, said: "Did I like what I saw? No. Were Jews and Israelis targeted to a greater extent than other groups? Yes. Was it fair and in good taste? No. Did it cross any of the reasonable limits of Canada's laws on freedom of speech. No it didn't… He had every legal right to put on the show that he did."

Birnbaum said he was particularly offended by two actors behind a barricade on stage throughout the show. He took them to be posing as Israeli soldiers.

"They acted as censors at various points." Birnbaum said.

In defending his right to free speech, Dieudonné obliquely blamed the Jewish community for trying to silence him, Birnbaum said.

"I think he had his tongue firmly in his cheek in coming up with the title *Mes excuses* [My Apologies] for the show."

The show was previously performed in Paris and Brussels to favourable reviews.

CJC knew Dieudonné was coming to Montreal at least two months in advance, Birnbaum said. "I want to underline that at no point did CJC seek to cancel or change the show… It was not for us to try to censor or stop the show. The limits of humour must be very broad, but we did want to watch very closely for anything that went beyond the law."

Slimovitch defended B'nai Brith's decision to publicly sound the alarm over the show and to ask that curbs be put on its content. He also has no regrets if it apparently boosted ticket sales.

"History has taught us that we are better off shedding light on issues like this than leaving it to the private milieu. Obviously, this means there is often a cost to pay," he said.

B'nai Brith was disappointed in the festival's initial response to its letter expressing concerns about Dieudonné's appearance. Executive vice-president Frank Dimant called the booking "irresponsible," adding that, "far from taking these concerns seriously, festival executives have taken the bizarre approach of claiming that [Dieudonné's] humour will further inter-religious understanding."

In a July 9 letter, to B'nai Brith League for Human Rights president Allan Adel, festival vice-president for public affairs Michele Bazin wrote that the show "will contribute in a humourous way to reflection on the fights between people as well as the wars of religion. We believe that this subject is a burning issue of the day and merits being debated."

She also noted that the festival received no complaints from "Muslims, Jews, Christians or others" last year after Dieudonné, in a sketch about 9/11, acted as a Muslim coach giving instructions to fundamentalist Islamic terrorists.

"Why then, before he has even opened his mouth in Montreal, is he being condemned?"

At a press conference before the show's opening, Dieudonné, who is black, said he has been misunderstood by Jewish groups and that he is "just doing my job as a comic" by making people laugh about sensitive subjects.

Describing himself as half-Cameroonian, half-Breton, Dieudonné, 38, said he is, first of all, "a humanist and universalist." He sees himself as a political satirist who takes aim at everyone, but is not racist or anti-Semitic.

"I know my style can shock, but that's my right, the right to blaspheme."

Festival president Gilbert Rozon added, "He's fighting racism. He's a great comedian, not a racist."

In France, Dieudonné has won all but one of the 17 cases of racial defamation that have been brought against him. He was acquitted of defamation for his Nazi salute act on TV last December. In February, his show was cancelled by a Paris theatre for safety reasons after the theatre's management said it received threats.

Dieudonné is appealing a fine he received in May for remarks he made in the French newspaper *Le Monde* that Jews control the media.

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100-year-old runs 100m in 30.86 seconds – a new record

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

CAPE TOWN — "Flying Phil" Rabinowitz, a 100-year-old resident of Cape Town, ran 100 metres in 30.86 seconds on July 10 to set a new world record.

The achievement, which enters the Guinness Book of Records, knocked nearly six seconds off the previous record of 36.19 seconds for 100-year-olds over 100 metres, set two years ago by Austrian Erwin Jaskulski.

Rabinowitz has been invited to race the former record holder Jaskulski at the Senior Olympics in Honolulu in November, and he is also slated to compete in a walking challenge in Sydney, Australia, next month.

Friends said Rabinowitz clocked an even faster time of 28.7 seconds the previous week, but a malfunction in the electronic timing equipment meant it could not be officially recognized.

"I feel like I could break another record," Rabinowitz said after the race at Cape Town's Green Point Stadium. "Every time I run I just feel younger and younger. I'm not quitting any time soon. As long as I can get up in the morning I will run and walk."

Rabonowitz, who turned 100 in February, walks four miles a day and still works – he does the books for his daughter's dog food business.

"Flying Phil" Rabinowitz

Hockey player, swimmer named Manitoba Jewish athletes of year

By MYRON LOVE
CJN prairies correspondent

WINNIPEG — Skyler Berman, an all-star defenceman with the Selkirk Steelers of the Manitoba Junior Hockey League (MJHL), and swimmer Naomi Casiro are this year's Manitoba Jewish Athletes of the Year. The co-winners were recently presented with the Idy and Max Nusgart Memorial Award at the annual YMHA Sports Dinner.

"It's a pretty good feeling getting that kind of recognition in the community," Berman said. "It was a great honour."

Berman, 20, has been playing organized hockey most of his life. Four years ago, he graduated from local leagues to a spot on the Nipiwin Hawks of the Saskatchewan Junior League. Over three seasons with the Hawks, he won recognition as the club's most offensive defenceman, most gentlemanly player and the Selects 2002 Viking Tournament Cup defenceman.

He joined the Steelers (Selkirk is a 20-minute drive north of Winnipeg) last fall, helping the team to its first Manitoba Junior Hockey Championship and Turnbull Cup since 1987. Berman scored the game-winning goal in the final game of the championship series. He was named to the MJHL 2nd team all star and won the league all-star fastest skater competition.

Berman has accepted a scholarship to play NCAA Division I hockey next season at Union College in New York state.

Casiro, 17, has been swimming competitively for six years and was a member of the Mantha Swim Club. She collected nine gold medals for Team Winnipeg at the 2003 Junior Maccabi Games in Tenafly, N.J. Her accomplishments have won her a place on the Canada Games training team.

Her family recently moved to Victoria, B.C., where Naomi's father, Dr. Oscar Casiro, accepted a new position.

The Nusgart Award winners each receive a $500 bursary from the Fred Glazerman Fund and a one-year membership to the Rady Jewish Community Centre.

This was the 32nd annual YMHA dinner. It also honoured the Y's and the Rady Centre's past presidents over the last 85 years. (The Rady Centre is the successor to the Y).

Funds raised go to support a variety of Rady Centre programs. The guest speaker this year was hockey legend Phil Esposito.

Two for Bridge

By ERIC KOKISH and BEVERLY KRAFT

Beverly: "So, Kokes, I'm pleased to see that you brought home more than T-shirts, fans and kimonos from Japan this year. I'm not surprised that today's deal was the highlight of the quarterfinals of the 2004 NEC Cup, a wonderful international tournament sponsored by NEC Corporation and Japan Contract Bridge League. It's such a wild thing that if we didn't know better we'd suspect that our playful friends on the JCBL staff had poured sake into the dealing program."

Dealer South, Vulnerable E/W

North
♠ 42
♥ 1097643
♦ K32
♣ 98

West
♠ KQJ765
♥ ---
♦ Q106
♣ QJ63

East
♠ A10983
♥ ---
♦ J98754
♣ K5

South
♠ ---
♥ AKQJ852
♦ A
♣ A10742

Poland/Russia vs Israel

Open Room

West	North	East	South
D. Yadlin	*Gromov*	*I.Yadlin*	*Petrunin*
			1♣(1)
2♠(2)	Pass	4♠	6♥
Pass	Pass	6♠	Dble
All Pass			

(1) Strong, artificial; (2) Sound overcall (♥)

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zmudzinski	*Campanile*	*Balicki*	*Barel*
			2♣(1)
2♠	Dble(2)	Rdbl	5♥
Pass	Pass	5♠	6♥
Pass	Pass	6♠	Dble
All Pass			

(1) Strong, artificial; (2) Very weak

Canada vs England

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Callaghan	*Graves*	*Armstrong*	*Mittelman*
			1♥
1♠	2♥	4♥(1)	6♥
Pass	Pass	6♠	Dble
All Pass			

(1) Splinter raise to 4♠

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Carruthers	*Senior*	*Silver*	*Lambardi*
			2♣(1)
2♠	Pass	3♠	4♥
Pass	Pass	4♠	5♥
Pass	6♥	6♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

(1) Strong, artificial

Eric: "In Poland/Russia vs Israel, South took the reasonable view that North would cover one of his two "Losing Trick Count" losers or that E/W would wrongly sacrifice in spades. Both Norths led the 9♣ against 6♠ doubled; declarer had to lose two diamonds for –500, the par result.

"That not every two-loser hand is a strong two-bid was illustrated by Canada's George Mittelman, a man who has learned through bitter experience that there is nothing more humiliating than opening 2♣ and having to sacrifice against the opponents' vulnerable game or slam. Hence, a gentle 1♥. Allan Graves, a classmate of Mittelman's in the School of Hard Knocks, emulated his partner in trying to slow down the dangerous auction. Hence, a gentle 2♥. Despite the Canadians' best efforts, they too could not talk their opponents out of sacrificing. Graves led a trump and the defenders got their three tricks: -500.

"By now I hope you can trust me to report only the truth. Here's what happened at the fourth table. If the other three results, thoroughly infused with tactics, deception and insurance, were enlightening, consider the sandbagging efforts of Canada's own Joey Silver, who patiently bid to 3♠ and 4♠ before having to sacrifice in 6♠, much as he expected he'd have to do all along.

"North, Brian Senior appreciated that a heart lead was not only pointless but also potentially dangerous, but couldn't tell whether the defenders' outside trick source was in clubs or diamonds. Hoping to know more after seeing dummy and thinking it might be important to hold the lead, Brian made the expert lead of…the ♦K. Unfortunately for him, he was in no position to lead to trick two. Pablo Lambardi, who had been bestowed with that privilege, was not keen to cash the A♣ at the potential cost of a 300-point undertrick, and saw no pressing need to worry about dummy's diamonds as Senior would normally hold the queen. Accordingly, he decided to exit passively with a heart to force dummy. John Carruthers, the declarer, was pleased to accept that force, but was even more pleased to discard one of his four clubs. The other three went on dummy's diamonds after trumps were drawn and JC chalked up +1660. I am incapable of making up a story as good as this one, 19 IMPs to Canada.

"Indonesia gained 11 IMPs against USA when the US N/S pair forged on to 7♥ but were unable to convince their Indonesian opponents to sacrifice. And China-Ladies, the long-shot winners of the tournament, gained an unusual IMP by selling out to 4♥ in one room for –480 while doubling 6♠ for +500 in the other."

Beverly: "You know, my love, that if there were lots of deals like this one I'm glad I stayed at home to hold down the fort. Much less dangerous! Although Brian Senior is not anyone's idea of a sympathetic character, the poor guy really paid an unbelievable price for a well-reasoned opening lead."

Returning to the Kotel

I am just outside the Old City of Jerusalem walking toward the Kotel. The sun, a beautiful shade of orange and yellow, is slowly setting and soon I will be welcoming in the Sabbath.

My surroundings remind me of my last trip here six months ago. But this time, my emotions are stronger. I am more familiar with the history and the richness all around me and under my feet.

something

By MIRIAM PORTER

I remember having wonderful Shabbat meals back in January, in magnificent apartments with archways leading into every room. I purchased my first Artscroll Siddur at the Moriah Bookstore and knew my life was changing. Elderly women tied red string around my wrist as Lhanded them money given to me before my trip to ensure a safe journey.

Now I am back and about to experience the Kotel all over again. I am incredibly nervous, and my heart is beating so loud I worry the people around me will hear it. The Kotel on Shabbat is not only unbelievably spiritual for me, but also very romantic. I straighten my skirt and fix my hair as if I were going on a date, although, of course, there is no comparison.

I finally enter the Old City and reach up to touch the huge mezuzah on the archway. The wall is covered with gaping bullet holes from the war. Once inside the Jewish Quarter, I pass the War Memorial, which says, "To the fallen of the Jewish Quarter in the War of Independence."

I think about the soldiers who fought so I could be here today. I know soldiers are fighting now so I can be here tomorrow.

I continue walking and I wonder if my distant relatives walked the same stairs that I am about to go down to bring their sacrifices to the temple. What were they feeling? What did they look like?

A little Orthodox boy, with adorable blonde ringlets and dressed for Shabbat, runs by me, laughing. The image of five-year-old children playing in the streets without fear is one the news media fail to portray when covering Israel.

I walk by the stores of the Cardo and remember the ring I purchased there and have worn every day since. I pass the Mizrahi Bank and Bonkers Bagels and I know I am very close to my destination. Only a few more flights of stairs and I will be there.

Other people are marching down next to me and singing songs to welcome in the Sabbath. The crowd and noise around me slowly vanish and I am the only one in the world. I finally look out at the Kotel and my eyes fill with tears at its beauty. It is just the way I remember it. The men's side of the wall is packed with dark suits and the women's side with flowing skirts.

As I walk up to join the crowd, I don't let having to pass through metal detectors ruin my moment. Around me are so many types of people. There are pregnant women, elderly women, children and teenagers. Some have lived in Israel their entire lives, while some have made aliyah or travelled from all over the world to be here today.

I manage to wiggle my way to the front. As I touch the wall, I am mesmerized by the spiritual significance of where I am. There are personal notes sticking out from every single crevice. Next to me is a young woman inserting a picture of an older man, perhaps her grandfather, into a free spot in the wall. I look at her face and realize I know her. My shoulders are touching other praying women because of the lack of space, but no one notices.

When I am done davening, I close my siddur and add my own personal prayers. I pray for my family, for my friends, for the homeless people living on the streets of Toronto, for Israel, and for myself.

At that moment, at the Kotel in the Old City of Jerusalem, I knew I had come home.

Miriam can be reached at Miriam@jtvproductions.net.

Correction:

The name of the subject of my July 8 column, "Walking to Make a Difference," should have been Samara Truster. My apologies to Samara.

Karen's Delicious Roast Turkey Breast

A quick easy recipe, producing a moist tender turkey that is sure to please. Try it for Shabbat dinner.

1 turkey breast, bone in
1 pkg. Club House Ginger Teriyaki Mix (a dry seasoning)
1 can ginger ale

Place turkey, bone side down in a roasting pan. Prepare Ginger Teriyaki mix according to instructions. Let stand until thick (about 15 min.). Brush mixture generously over turkey breast. Pour can of ginger ale over turkey breast. Cover pan loosely with foil. Bake at 450° for 1/2 hour. Baste juices over turkey. Reduce heat to 350° and continue baking for 1 hour.

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Epi on Education

Seymour Epstein

The calendar year 2004 reminded me recently that it has been 40 years since I began my university studies in the joint program between Columbia University and the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. The 4½ years that I spent in that program were filled with intellectual inquiry and pedagogic stimulation. They inspired me to become a teacher of Jewish studies and provided me with mentors who remain teacher-models for me to this day.

Raised as I was in a low-income family in Toronto, it is no small miracle that I was afforded the opportunity of the superior education I received at Columbia and JTS. All of it is due to an initiative that grew out of the Beth Tzedec Men's Club, which still functions today. At the time, Rabbi Stuart Rosenberg, alav ha'shalom, offered me the possibility of studies in New York, and Nathan Hurwich, may he be given long years, made it possible. It was a dream that I never could have imagined for myself without the Beth Tzedec Men's Club Scholarship for Higher Jewish Education.

The wonderful news is that since then, scores of other students have gone on to study at many different schools, universities, yeshivot and ulpanot with the gracious assistance offered by this quiet but effective fund. This year alone, 11 scholarships were granted. Even better, the Beth Tzedec Men's Club has seen fit to make this scholarship available to any Jewish student, regardless of affiliation or denomination. The schools that host these students are also from a wide spectrum of denominations and ideologies. This kind of pluralism and community spirit from a Conservative synagogue is to be highly praised. It is so easy to stay narrow, but so refreshing to witness the largesse that this approach signifies.

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto also administers similar scholarships, such as the Gasner-Berman and Pulver funds. As a genuine response to the need for young Jewish educators, it would be good for family foundations and other Jewish institutions to consider following the leadership offered 40 years ago by Beth Tzedec. Supporting young women and men who wish to become Jewish educators is the only way to ensure continuing Jewish creativity and originality.

Epi (Seymour Epstein) is the vice-president of Jewish Education at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

Dr. Norman Epstein: a Jewish hero

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

Theodor Herzl was a journalist. The initial normalcy of his life was, in part, what made his achievements as a Zionist visionary so great.

Norman Epstein is a local physician. That's partly what makes him larger than life.

They are both regular Jewish guys who have engaged in part-time heroism.

URBAN WRITER

Norman is my hero. He launched Canadians Against Slavery and Torture in Sudan (CASTS), pursuing a powerful struggle to save the people of Western Sudan.

On the second Sunday of July, I listened closely as he spoke on behalf of the people of Sudan at a sparsely attended rally at Queen's Park.

It was the hottest day of the summer to date, and only a few people showed up. I sat on the steps of the legislature building with Rabbi Lawrence Englander and his wife, Cheryl, from Solel Congregation in Mississauga; a couple of their congregants; Adam Fuerstenberg, the director of the Holocaust Education and Memorial Centre; and Robyn Tousson, of Ve'ahavta: the Canadian Jewish Humanitarian & Relief Committee, and her boyfriend, Cobie.

Some hundred Sudanese and most of the major television networks were also there.

Norman spoke; he was brilliant. Dramatically, he discussed the world's repeated indifference to genocide, the concentration camps in Western Sudan and the two million Sudanese who have been slaughtered since 1984.

He chided the United Nations for its half-hearted efforts and called upon the Canadian government to initiate a UN resolution condemning the savagery, gang rapes and mutilation of the black African population in Western Sudan.

As Norman gave words of encouragement to the tiny but feisty group, some of the Sudanese women rhythmically responded in round – sort of an echo of the frenzied black Baptist churches of the U.S. South.

When the good doctor finished, I hugged him in appreciation for inspiring me and ensuring a role for the Toronto Jewish community in Sudan. As Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel experienced after the civil rights movement march on Selma, Ala., on which he walked beside Martin Luther King Jr., "I felt my legs were praying."

Norman hugged me back and then apologized saying, "I'm sorry I wasn't able to bring more people out."

I said to him, "Norman, you got the media out. Your message will get into the living rooms of thousands."

He is an insightful man, with a righteous heart, and he replied, "Avrum, I don't understand why I haven't been able to create a groundswell of support. We all know the horror. Where is everybody?"

Later, some Sudanese leaders thanked me repeatedly for the enormous support of the Jewish community. Mohammad, a strapping figure, told me he is confident that the Jewish community will help stop the genocide, because "they understand." I told him we would do our best.

Norman introduced me to Sudan. He convinced me to fight the first genocide of the new millennium and taught me that freedom demands we act responsibly when innocent children plead for help.

Since then, Ve'ahavta, CASTS (www.geocities.com/castsudan/website), and global Jewish organizations have launched a crisis response to assist the Sudanese in refugee camps in Chad. We have received $15,000 from a Jewish philanthropist for relief items and a $100,000 donation of pharmaceuticals from Walter Arbib a Toronto Jewish community member and humanitarian. Our goal is to raise $100,000.

On Monday morning, Norman returned to the emergency ward where he works. There, his hands mended the bodies of the sick and dying in Toronto.

Once his professional day was over, he returned to his wife and children and humble home to engage in his after-hours heroics on behalf of black Africans he will never meet.

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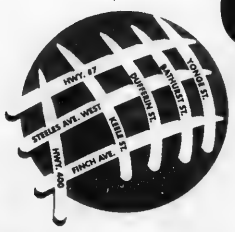
$5.99/lb
$13.21/kg
Grand Opening SPECIAL

KEDEM CONCORD GRAPE JUICE
$3.99
1.5L BTL
Grand Opening SPECIAL

GRAND OPENING
TODAY AT 8AM



Dufferin St. just south of Steeles, Toronto

Our Kosher department will be under the direct supervision of the Kashruth Council of Canada. COR

Effective from Thursday, July 29th to Friday, August 6th, 2004

GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

- DINING & ENTERTAINMENT
- FASHION, HEALTH & BEAUTY
- NATURAL & SPECIALTY FOODS
- ATHENS 2004 STORE

KRINOS TASTE OF THE DANFORTH AUG. 6-8

ALL IN GREEKTOWN, ALL YOURS TO ENJOY!

GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

Krinos
TASTE OF THE DANFORTH
CELEBRATING THE GREEK SPIRIT
Friday August 6-Sunday August 8
Win a Honda Civic* compliments of Toronto Honda
or a Trip to Glorious Greece compliments of WORLD
in support of the TORONTO EAST GENERAL HOSPITAL
www.TasteoftheDanforth.com

ONTARIO More to discover
RBC Financial Group
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METAXA
DELTA CHELSEA
NATIONAL POST YOUR CANADA YOUR POST
OUZO 12

2004 Krinos Taste of the Danforth biggest Greek festival this side of the Athens Olympics

Toronto's Krinos Taste of the Danforth, North America's largest Greek street festival, takes place August 6 –8. One short week before the 2004 Athens Olympics, the 11th Annual Krinos Taste of the Danforth is also the largest Greek festival outside of Greece. And according to Sue Zindros, Chair of the GreekTown Association, "This year's Krinos Taste of the Danforth is perhaps as close as you could get to the Olympics without flying to Greece."

The RBC Olympic FanFair is coming to the Danforth, letting visitors try their hand at sports such as rowing, gymnastics and basketball, as well as meet past Olympic medal winners like aerial freestyle skier Veronica Brenner.

The Danforth will also feature a special Olympic Village, with paintings by Greek and Canadian artists, Greek Shadow Plays themed on the hero Karagiozis, and an area featuring Olympics memorabilia and sports gear.

The Krinos Taste of the Danforth will also be home to the Olympic Trading Pin Event. Those interested in starting their own collection can choose from over 450 different designs from the 2004 Athens games, being sold here for the same price they'll be sold at the games themselves.

Four Krinos Taste of the Danforth sponsors are also Canadian Olympic Committee sponsors and partners. In addition to Krinos Foods Canada, sponsors include RBC Financial Group, VISA Canada and BBI Telecommunications, and all are helping Canadian athletes participate in the games.

While the Danforth is best known for Greek cuisine, it mirrors the Olympics in another way: it's a place for people from all over the world to enjoy the foods of the world. Diners can sample delicacies from Spain, Japan, India and elsewhere, as well as Greek dishes.

The cultural side of the Olympics hasn't been overlooked either. The Danforth's stages are home to fashion shows, world music, and dynamic Greek performers, and have played their part in building early fans for artists like Jim Cuddy, Wild Strawberries and The Waltons.

Krinos Taste of the Danforth Chair Chris Trahiotis promises this year's event will offer the traditions that have made the Taste a Toronto summer staple — food, fashion and fun — along with the activities letting Tastegoers be part of the Athens Olympic experience. "Krinos Taste of the Danforth is a very special part of summer in Toronto. There's something for everyone to enjoy, at an event that shows the very best of Toronto as a clean, safe, multicultural place to live, really live. And this year we get to celebrate the Olympics too!"

For more information on the 11th Annual Krinos Taste of the Danforth, visit www.tasteofthedanforth.com

Sharing the taste of Greece at Mezes

Sharing the taste of Greece with its customers, and accordingly celebrating family and culture, is the definition of Mezes' appeal. Consistency, quality, and freshness have been the anchors of its success.

For years Mezes has been enticing patrons to choose from a markedly extensive menu of its namesake: small, appetizer-sized portions of deliciousness meant to be ordered in multitudes and collectively enjoyed by the table. In fact, this communal style of dining, which is as authentically Greek as the gastronomy, serves to uniquely heighten the experience at Mezes.

"It makes for a convivial meal," says Mezes proprietor Sue Zindros. "It stimulates conversation, sharing good feelings as well as food, and it encourages people to try new things."

Hungry diners, in Sue's experience, tend to order familiar things, or "comfort food". Mezes encourages diners to blend the familiar with the new. The fact that everything at Mezes is made fresh from scratch, with the finest natural ingredients, is added incentive to experiment.

Seafood abounds on the Mezes bill of fare. Certainly try the tender grilled octopus, or the shrimp prepared one of three ways: broiled and crusted with garlic; surrounded by fresh vegetables and splashed with lemon; or baked with feta in a tomato sauce. The fish, broiled whole and drizzled with the best olive oil, is embellished only by the promotion of its own natural flavour. *Dolmades* — grape vine leaves embracing a delicate mixture of rice, ground beef, and dill — remain one of the most popular selections. The tender lamb chops, ordered by the piece or as an entrée, have inspired quite a following of their own. Vegetarians will delight in a vast number of menu items, among them the *Gigantes* — lima beans slow cooked with garden vegetables and fresh herbs in a tomato base.

Mezes
AUTHENTIC GREEK CUISINE
456 DANFORTH AVENUE
416-778-5150
WWW.MEZES.CA

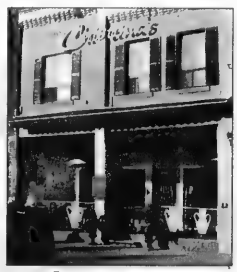
For the summer, Mezes has a covered, luxuriously curtained, waterproof pavilion that extends the warm, candlelit setting of the indoors right out into the street. The attention to detail at Mezes — from the service to the cookery to the creation of memories — is truly what makes every day, and every meal, a celebration.

Christina's crown jewel of Danforth

For truly authentic, upscale Greek cuisine, live entertainment and star quality, no restaurant shines quite as brightly as the effervescent **Christina's**. Outside, its golden frontage sports elegant wrought-iron signage, and its year-round patio is THE spot to eat, greet, see and be seen — an epicentre of Danforth activity. Inside, earth tones, buttercup yellow and turquoise form a soothing backdrop for historical Greek etchings.

Christina's is ideally suited for private functions such as Bar Mitzvah parties. Indoors, a cozy, slightly elevated dining area at rear provides intimacy; outdoors, the patio reigns supreme for open-air celebrations. Christina's also does a brisk business catering to special events.

If you've been to Greece, you'll appreciate the distinctive differences in Christina's menu. In addition to wonderful mainstream Greek fare such as succulent leg of lamb and moussaka (both traditional and vegetarian), you'll find specialties such as *Kolokithokeftedes* — minced, mildly spiced zucchini patties with potato, onion and parsley, gently pan-fried to golden crispness. THIS is GreekTown at its finest. The assorted dip platters (Pikilia Mezedakia, cold; Christina's Pikilia, hot & cold) are teeming and delicious.



Christina's
On The Danforth
492 Danforth at Logan
416-463-4418
www.christinas.ca

Fish and seafood are delivered fresh daily. Choice abounds; there's even a Seafood Souvlaki, with large, marinated chunks of calamari, shrimps and scallops, grilled to perfection.

The portions are always generous, the prices reasonable, the wine selection vast — including many wines imported directly by Christina's from around the globe.

Live entertainment on weekends includes belly dancing and a two-piece (bouzouki and guitar) Greek band playing a blend of old and modern Greek tunes. There's nothing like a rendering of *Never On Sunday* or *Zorba The Greek* to tug at your heartstrings and whet your Greek appetite. On Saturdays and Sundays, a delightful continental brunch featuring many traditional favourites is served.

Enjoyed inside or out, the GreekTown experience doesn't come any better.

"a cheery place ... great respect for the food they serve ... Christina's has fulfilled its promise" — *Sara Waxman, The Toronto Sun*

2004 Most Memorable Meal Awards, "Best Greek Restaurant" — *Where Toronto*

"What's not to love about GreekTown?"

Can you be crazy busy and still take time to smell the roses? Saul Korman says *Yes* — and cites, as evidence, the controlled chaos at the resplendent, newly-renovated Korry's. "We've never sold so many suits. We've never sold so many blazers. I've hired three new tailors. It doesn't stop — and I love it. I guess we're doing something right," he grins.

Of course, he's had over 50 years to *get* it right, and literally thousands of satisfied customers to get it right with. "Without my customers, I'm nothing," he intones. "Thank God there are enough people out there with an appreciation for quality and service."

As one of Toronto's foremost purveyors of the Hugo Boss and Canali lines — and more recently Strellson, now graced with its own standalone boutique — Korry's has long championed the virtues of dressing for success. Vindicating his stand is the recent movement away from business casual and back to the traditional suit or jacket and tie. It's a classic look that "worked yesterday, works today, and will work tomorrow," says Korman. "You simply can't go wrong with a suit. It's a home run." This resurgence is enhanced by luxurious fabrics (many of them crease-resistant); updated styling, with lots of side-vented jackets; and flat-front pants. Black is still the leading power colour, with navy, gray, and taupe also in demand.

Renaissance of a timeless classic

The Strellson collection features suits, sport jackets, shirts, ties, shoes and jeans in a host of exciting new fabrics and colours, particularly pastels. The line is endorsed by Real Madrid, but you don't need world-class soccer skills to enjoy it — just a bit of flair and panache.

Complementing the Boss, Canali and Strellson labels are Korry's homegrown Arnold Brant label, with avant-garde styling and high-end fabrics at approachable prices. The line includes some spectacular silk and cashmere sport jackets. And of course Korry's in-store Roberto label — the focal point of his ever-popular two-for-one promotion — remains a magnet for men throughout the GTA and beyond seeking cutting-edge quality with unbeatable value.

For an ultrachic edge to casual, Korry's also carries the hot new Alberto line of jeans, available in several colours and form-fitting fabrics. "If you have to wear jeans, these are the one to wear; they're a cut above," he enthuses.

Community involvement a priority

Korry's is also carrying a greatly-expanded collection of fine shoes, the better to stroll the Danforth with.

Korman is a tireless proponent of the "look good, feel good" adage. "If you're looking for an edge in the business world, why ignore the easiest one to get — looking great, and feeling great about yourself? People respond to that. If they can't get past your outer self, your inner self may not stand a chance. And no one ever got a compliment for being underdressed."

While the expertly-fitted and tailored merchandise scurries out the door almost as soon as it's racked, Korman is even prouder of his community involvement. His philanthropic efforts on behalf of the Toronto East General Hospital Foundation Board, of which he is a Director, have earned him a place among its "Citizens Of Distinction". Long-standing ties to the Riverdale Shul (President Gabbai Steve Jackson) and the Danforth Jewish Circle provide a welcome, soul-nourishing respite from the hustle and bustle of everyday business life. What's more, says Korman, "it's all here — all I have to do is walk out of my front door, and I'm there. Now *this* is why I'm crazy about GreekTown. The best restaurants. The best cafés. The best fashions. Two synagogues within walking distances. Try finding THAT in a mall," he exudes. "Around here you don't have to stop to smell the roses — they're all around you."

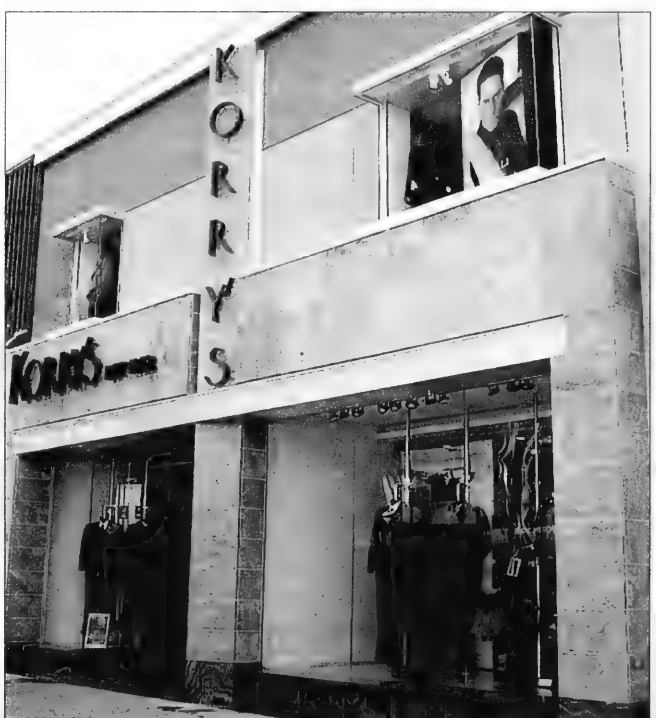
A highlight of Korman's community involvement is his co-sponsorship of the annual Toronto East General Hospital Golf Classic, an annual fundraising event which this year took place on June 14 at Scarboro Golf and Country Club. He's also a kingpin in most GreekTown events, particularly the annual Taste Of The Danforth, which raises money on behalf of a number of charities. If Korman is enthusiastic about men's fashion, he's positively ballistic about the Taste Of The Danforth.

"We're talking about the largest street festival in *North America* here", he crows. "We're talking about sampling the best of a dozen different cultures, right here in GreekTown. You can't eat better and you can't eat cheaper anywhere else, anytime — and you're benefitting worthy causes to boot. What' s not to love?"

Korman's radio commercials, heard daily on a variety of local radio stations, are a natural extension of his effusive personality. He ad-libs them, live from wherever he happens to be when they air — often from his cell phone. Love him or hate him, virtually everyone who listens to radio in Toronto is all ears when his dulcet tones swathe the airwaves. They're a refreshing change from the canned commercials we all get so tired of hearing. "My radio spots are prepared fresh from scratch — just like the food in GreekTown," he winks.

"My radio commercials are prepared fresh from scratch — just like the food in GreekTown"

Spend a few minutes with Korman, in the friendly confines of Korry's or in a neighbouring restaurant, and you'll quickly learn that the unbridled enthusiasm of his radio spots is no put-on. What you see and hear is what you get. He wears his heart on his sleeve. After a visit to 569 Danforth Avenue, chances are you'll be wearing *your* heart on your sleeve too — a Boss sleeve or Canali sleeve, no doubt — and loving it.



KORRY'S
569 Danforth Avenue
416-463-1115
www.korrys.com

GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

Kettleman's: real bagels with real taste

"Finally — a real Montreal-style bagel! Now I don't need to stock up every time I go back to visit."

Whether you're an ex-Montrealer craving the taste of a bagel made the way you remember, or a Torontonian looking for the truly authentic flavour of a bagel made the old-fashioned way, your search is over. **Kettleman's** may be located in the heart of GreekTown, but even the most discerning Bubbie or Zaydeh would recognize these bagels as the real thing.

What makes a Kettleman's bagel different than any other bagel in Toronto?

1. **Tradition!** A centuries-old European recipe made with the finest flour, specially milled for Kettleman's;
2. **Hand-rolling** to give the bagels their unique chewy texture;
3. **Boiling in honey water** for a hint of sweetness;
4. **Baking in a wood-burning oven** to produce the distinctive taste and crusty exterior that bagel lovers everywhere adore.

Kettleman's BAGEL CO.

Authentic Montreal-style bagels

542 Danforth Avenue at Carlaw

647-777-0114

Ask about our catering menu

BUY 12 BAGELS GET 6 SESAME BAGELS FREE

with this coupon until August 15 / 04. Limit one coupon per customer. Cannot be combined with any other offer.

Baked fresh all day long, Kettleman's bagels are scrumptious eaten warm as they come out of the oven. Or take home a dozen (or two) to store in your freezer: they're just as delicious toasted.

But what's a bagel without the *shmear*? At Kettleman's you can choose traditional deli-style cream cheese or one of the many delectable spreads made fresh on the premises — lox, chive, dill and hot pepper, to name but a few.

Kettleman's is open daily from 7 a.m., so treat yourself to a freshly baked poppy or sesame bagel with cream cheese and Nova Scotia lox. Or gather all the fixings for a truly special brunch. Even your Montreal friends will be impressed!

Exotic delights at Sher-E-Punjab

The soulful strains of the sitar greet you as you enter. The deep, rich earth tones of Indian slate tile — reddish brown, copper, a hint of gold — are at once exotic and peaceful. Magnificent tapestries, hand-woven in Rajastan, adorn the butternut-yellow walls.

You're not even seated yet, and already you've begun to experience the tranquility that is **Sher-E-Punjab.**

SHER-E-PUNJAB RESTAURANT

351 Danforth Avenue

(East of Chester subway)

416-465-2125

For Amar and Malkit Singh, this is more than a restaurant; it's the place where they've lovingly served Northern Indian home cooking for the past 30 years. Recently joined full-time in their endeavours by son Jaspal, they've not only shared wonderful flavours, but also touched everyone who'se visited with their gentle demeanor and quiet dignity.

Connoisseurs of Punjabi specialities have known about Sher-E for decades, but with its recent major renovation and the growing popularity of Northern Indian cuisine, a much larger dining public has come to know and savour its diverse delights.

Widely reputed for its Butter Chicken, Chicken Tikka Masala, Pakoras and Samosas, Sher-E holds the distinction of making Toronto's finest *Naan* bread — a soft, oval loaf that's best served hot. But be forewarned: it's addictive! Hand-made on the premises, it is baked fresh virtually on demand — every 15 minutes or so, at busy times — and delivered piping hot to your table. The experience of seeing it emerge from the massive Tandoori clay oven is surpassed only by the pleasure of eating it. This, truly, is manna from heaven.

Saag — a pureed mixture of spinach, broccoli, and rapini — is another dish prized by Sher-E's customers for its unique combination of sharp and mellow tastes. The ever-popular *Daal* (pureed lentils) and *Bartha* — barbequed eggplant with green peas — are also first-rate.

If you can put down the *Naan* bread long enough to order dessert, try the refreshing *Kulfi* (Indian ice cream). Indian Tea – strong, sweet, and mildly spiced — is a piquant complement to any meal or dessert.

Those unfamiliar with Northern Indian cuisine tend to associate it only with curry. To be sure, you'll enjoy fine curried dishes here, made from scratch with the freshest, hand-blended spices; but this is only a very small part of the culinary picture. Sher-E-Punjab completes the tableau with elegance and grace, and with the kind of personal attention, respect and warmth that's only found in a long-established family business.

Nowhere is the multicultural appeal of the Danforth better exemplified than at Sher-E-Punjab, and those who visit it are in for a richly rewarding experience.

Pantheon sets standard for fresh fish

The Olympic Pantheon was blessed with the opportunity to taste the Ambrosia and Nectar of the Gods. How fitting that in this, the year of the Athens Olympics, you have that same opportunity at **Pantheon**, in the heart of GreekTown.

The spectacular decor sets the stage for a royal feast. In the East wing, creamy white floor tiles etched with gold offset walls alive with colourful murals and capped with finely etched wooden trim. In the West wing, rust-coloured tiles and a working fireplace effect a similarly regal ambience. The tables, bedecked with crisp linens in white and gold, are flanked by real wooden chairs.

Pantheon's ever-growing clientele has allowed it to double in size while retaining its charm, intimacy and culinary excellence. Though its mainstream Greek cuisine compares favourably with that of other Danforth restaurants, fresh fish from Greece is what keeps Pantheon's loyal following coming back in droves. Whole sea bass, striped bass, red and white snapper, orange roughy, black porgy, salmon, red mullet, sea smelts — the variety is incredible, the preparation impeccable. As one major daily noted, "Above all, small fish imported from Greece, such as anchovies and baby sardines . . . demand repeat visits. [This lovely fish] is what sets Pantheon apart from most Toronto Greek restaurants."

407 Danforth Avenue

ACROSS FROM CHESTER SUBWAY

416-778-1929

OPEN 11 AM – MIDNIGHT, 7 DAYS

www.pantheonrestaurant.com

"... a winning charm ..."

"... fresh fish, care with good products and little razzmatazz nudges Pantheon ahead of most competitors ..."

Chef Nick Paroussis — who, with partner John Troupis, is responsible for maintaining these lofty standards — clearly understands the need for delicacy and refinement when preparing fresh fish. Likewise for the fresh Ontario lamb chops, which can be enjoyed on their own or as part of a substantial mixed grill.

Mouthwatering homemade desserts provide a fitting conclusion to your meal. The traditional baklava is enticing, as is the homemade Greek honey cake — "as golden and desirable as an Olympic medal" (*Toronto Star*).

Pantheon's prices are actually below average for the Danforth — exceptional value for a GreekTown outing that ranks second to none.

Trapezzi: where "Opa" meets "Bravo"

Sleek, sexy, and resplendent behind its slate gray facade, *Trapezzi* has brought downtown Italian culinary flair and glitz to the Danforth.

Trapezzi — Greek for "table," as in the familial dining table — lives up to its moniker with grace and panache. The interior features a long, lean, granite bar flanked by plush bench seating seductively swathed in jaguar orchid velour. In a typically Italian juxtaposition of sumptuousness and starkness, honey-brown birch flooring and amber parquetted ceiling tiles cozy up to textured concrete walls.

TRAPEZZI

wine & dine

505 Danforth Ave.

416-465-8778

www.trapezzi.com

Owners Paul and Angelos wanted "to add a new dimension to the Danforth, to complement the excellent Greek restaurants that are already here in abundance, in an environment that's chic but friendly."

The menu boasts many gems that, even in the few short months since Trapezzi's opening, have earned it a steady following. For starters, try the bruschetta with whipped goat cheese — a crisp, refreshing new take on an old favourite. The pastas — by which any Italian menu ultimately will be judged — pass with flying colours. Try the Forest Mushroom Fettuccine, redolent with bourbon cream sauce, roasted garlic, and truffle oil — richly flavourful but never overpowering. The Smoked Chicken Penne (braised portobello mushrooms, sundried tomatoes, scallions, roasted zucchini and asiago cheese in a smoked chicken broth) delivers with equal aplomb. For the "fusionado", the Pesto Linguini's artful blend of sundried tomatoes, pine nuts, pesto, kalamata olives and goat cheese will resonate with the Greek and the Italian palate alike.

Highlighting a commendable selection of pizzas is the Meat Pizza, with light tomato sauce, chorizo sausage, pancetta, roasted garlic, carmelized onions and gorgonzola cheese.

Fresh, homemade desserts — the fitting conclusion to a complete dining experience — showcase Trapezzi's expertise and attention to detail. Their lavish and ambitious white chocolate and blueberry strudel is a visual and gustatory delight.

Everything's fresh, made to order, and with ample flair and flavour to satisfy even the most demanding connoisseur.

Trapezzi means table; at 505 Danforth Avenue, it also means *taste*. Italian cuisine, served with traditional Greek warmth . . . when "Opa" meets "Bravo", it's beautiful.

GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

Thuna Herbals' past a beacon for future

It's a delightful anachronism reminiscent of an old English apothecary shop. Fifteen hundred glass jars, each filled with a different herb or root, stacked high in orderly rows. The original creaking hardwood floor. And a proprietor who's all about knowledge and caring.

Established in 1888 (how's that for history?), this family business is now run by Evelyn Dorfman, the granddaughter of founder Dr. Max Harriman Thuna, and a staff of qualified herbalists on the original turn-of-the-century premises at 298 Danforth Avenue.

Over the years, the Thuna family has seen the use of herbal remedies — once the *de facto* method of treatment for most medical problems — lose ground to the synthetic drugs that have flooded the marketplace.

More recently, however, the pendulum has slowly but surely begun to swing back, as more and more people seek alternatives to mainstream medicine. Thuna's doesn't diagnose problems presented to them; rather, they advise customers seeking a diagnosis to obtain it from their medical practitioners. Some come with the blessing of their GP, but many are referred by naturopathic practitioners. Typically, clients come in on their own initiative.

Saul Pasen helped pioneer herbalism in Canada

THUNA HERBALS
298 Danforth Avenue
416-465-3366

Drawing on their schooling, Dorfman and staff choose from some 2,000 herbs, berries, roots, and leaves the precise combination most likely to alleviate an ailment presented to them. To cite but one example, a formula for bladder infection, or even interstitial cystitis, might include uva-ursi leaves, buchu leaves, parsley leaves, marshmallow root, corn silk, and goldenseal leaves.

Dr. Thuna and his children, including son-in-law Saul Pasen, pictured above, helped pioneer herbalism in Canada.

The current premises stand as a rich reminder of Canadian history. Even if you have only a passing interest in herbalism, you owe it to yourself to visit this Toronto landmark. And who knows — by asking a few questions, you might become further enlightened on this ancient practice.

Sushi Delight leads in taste, value

Now entering its fourth year on the Danforth, Sushi Delight has established itself as Toronto's leader in quality, freshness, variety, and price.

A recent renovation has enhanced Sushi Delight's already bright and inviting decor, making the dining experience even more enjoyable. With a menu that's easy on the pocketbook and delightful to the palate, Sushi Delight is always busy, and their lunch special is the best value you'll find anywhere.

Complete meals, in a Bento box, range from $6.95 for the Vegetarian Box, which includes Tempura, to $11.95 for the Tokyo Box, which includes Sushi. Sushi Delight's Special Party Trays are a hit for large groups; priced at $29.95 for 48 pieces or $49.95 for 86 pieces, they offer tremendous variety and value. Custom catering is available, as is take out and delivery.

For a light meal or a tasty snack, four delicious Sushi Bar specials are offered: three at $6.50 and the delectable 6 pc. Sushi Pizza (a crispy Sushi Rice Base topped with Salmon, Green Onion, White Onion, Tobiko & Special Sauce) for $6.95.

You can taste the Sushi Delight difference in the freshness of the ingredients, and the entire menu is MSG-free. Good taste and good health at great prices, a cheery atmosphere, and a caring staff — what more could you ask for in a sushi restaurant?

LUNCH SPECIAL
11 am – 4 pm 7 days a week
$5.95
Choice of CHICKEN TERIYAKI, BBQ BEEF RIB, SALMON TERIYAKI or WHITE FISH CUTLET
served with Miso Soup, Salad, Rice & Fresh Fruit Dessert

DAILY SPECIAL
Special Box $9.95
• 3 pcs. Salmon Sashimi & 6 pcs. California Roll, Shrimp & Vegetable Tempura
• Choice of Grilled Black Codfish or BBQ Beef Ribs
served with Soup, Salad, Rice & Fresh Fruit Dessert

SPECIAL SET DINNER Six fabulous courses to choose from, serving 2 – 6, starting at $23.95
461 Danforth Avenue 416•406•0288 Sun. – Thurs. 11 am – 11 pm Fri. & Sat. 11 am – 12 midnight

Big Carrot's commitment to organics & service repaid by customer loyalty

How do you remain the leader in an increasingly crowded field? By stocking your shelves with products that are as good for the environment as they are for your customers, and by providing a level of expertise and personal service unmatched in the industry. From humble beginnings in 1983, **The Big Carrot** has grown into metropolitan Toronto's largest Canadian-owned purveyor of products for healthy living.

Organic, GMO-free, Kosher products

Run as a worker owned co-op since its opening, The Big Carrot caters to a loyal clientele that embraces both its ethos and its products: minimally processed, organically grown, cruelty free, environmentally safe and, increasingly, GMO-free. As it happens, many of these products are also Kosher.

Anchoring the Carrot Common Mall with a laid-back, homespun atmosphere that its customers value as much as the products themselves, The Big Carrot is really three stores in one: a health food store and market, a wholistic dispensary, and an organic juice, coffee and sandwich bar.

Health-conscious customers seek out The Big Carrot for its extensive organic fruit and vegetable department (over 100 varieties at peak season) and its unmatched selection of organic bulk foods, dairy products, frozen foods, and packaged goods. Its extensive body care department boasts Canada's widest selection of personal care products for the entire family, including baby.

While most health food stores carry a few brands of a particular item, The Big Carrot often has half a dozen or more, and its well-versed staff is more than happy to help you decide which products will suit your dietary needs and your palate. If it's wheat-free — if it's dairy-free — if it's simply *good for you*, The Big Carrot has it.

For natural and organic pastas, breads, buns, bagels, flatbreads, cookies, muffins, and other wholesome *nosherie*, no other store — or bakery, for that matter — even comes close. There are literally dozens of choices here, many of them wheat-free, dairy-free, Kosher — or a combination thereof. The Big Carrot has by far Toronto's largest selection of soy milks and other non-dairy beverages, both fresh and tetra pack.

Among many others, the Kosher products include Crofters Organic Premium Fruit Spreads from Ontario; tomato products from Utopia, also Ontario-grown; Imagine Foods Tetra Pack Dairy-Free Soups (the ultimate in convenience); Neil's Prepared Soups; Nature's Path Organic Cereals; Organic Meadow Yogurts & Pressed Cheese; Cold Mountain Miso; Jersey Farm Non-Dairy Soy Yogurt; cookies from Organica; Soy Delicious Non-Dairy Frozen Desserts; selected products from Eden Foods; and an immense variety of chips and other snack foods. For babies and toddlers, Stonyfield Farm YoBaby Yogurt, in 6 x 4 oz. packs, is both organic and Kosher.

The Big Carrot carries a tremendous variety of healthy desserts and sweets. Tropical Source Kosher chocolate bars, made in Israel, are available in several delicious flavours. Try the Toasted Almond! Country Choice Sandwich Creme Cookies and Ginger Snaps, Pavich Farms packaged dates, raisins and pitted prunes, and Cocoa Camino Fair Trade Cocoa mixes are both organic and Kosher.

Sunflower Kitchen dips, pesto and soups are popular mainstays, as are Bob's Red Mill packaged grains, cereals and baking goods; the Big Carrot stocks both in abundance.

The Deli counter offers more than 50 mouthwatering selections, both hot and cold. From the Organic Lentil Daal to the Organic Couscous Salad, every item is a taste and visual treat. It also offers a selection of sinfully delicious desserts *without the sin*, since they're free of refined ingredients.

THE BIG CARROT
NATURAL FOOD MARKET
"Searching for Nature's Finest"
348 Danforth Ave.
416-466-2129
www.thebigcarrot.ca
M-W 9:30–8 Sat. 9–7
Th & F 9:30–9 Sun. 11–6
Wholistic Dispensary
416-466-8432

The Big Carrot's Wholistic Dispensary, located across the courtyard, constitutes a store in its own right. Among other Kosher products, it carries Omega Flax Seed Oil and selected Solgar Supplements.

Of Toronto's growing number of juice bars, The Big Carrot's is the only one that's 100% organic, giving you, in a quick pit stop, the optimum high-octane fuel. There are over 50 choices of juices, blender drinks, nutritional boosts,

Toronto's only 100% organic juice bar

shakes, and fair-trade organic coffees, as well as sandwiches and other treats. Popular blender drinks include Zen Berry (banana, blueberries, orange, vitamin C crystals, bee pollen, flaxseed oil, and protein powder) and the Energy Elevator (carrot, spinach, raspberry, Ginseng). This isn't just juice, it's a meal replacement.

Among the sandwiches, try the Grilled Tempeh, lettuce, tomato, red onion & honey mustard mayo. Fresh, delicious and wholesome — just as Nature intended.

For a summer treat, enjoy Mapleton's organic ice cream, as well as Cool Hemp, a Kosher, organic non-dairy dessert available in a cup or wholesome organic waffle cone.

Through its continuing expansion, The Big Carrot has retained the humility and friendliness of its early years. This is a store that's down to earth in every possible sense, and a real pleasure to visit. If you want the word "stress" to disappear from your vocabulary — at least temporarily — shop here.

GreekTown on the Danforth: Canadian heritage in the making

More than a tourist area, GreekTown on the Danforth is a community. In the summer, when the trees reach their full green and Toronto's restauranteurs put out their patio tables, GreekTown puts on its Mediterranean face.

Here, when friends and acquaintances greet, you are as likely to hear *"Kall' imera! Ti kanis?"* as "Hi! How are you?" In the restaurants and cafés, you hear patrons converse in every language of the world.

Plenty to woo your senses

While the music of Greek polysyllables will appeal to your ears, the most important thing is not the language, but the fact that people do greet each other. Bustling and busy as the community is, everyone — not just tourists, but everyone who lives and works here — is as liable to stroll as to hurry.

There is plenty on the Danforth to woo your senses, and make you want to slow your steps: bright color and exotic decor; the sounds of the bouzouki; the aroma of lamb souvlaki wafting from a grill; and the tastes of exotic foods. It is the restaurants above all — and the atmosphere they help create, at once lively and relaxed — which draw people from all over the city and beyond.

Many restaurants capture, in their decor, the pleasing colours and terraced style associated with the Greek islands and mountainsides. And while souvlaki is everywhere on the Danforth, its dining establishments take pride in offering the full range and flavours of Greek and other Mediterranean cuisines.

But the Danforth boasts many other fine ethnic restaurants as well. To name but a few, Japanese, Italian, and East Indian cuisine are well represented. And its cafés and dessert houses are unparalleled, both in number and quality.

GreekTown is also home to Toronto's finest natural and specialty food stores and many alternative health practitioners. And it's become a leading fashion destination, with a host of fine specialty boutiques for men, women, and children, as well as European-quality beauty salons and spas.

There is plenty of live entertainment here. At many establishments, audience participation is the rule, though after a fine, full meal, you may feel disinclined to dance on a tabletop.

Alexander The Great Parkette at Danforth and Logan: a popular spot to pause, relax, and reflect

There are a few other Toronto streets which are wider in actual metres, but the Danforth has an expansive feel about it which you don't find anywhere else. Majestic trees shade well-kept homes; here and there are streetside parks, where you can sit and rest your feet.

A solid community with solid values

If you look closely, you see there is a solid community here. You see not only the tourists, but also the elderly and the children, as they shop, stroll or sit and chat in the cafés and parks. In the restaurants, waiters and bartenders offer everyone prompt, friendly service; there are plenty of regular guests whom they greet by name.

Nor is it just staff who do this. You will see the owners showing guests to their tables, greeting them warmly; in GreekTown, customers are family.

Also here are the institutions that belong in any healthy city neighborhood: schools, houses of worship, clubs, and community centres. People not only work here, they *live* here; and it is in great part because they keep GreekTown pleasant to live in, that it is pleasant to visit.

If you really want to get to know the community, chat a little with the staffs of different restaurants; you'll find that everyone knows everyone else. There is plenty of competition here, but it is friendly. To thrive, a restauranteur has to cherish the firm conviction that his or her establishment is the best; but in GreekTown, they do so without knocking the competition. If anything, the reverse is true.

It is from this wealth of restaurants that the "Taste of the Danforth" festival was born. This annual event has become so popular that GreekTown is closed to traffic for its duration. It's a great opportunity to sample the Danforth's culinary delights while enjoying its ambience, all in support of worthy charities like the Toronto East General Hospital Foundation.

While the Danforth is a community, it has never been a closed enclave. Saul Korman of Korry's Clothiers, an active member of the Jewish community, is also an enthusiastic promoter of GreekTown. Having been there for half a century — Korry's is now celebrating its 50th anniversary — Korman knows the people of this community, many of whom started as dishwashers and short-order cooks in the '50's and '60's, then opened the first modest Greek restaurants in the '70's. Many of them came here seeking both prosperity and freedom; the late Andreas Papandreou (a recent Prime Minister of Greece) lived in Canada from 1969 to 1974.

Korman shares with the people who live and work on the Danforth their joy in the prosperity and freedom of Canada. If you come to GreekTown, you are breathing, hearing and tasting Canadian heritage — not in a museum, but as contemporary history in the making.

GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

Styling your life

An exciting new addition to the Danforth, Wash Up & Brush Co!, has taken a new approach to the "lifestyle store", a clever concept fusing retail fun with professional hair care – boutique meets salon.

"This is what hair salons everywhere should be!" said one gleeful Wash Up & Brush client as she left with her purchases. The store has an eclectic mix from the latest trends to classic styles. Products include jewellery from hip Canadian lines Soul Flower and Foxy, handbags from Oakville-based Karen Wilson and Montreal-based Matt & Nat, as well as a varied selection of hats, pashminas, watches, innovative home décor items, bath and personal care accessories. The hair care department provides fashion forward hair styling and quality hair care products from L'Oreal Professionnel, M.O.P, and Nioxin. Specializing in Coloring and Highlighting, the stylists have extensive backgrounds in cutting and color, and can help clients achieve whatever style they are looking for.

"We felt the product selection in a salon could be much greater, to give the client, who is already in a "self-pampering" mood, the ability to create a look in a one stop shopping environment," says Marc Miltenburg, Co-Owner of Wash Up & Brush Co! "What better time to pick up the perfect earrings and evening bag for your special night out than when you are waiting for your colour to process and you have time to pass," adds Susan Drysdale, Miltenburg's business partner. "And our customers agree. They love the concept."

Wash Up & Brush Co! is sure to have something that appeals to everyone, whether it's that perfect little bag or a fabulous new haircut and color!! See you there!

Cheers! You must be at Yia'mas.

Good things often come in small packages. A prime example of this is **Yia'mas** (Greek for Cheers), a new, little gem of a place nestled in the centre of GreekTown that will have you raising your glass to its good food and good cheer.

This quaint, intriguing enclave is richly ruby-toned, from its granite-topped cherry wood bar to its comfortably upholstered cherry wood benches, maroon-coloured walls and earth-toned limestone tile floor. Smaller and more intimate than its TV namesake, it's fronted by an invitingly diminutive patio. Formality is eschewed in favour of an easy-going, relaxed ambience.

YIA'MAS
494 DANFORTH AVENUE AT LOGAN
416-461-8606

"We cook not only with our head, but with our heart"

The menu, like the space, is small in size but big on flavour. The *bifteki* is a case in point. This Greek specialty combines lean, sumptuously seasoned ground beef and veal with a mixture of shredded cheeses, melding together in an exuberance of flavour. It's fast become a house favourite, especially among its discerning Greek clients — always a good sign. The fresh Ontario lamb chops enjoy similarly high repute among customers of all origins, and you've simply never tasted a better breast of chicken, gently rendered in lemon sauce with olive oil, fresh oregano and parsely.

Prices are quite moderate, the service down-home friendly. The beverage selection includes Greek, French and Italian house wines.

Enjoying jovial hospitality and pronouncing long Greek names are two key components of the GreekTown experience, and partners Sokratis Stentsiotis and Angelos Panagiotidis accommodate on both scores. Both are well-attuned to their customers' wants and needs. Says Sokratis, "Coming to GreekTown means relaxing and enjoying real home cooking, fresh from scratch with the best ingredients, like your mother used to make. This is what our customers expect, and this is what we give them. We cook not only with our head, but with our heart."

A visit to Yia'mas will have you saying "L'chaim" to these sentiments.

Jane Hall's palette captivates public, industry alike

In three short years, the design team of Jane Hall and Ian Levack has experienced exponential growth and garnered a lifetime of recognition.

Since opening their doors at Pape and Danforth in 2001, Hall and Levack have seen their two-person operation grow to a team of eight people, and their range of services expand to encompass the full spectrum of home furnishing, interior design, restoration, and construction.

Achievements In Retail Concepts award

Hall's many years of fabric designing, mural painting and fine art ushered her into the world of custom furniture and interior design, while Levack's background involved creating products for the home on a licensing basis, including the first Royal Doulton licensing program for home furnishings.

As individuals, both were highly accomplished; as a team, their synergy has altered the landscape of an industry. In 2002, from a field of over 50 entrants, Hall and Levack were awarded the prestigious Cadillac Fairview Achievements In Retail Concepts award. Said Peter Sharpe, President and CEO of Cadillac Fairview, "Retail in Canada is alive with dynamic new ideas and concepts and Jane Hall: The Voice Of Color is a striking example of this innovation and vitality."

"It's about bringing color into one's life", Hall explained. "We Canadians live in so much grey most of the year, why do we want that in our homes?" Hall's award-winning approach is to enthrall the eye and appeal to all the senses with her use of the colorful paints, elegant fabrics and sumptuous furnishings on display in her stunning European-style showroom. Here, six room vignettes evokes a range of moods with inspired color combinations.

In fact, to call this a "showroom" is to somehow diminish it, for it has the aura and feel of a highly personal space. Hall and Levack don't *tell* you how colors work, they *show* you. The visual feast — a glorious palette of mustard, fuschia, avocado, yellow gold, burnt orange, and other breathtaking hues — demonstrate a quasi-spiritual connection with color.

"I'm anti-beige," Hall confesses with a grin, adding that color evokes an emotional response in people, from the passion stirred by reds to the calming effect of blues. "Color helps you take emotional possession of the house. They may move in the boxes, but they never move in emotionally. Color makes people feel differently about themselves and the home."

Though Hall and Levack's clientele now includes celebrities such as actress Luba Goy, who credits Hall with making her home come "alive with color," they have maintained the same down-to-earth approach with which they entered the business.

As Toronto's real estate market continues to boom, the demand for Hall and Levack's talents from this sector has grown accordingly. House staging for showings has become a major component of their business. Many homeowners who've utilized their services for this purpose have seen the value of their home subsequently soar above the industry growth curve. To Hall and Levack, this success is bittersweet: "The treatment of each home is so personal, in a perfect world you'd like to see that connection continue indefinitely," smiles Hall.

Property values spike after Hall treatment

From a simple in-store consultation to the building of your dream home — and everywhere in between — no palette is more vibrant, no brush more eloquent than those held by Hall and Levack. They are, truly, the voice of color.

Jane Hall
707 Pape at Danforth
416-462-2949

Experience Jane Hall in living color at www.janehallthevoiceofcolor.com

Danforth Jewish life a study in dedication, diversity

Riverdale Shul: the "little shul that could"

It doesn't have a full-time Rabbi. Its congregation numbers in the hundreds or the dozens, depending on the day and the event. It operates out of a second-floor space slightly larger than a telephone booth. It has too little of just about everything.

Except heart.

Founded in 1994 by noted filmmaker Simcha Jacobovici, this "little shul that could" caters to a diverse cross-section of congregants. In so doing, it

Filling a unique need for unaffiliated Jews

mirrors the ethnic and cultural diversity of its Danforth setting. Home to the successful and the down-and-out, the well-connected and the disenfranchised, it fills a unique need for some 5,000 unaffiliated Jews living in the downtown area as well as others drawn to its unique spirit.

For an Orthodox shul, it's pretty darn unorthodox.

"It's a miracle we're even here," says Gabbai Steve Jackson. "We're all volunteers, funding is tough, and our mere existence defies logic. But we're here for the community, and whatever we do, we do with a lot of simcha,

a lot of joy. We dance in the streets."

The shul offers regular Shabbos services, irregular Friday night services, Yom Tov services, children's Cheder, adult learning, classes on ethics, mysticism, and other subjects.

Along with the main sanctuary, which converts to a lecture hall or Kiddush room, the shul has a kids' playroom.

Services are relaxed and informal, and are often led by a guest rabbi. Guest speakers also appear periodically.

The shul does not sell tickets or memberships, and welcomes all who are moved to participate, either on their own account or in a volunteer capacity. It does, however, accept donations.

The Danforth's many fine restaurants and shops have long been a favourite destination of Jews throughout the GTA, but for those who actually live and work in the Danforth area, the Riverdale Shul holds an entirely different kind of appeal. To its core group of congregants, it's a spiritual oasis. Says veteran GreekTown merchant and congregant Saul Korman, "It's a godsend. I'm proud to be associated with it."

Congregants from all walks of life

Typical of the Riverdale Shul's unprepossessing attitude is the message on its website: "Come on, check us out. Enjoy our davening, our Kiddish lunch, our cakes and most of all, our congregants, from all walks of life."

Persons interested in learning more about the Riverdale Shul can contact Gabbai Steve Jackson at 416-826-4539, or by e-mail (gabbai@riverdale-shul.org). You can also visit the website at www.riverdale-shul.org, or drop by their visiting area in front of the shul at 179a Danforth Avenue (east of Broadview) during the Taste of the Danforth August 6 to 8.

Danforth Jewish Circle: building community values

Some seven years ago, a handful of interested parents met in Debbie Plested's living room and decided to start a Jewish studies program in the Riverdale area.

They were all members of the newly formed Danforth Jewish Circle (DJC), a grassroots, liberal egalitarian congregation in Toronto's east end, established in 1996 and then chaired by Marlee Wyman.

Giving children a sense of community

At the time, Plested, co-chair of the DJC education committee, said children's education was a priority for many DJC members.

"We were really a community," she recently said. "We wanted our kids to learn and study within our community and feel a part of the community."

Plested said the group recognized the necessity of setting up a program that could meet the diverse educational needs of the children.

At that time, the local Hebrew heritage program, a school board program that had been operating in the neighbourhood for some 15 years, could only offer a basic introduction to Jewish studies, she said.

"The program was instrumental in creating a sense of Jewish identity and a sense of community," she said. "But [it] had trouble developing as a curriculum because it had to cater to a wide age group.

"What was happening was that our families had no choice but to look outside the community to further their child's Jewish education."

The group of parents met many times in the course of the year to establish a community-based supplementary school. They had to develop a curriculum, hire teachers and publicize the program to attract students, find funding and find a space to hold classes, Plested said.

Now in its ninth year, the DJC Children's Jewish Studies program runs weekly classes for elementary school students out of a local school.

Through discussion, debate, music, drama and art, the children study Hebrew, Torah, Jewish history and current events, Jewish holidays and rituals, Plested said.

"Our program values Judaism as a dynamic, living religion. Our students learn to understand what it means to be a Jew and how being Jewish affects our values, beliefs and behaviour."

While the exploration of Jewish identity is a key component of the curriculum, Plested said that given the high proportion of interfaith families, there is also an emphasis on "respect for the broad spectrum of multiculturalism which exists within Judaism and in the neighbourhood."

The goal of the Hebrew language program is to help the children learn to read Hebrew, recite the basic prayers and gain familiarity with Hebrew songs, she said.

"We want the children to be able to decode Hebrew so that they'll be able to prepare for their Bat or Bar Mitzvah... If they have more of an interest in conversational Hebrew, we encourage and assist them [with] supplementing their studies by connecting them with a tutor."

In addition to the school, the DJC offers a B'nai Mitzvah program, which is run by parents and not funded by any group. "This group is the beginning of a connection to the community for the future because the kids are building friendships and bonding as a group," Wyman said.

B'Nai Mitzvah program: building and bonding

Wyman said she marvels at the growth of the community education program.

"It shows you what a group of dedicated volunteers can accomplish. They're incredibly motivated. That's the whole thing about volunteerism: action is taken because we want to see results."

Persons interested in learning more about the Danforth Jewish Circle may do so by calling 416-825-7431.

GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

Nobody does Greek like The Palace

THE PALACE RESTAURANT
722 Pape Avenue at Danforth
416-462-1166

"The ambiance ... of a Greek country home"

"The Greek goddess Helena would venture to the Danforth" for the *Dolmadakia*

"The grilled chicken, the lamb dishes, and the kebabs are beyond superb."

— Metro News, June 2, 2004

At The Palace, every meal is a special occasion. From the moment you enter, you're treated like royalty.

Among a royal selection of appetizers, the Hot Mezze Platter (Kalamari, Grilled Octopus, Loukaniko, and Bifteki) is a meal in itself; the Cold Mezze Platter (Tzatziki, Taramosalata, Melitzanosalata, Kalamata Olives and pickled beets with pita) is similarly lavish.

Among the soups and salads, the Avgolemono soup — chicken and rice broth finished with gently whipped egg & lemon juice — is the essence of delicacy, the Greek salad crisp and generously portioned.

The Rack of lamb and moussaka are standard-bearers, and The Lamb Kleftiko's divine combination of lamb, feta cheese, sweet bell peppers, onions and mushrooms is enticingly ensconced in crisp phyllo pastry.

The Palace is also highly reputed for its fresh fish; try the Grilled Swordfish Steak with lemon and herbs, the Whole Broiled Sea Bass, or the Atlantic Salmon Steak. Whatever your preference, you'll find it here, prepared to the absolute maximum of its flavour.

As befits a Palace, there's a private Party room for up to 100 people. Located on the upper level, it's ideal for birthday parties, Bar/Bat Mitzvah parties, or any event requiring the kind of ambience a banquet hall simply can't provide.

Chef Napoleon and the staff go to great lengths to ensure your comfort and satisfaction. A visit to this culinary kingdom is pure pleasure; nobody does Greek like The Palace.

Kalyvia: new twists from an old reliable

The more things change, the more they stay the same. New restaurants come and go, but GreekTown's old reliables continue to grace our dining tables with the home cooking we know and love.

At **Kalyvia**, the tastes of home are everpresent, and their new menu combines the best of the old and new. The combination platters of seafood and meat, priced from $25.95, still set the standard for taste and value. Each offer a staggering variety of Greek specialties, yet each item is prepared with individual attention and care.

Fish and seafood lovers will find plenty to adore here. Try the delectable *Xifias* (swordfish souvlaki) or the Halibut and Sea Bass steaks topped with Kalyvia's own homemade lemon sauce. Like everything else at Kalyvia, it's made fresh daily from scratch. There's simply no substitute for this kind of care and attention to detail, and it's earned Mike and Peter Tsafatinos (both from the Greek town of Kalyvia) an unerring reputation for homemade Greek cuisine at the Danforth's most approachable prices. These lofty standards for quality and freshness have earned Kalyvia a four-star rating from *Toronto by Night Journal*.

While Kalyvia's cuisine is authentically Greek, it's a family place that caters to appetites of all ages. One area of the menu that particularly appeals to the younger set is the *Makaronada* (spaghetti), available in a variety of entrées and as a side alternative to rice or potatoes. It's a fun way to introduce skeptical children to Greek cuisine. *Makaronada* à la Kalyvia will make them *kvell*, as will the *Mosxaraki Kopanisto*: oven-baked breaded veal cutlet topped with tomato sauce and cheese, with a choice of spaghetti or rice and roast potatoes.

KALYVIA
420 DANFORTH AVE.
416 463-3333
WWW.KALYVIA.COM

Under the watchful eyes of the Tsafatinos' sons Jim and Jim, and a host of other family members, each and every dish emerges from the kitchen brimming with homemade taste. Portions are gargantuan — worthy of any doting mother.

Kalyvia's homemade goodness can be enjoyed on the premises, or in the privacy of your home or office. Large enough for substantial gatherings, but configured for intimacy, Kalyvia is ideal for birthday parties, Bar Mitzvah parties, and other special events.

Kalyvia is one of a very few places in Toronto where you can still enjoy the tastes and trappings of home in a family restaurant environment. It has "Mom" written all over it.

Myth, or reality? You decide.

So many superlatives, from so many sources. Is Myth too good to be true?

Thankfully, the qualities that drew an outpouring of rave reviews on Myth's opening in 1994 are still in evidence today. For example:

- "The most distinctive new restaurant on Toronto's Danforth strip" (Adele Weder);
- "Myth sets a new standard on the Danforth by which everything else will be measured" (Sara Waxman);
- "...heaven for vegetarians, both in terms of choice and finesse ... fragrance and flavour to die for." (*Vitality*)

Today's Myth is actually a restored theatre with theatrical mystique intact, complete with a loft-style mezzanine that hosts some of Toronto's most upscale private parties. Architecturally, it's a glorious fusion of Greek, Far Eastern and Italian motifs, outrageously hurled together in a rich palette of gold, black, copper, maroon, and pewter. Improbable on paper, it works spectacularly well in person. With palatially high ceilings and enthralling sightlines, Myth is fronted by gigantic, articulated glass garage doors that unfurl to accommodate the Danforth's most lively patio.

Myth has achieved ultrahip status while maintaining a firm grip on the warm hospitality and consistently high quality that are the underpinnings of any fine restaurant.

myth
417 Danforth Ave.
416.461.8383
www.myth.to

Executive Chef Ken Brudner's menu is Mediterranean, but like the decor, it melds influences from further afield. One example: the Roasted Chicken & Mushroom Pie: filo wrapped with pine nuts, lemon and chive beurre blanc, served with baby spinach and roasted carrots. Eclectic vegetarian offerings include Imam Biyaldi (currants, pine nuts & saffron pilaf stuffed in purple eggplant with melted onions & tomato). Among the pastas, try the Rabbit Stifado Mantia: oven-baked pasta purses with aromatic spices, mavrodaphne jus & pearl onions. For more mainstream tastes, the grilled Black Angus Striploin Steak is absolutely scintillating.

Bar Mitzvah parties

Its size and cutting-edge chic have made Myth a prime destination for Bar Mitzvah parties and other catered private events. If you haven't yet had the pleasure of this Mythological dining experience, one visit will corroborate everything you've heard and read about it. That's Myth — *and* reality.

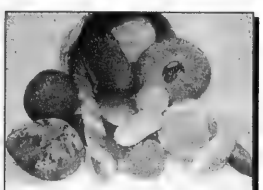
Select Bakery evokes childhood memories

A bakery is not merely a place where bread is made. It's a symbol of sustenance that evokes treasured memories of still-warm goodies emerging from the oven with a maternal blessing and simultaneous admonishment not to overindulge.

Nowhere is this symbol better exemplified — and brought to life on a grand scale — than at **Select Bakery**. Huge (5,000 sq. ft.) yet intimate (GreekTown's only bakery with a dedicated seating area), its majestic array of baked bounty is to the palate what surround sound is to the ear. Enhancing its seductiveness is the colour scheme (tan on caramel on chocolate) and a refinement of presentation worthy of the illustrious cafés of Europe after which it's modelled.

The father-and-son team of Emmanuel and Kosta Katsamakis, with a combined 50 years of expertise in baking, lead a cheery staff of skilled bakers and pastry chefs. A full range of traditional Greek, European and continental pastries (baklava, *galaktoboureko*, petits fours et al) is complemented by exceptional European breads, specialty cakes of the highest order, and sublime specialty coffees.

Further distinguishing Select is its prepared foods. No time to cook? Moussaka, *pastitsio*, Greek-style lemon oregano chicken — and many other entrées — plus the full gamut of Greek dips and sauces — are prepared fresh daily for your dining pleasure. Many entrées are available fresh or frozen, and most are suitable for freezing. Need to entertain on short notice? Select is a one-stop destination for party trays, rolls, and related comestibles. And its ultraconvenient location on Donlands just south of O'Connor has ample, inexpensive meter parking at the front door.



Select BAKERY
DELI • PATISSERIE • CAFE
405 Donlands Ave. 416.421.2400
info@selectbakery.ca

But we digress from the baked temptations. Among the highlights at Select are:

- European Village Bread: crusty on the outside, buttery soft on the inside;
- Kalamata Olive Bread: as good as it sounds. Buy two;
- Chocolate-covered baklava: a hybrid pioneered by Select, it picks up where "to die for" leaves off;
- Mille feuilles: Select's version makes a good run at the proverbial thousand sheets, each one shatteringly good.

Bakeries are the stuff of childhood longing; each is measured against our favourites of yesteryear. This bakery belongs in that Select group.

GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

Athens Pastries redefines taste buds

It's easy to recognize Athens Pastries and Pies, with its cheerily distinctive mosaic tile facade of slivered turquoise and gold. Once you've ventured inside, however, the taste sensations you'll experience will leave it etched in your memory far more than the visuals.

You've undoubtedly tasted, and probably enjoyed, the traditional Greek spanakopita (spinach pie), cheese pie, meat pie and bougatsa before, but until you've sampled the Athens versions, you haven't truly experienced them at all. Simply stated, it's like comparing homemade fresh-baked bread as your mother used to make it to the store-bought variety. For freshness, crispness, and flavour, no comparison is even possible.

The Athens version will permanently redefine your taste buds. Baked continuously throughout the day from the purest ingredients, with no additives or preservatives, the pastries and pies served up at this little gem of a shop have made Athens a prime destination of Danforth-goers seeking a light meal or an exquisite dessert. A nice bonus: their coffees, both regular and specialty, are as fresh and full-flavoured as you'll find anywhere.

ATHENS PASTRIES

509 Danforth Ave.
416-463-5144
(near Logan)

2567 Victoria Park
416-491-0095
(1 block South of Sheppard)

When you're not in GreekTown, you can enjoy Athens' second location, conveniently located on Victoria Park just south of Sheppard, with ample free parking on site.

Everything at Athens is worth trying, but if you're a dessert lover who'se been disappointed occasionally — haven't we all? — the bougatsa will really send you over the top.

Reminiscent of the French *mille feuilles*, or the English custard slice, Athens' rendition of bougatsa is as close to perfection as a dessert gets: ultracrisp, delicate crust outside, light, mildly sweet vanilla custard inside. And here's the best part: even with a liberal sprinkling of icing sugar and cinnamon, at no time does it taste too sweet, and the cloying aftertaste so common with commercial desserts is noticeably absent.

This second-generation family business (owner George Tsioutsioulas, father Evangelos and their dedicated staff) has probably rolled enough pastry dough to stretch from here to Greece, so the name "Athens" is perfectly apt. The fact that it's rolled lovingly, with constant attention to quality, is confirmed by your first bite.

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Economy Class
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Domestic Flights
Take advantage of our frequent daily flights to over 30 Greek Domestic destinations, and enjoy traveling in comfort and convenience.
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Tel: (416) 920-2452 Fax: (416) 920-3686
1200, avenue McGill College, bureau 1250
Tel: (514) 878-3891 Fax: (514) 878-4783
www.olympicairlines.com

Olympics at our doorstep: the Athens 2004 Store at 457 Danforth Avenue

Hats off to Danforth

If you own or manage a business on the Danforth, chances are you've seen me, met me, and been asked by me to participate in this section. As its coordinator for the past ten years, I've made it my business — and my pleasure — to pound the pavement in GreekTown, telling anyone and everyone who'll listen that this section is the best thing since sliced bread.

That's if you're a bakery. If you're a Greek restaurant, it's sliced souvlaki.

Every great street has a pulse, and only in person, on foot, can you really feel it. Only by meeting the people who live there and work there can you truly experience its personality, hear its message, and feel its magic.

Digital communications may have made our world smaller, but I've always found that ten blocks of cold calling — and the social interactions it engenders — make *my* world larger than life.

I have another reason for wearing out shoes. When I was a toddler, a certain Mr. Torontow regularly came by our home peddling his wares — fruit and vegetables — from his horse-drawn cart. Often, with a wink, he'd hand my sister Avivah and I a brown paper bag filled with pastries that his wife had made. This wasn't about currying favour. It was just who he was.

I may never be half the man Mr. Torontow was, but by going door to door, as he did, maybe I'm hoping to capture a bit of his aura.

Now, about the cap.

When the sun shines brightly on GreekTown, as it usually does, a bald head like mine can get sunburned very quickly. One such experience was enough to sell me on covering up as conditions dictate. Donning a baseball cap also makes me look and feel younger. (Illusions are a wonderful thing).

A community's cachet may manifest itself in sensory pleasures, but its character is defined by the people who live in it and work in it. Today, I'd like to thank those people — the people of GreekTown — for allowing me into their world and for making me feel special.

If you believe in karma, then the joy and fringe benefits of Greece's recent European cup win, the annual Taste Of The Danforth, and the upcoming Athens Olympics are no coincidence. What goes around comes around.

Sunburn's no fun, but a quick tan never hurt. So today, as the sun beats down on the Danforth, I doff my cap to GreekTown. Hats off to you; you deserve it.

— Sholom Wargon

GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

Messini Authentic Gyros a GreekTown hit

In one short year, **Messini Authentic Gyros** has created a new taste sensation in GreekTown.

Recognized for its beautiful beaches, the city of Messini, in the southeast corner of Peloponessos, is also known for its excellent southern Greek cuisine. Following some 20 years of experience in Europe, owner Marinos Dafnas opened Messini with the singular goal of elevating gyros preparation to the lofty level it enjoys in Greece.

Roasted slowly to perfection on a spit, the gyros (pronounced *yee'-ros*, from Modern Green *guros*, "turning") combines the finest marinated cuts of moist and dry meat to ensure that it retains its juiciness and tenderness throughout the cooking process, during which a consistent temperature must be maintained. Prepared fresh from scratch — no freezing, no precooking — Messini's version will make your palate sing.

Once your gyros is ordered, the meat is carefully sliced and served in a soft, fluffy pita with tzatziki, onions, spices, and French fries (ironically, the traditionally Greek style).

Messini has further innovated by offering chicken and vegetarian gyros, allowing it to cater to a broader range of dietary preferences and palates.

According to Dafnas, each component of the gyros, including the pita it's served in, is designed to maximize the taste and enhance the flavour of the overall product. The result: a sandwich that absolutely melts in your mouth with a rich blend of flavours, the subtleties of which seem to become more distinct with each bite.

Messini now also offers a delicious grilled Greek sandwich, consisting of a panini-like bun topped with a combination of hard Greek cheese, *tirokafteri* (Greek cheese sauce), eggplant spread, and tomatoes. It's also available with chicken breast.

The prices are more than reasonable, with gyros dinner entrées starting from $9.50, lunch specials from $5.95. The menu also includes mainstream Greek selections, but you'll do yourself a disservice if you don't at least try the gyros.

Messini's immaculate interior flanks an open kitchen. Soothing brown and cream tones — gleaming ceramic tile floor, rich wood trim and comfortable seating — create an aura of casual dining elegance.

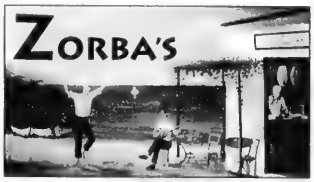
The beaches of Peloponessos may seem far away, but at Messini, some of southern Greece's best tradition and culture is right here for the sampling.

MESSINI AUTHENTIK GYROS

445 DANFORTH AVE.
416-778-4861

Heavenly home cooking at Zorba's

More and more, we seem to measure restaurants by their ability to simulate "home cooking", and a big part of GreekTown's appeal is that so many of its dining establishments achieve this goal. But if ever a restaurant could be said to welcome you into its home and sit you down at its kitchen table, that restaurant is **Zorba's**.



681 Danforth Ave. at Pape
416-406-1212

Your first clue is that the decor, while cheerful, is neither trendy nor obtrusive. Tastewise, however, Zorba's *katsarola* (Greek for "pot", a metaphor for home cooking) will spoil you as few restaurants can. Always off the menu and priced from $8.50 to $12.00 for a mammoth portion complete with potatoes, rice and vegetables, *katsarola* makes it doubly easy to forget you're "eating out".

Each day, owner and chef Kosta Carasoulos slaves over three to five of these specialties and spoons them into the steam vessels at front. And, just as you'd expect in a home environment, what he cooks depends entirely on his whims of the day. Typically roasted or stewed, these dishes won't just remind you of home; they *are* home.

That's the good news. The bad news is that once they're gone, they're gone, and with an eager clientele weaned on home cooking, you're advised to arrive early for best selection.

Remember your Mom's or your Bubbie's chicken fricassee? Zorba's lamb fricassee will melt in your mouth just as hers did. Lamb with *orizo*, a rice-like pasta, is equally heavenly, as is the beef stew. These preparations generally feature green beans, cauliflower, zucchini, or okra, often in combination, gently oven-simmered in a light tomato sauce. Vegetarian specialties include roasted *gigantes* (lima beans), a local favourite.

Zorba's mainstream menu tends toward casual, and many entrées are offered in three sizes (small, regular and large). The medium Greek salad could easily pass for a large; the large is off the charts. As with the *katsarola*, the prices are exceptionally modest. For example, the Lamb Souvlaki is offered as a sandwich for $4.75, with fries for $6.25 or with salad for $7.45.

Since Zorba's defines itself by its home cooking, it's only fitting that multiple family members be present. Try seven. At any given time, you'll find Kosta, wife Christine, sons Bobby, Anesty and Spiro, and daughters Demetra and Maria minding the store. The attitude is warm and friendly, the affection genuine, both between family members and with customers. Says Bobby, "We don't really know where home life ends and the business begins; they've become one and the same."

If you've never had the pleasure of dining in a Greek home, a visit to Zorba's will quickly fill that void in your life experience.

New look, same great taste at Pan

The ever-innovative **Pan on the Danforth** now sports a new look and new ownership, but its Greek / Mediterranean cuisine takes you on the same magical taste ride it always has. Cited as "one of the city's best" Greek restaurants by *Toronto Life*, Pan continues to deliver consistently superb quality across an array of dishes that are deliciously different — sometimes subtly, often dramatically — from other versions you'll encounter.

Pan's updated decor is festive with pastels and paintings, giving it the appearance of a mini Mediterranean art gallery. It's now open for lunch as well as dinner, and is a prime destination for intimate gatherings.

The menu complements holdover signature dishes with compelling new offerings. Try the Char-Grilled Loin of Lamb with fig and orange glaze and the Santorini Chicken, or the filet of Atlantic Salmon with Madagascar mussels, a skewer of shrimp in a white wine lemon dill cream sauce with garlic mashed potatoes and pan seared vegetables.

The Black Angus New York striploin still tops the heartiness scale; it's served with garlic mash and grilled portobello mushrooms, finished with Madagascar peppercorns in a brandy-beef reduction sauce.

The appetizers are elegance incarnate. Try the Baked Goat Cheese encrusted with pistachio, placed over tomato and a portobello mushroom cap and served with wild greens. Also recommended are the Avgolemono Soup and the Marinated Beets.

The dips — one standard by which all Greek restaurants can be measured and compared — still lead the Danforth parade in flavour and presentation.

Family restauranteurs in the finest GreekTown tradition, new owners Chris and Soula Christodoulou (and their son George) are certainly no newcomers to GreekTown, and bring a lifetime of experience to your table. To GreekTown veterans, Soula's radiant smile is as recognizable as the street signs.

Pan caters to an international clientele liberally sprinkled with movie stars and other show business personalities, but friendly, down to earth service is still the rule here.

Vibrant as ever, Pan continues to reward guests with an elevating dining experience.

PAN
Mediterranean Cuisine

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www.panonthedanforth.com
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Ampeli knows only one way: the right way

There's no substitute for freshness. In five short years, **Ampeli** has drawn the kind of rave reviews restaurants covet. George, the manager, attributes this success to a simple formula: use the freshest, highest-quality ingredients, lightly seasoned and prepared simply. Everything's cooked to order, meaning you have to wait a little longer for your meal to arrive; but the wait is more than worth it.

Meat and fish are always fresh, never frozen, and Ampeli has become renowned for both. You simply can't find better rack of lamb or Ontario lamb chops anywhere. The fresh fish is so popular customers usually specify, when making reservations, which type of fish they want. Red snapper, porgy, codfish, smelts, whiting — if it's just been caught, you'll find it on Ampeli's table the same day.

For George this means more legwork, combing the market for the freshest catch of the day. "This isn't an option," he notes. "It's an obligation to our customers."

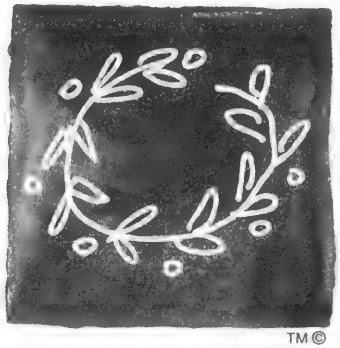
Warm ciabatta bread accompanies every meal with a side of olive oil and balsamic vinegar. Fresh pasta is hand-made on the premises, and all sauces are à la minute.

Ampeli's distinctive red brick exterior and huge patios, complete with bright flowers, are a welcome sight for anyone seeking Greek and Mediterranean cuisine as it's meant to taste.

AMPELI
TAVERNA

526 Danforth Ave. 416-465-4001

> "... Only at Ampeli did we meet moist, tender, roast Ontario lamb. Ditto the moussaka experience .... at Ampeli the moussaka was marvellously fragrant, full of rich flavours. Roasted mashed eggplant dip is zinged with fresh mint, and marinated octopus is tender with a lovely vinegar bite. Meaty little quails have been marinated for tenderness and are cooked just so, and the grilled fresh porgy is a paragon of Piscean virtue, with especially crisp skin."
>
> ***Joanne Kates, Post City Magazines***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Athens 2004 Store: Olympic dream becomes a GreekTown reality

The Athens 2004 Store, in the heart of Toronto's GreekTown, is living proof that miracles can happen.

In a press conference held May 25 at the Thessalonikean Educational Resource Centre, an emotional Sotiris Buseas recounted the events that led up to the fruition of his Olympic dream.

As a water polo player with the Poseidon Kalamata Club and later with the University of Toronto Blues in the mid 1980s, Buseas saw his hopes of participating in the Olympics dashed by an injury. But as so often happens in life, no sooner did one door close than another door opened. In this case, it just took 15 years for that opening to occur.

Only store outside Greece with Official Athens 2004 Licensed Products

As president of BBI Telecommunications, a founding sponsor of the Taste Of The Danforth, Buseas was well-steeped in GreekTown business activity and community events. With his athletic career long behind him and the Athens 2004 Olympics approaching, a different Olympic vision emerged: why not make licensed Olympic products available to the Canadian public, right in GreekTown?

Buseas' road to Athens was long and arduous. To make his vision a reality, he required permission from both the International Olympic and the Canadian Olympic committees ... no mean feat for any small businessman.

After a long series of verbal, electronic and formal written communications between himself and Olympic officials in Greece, Buseas boarded a plane to Athens to attend an evaluation meeting of licensee applicants being held by the Athens 2004 Olympic Organizing Committee.

Shortly after Buseas landed, Athens was engulfed in a rare, major snowstorm. Of the applicants expected at the meeting, only a handful showed up — including one very proud Greek Canadian undaunted by a foot of snow.

Impressed by Buseas' persistence and by the fact that he was one of the very few applicants who actually met the requirements for such a project, the IOC, ATHOC and COC granted him the license.

The results of that success — and the fruits of Buseas' labour — are now on display at 457 Danforth Avenue.

The store is awash in a sea of festive colour predominated by Aegean blue. In a masterstroke of design simplicity, the entire floor is painted blue and gold, giving you the sense of setting foot in the sea as you enter.

On the shelves, on the walls, and in every nook and cranny, you'll find a truly impressive array of products ranging in price from a few dollars to a few hundred. For men and women, boys and girls, young and old, athlete and couch potato alike, there's a perfect gift item here for everyone. With an emphasis on enduring quality and artistic merit, the collection is designed to offer years of service and pleasure. This is no mere souvenir shop; it's the only store outside of Greece to sell Official Athens 2004 Olympic products.

20% of purchases go to assist the Olympic Movement and Canadian Olympic athletes

The public's response since the store opened in early June has been "absolutely incredible," says Buseas. "Everyone loves licensed products, but customers are also blown away by the quality and variety of the merchandise. Many people have also told me that in one quick stop, they are now able to purchase gifts for every family event in the foreseeable future. Birthday present, Bar Mitzvah present, wedding gift, or just because ... you name it, there is something here for everyone."

There is indeed. From calendars to fine porcelain, cool caps to plush monogrammed towels, jigsaw puzzles to exquisitely minted Olympic coins, plush toys to rugged luggage, mousepads to baseballs, the Athens 2004 Store has items for every taste and budget. Remarked one breathless shopper bearing an armful of booty, "I came in wondering what to buy; now I'm wondering what *not* to buy."

By purchasing these unique products, however, you're not just solving a gift-giving dilemma; you're also helping Canadian athletes fulfill their dreams. A full 20% of the purchases at the Athens 2004 Store is being donated to the Olympic Movement and the Canadian Olympic Excellence Fund.

Buseas' unlikely odyssey from foreign student to Olympic concessionaire is a feel-good story that any champion of the underdog can relate to. The opening of the Athens 2004 Store is a both product of loyalty and a reward for it. Says Mike Patterson, Director of Marketing for the Canadian Olympic Committee, "we only wanted to deal with one person ... to reward him for the hard work and for his initiative." For Sotiris Buseas, it's all about remembering where he came from.

Reward for loyalty: "nobody should forget their own roots"

"I want to show what my heritage has given the world all these years .... nobody should forget their own roots," he says. He is also quick to downplay any personal accolades he has received. "This is not about me, it's about anyone who has a dream and believes he or she can make it happen."

GreekTown's many restaurants have long touted their cuisine as "the next best thing to being in Athens." The Athens 2004 Store offers an entirely different fast track to that destination. The opportunity to buy great gifts for yourself and your loved ones — and help aspiring Canadian Olympians to boot — is a win-win situation if ever there was one.

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This Week

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Producer seeks Jewish families for new reality TV series. *Page 17*

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David Bezmozgis copes with sudden literary fame. *Page 33*

Books & Authors

18th century sleuth returns in *A Spectacle of Corruption*. *Page 37*

Sports & Leisure

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Ambassador bids farewell

Completes tour of duty, heading home

By MORDECHAI BEN-DAT
Editor

TORONTO — Israeli Ambassador Haim Divon can't recall the number of times he had to turn down friends and colleagues in Ottawa's diplomatic corps when they asked him to play a round of golf.

"The commitment I made to myself was that when there will be peace, then I will play golf," he told *The CJN*.

Alas, golf has simply not been on Divon's agenda during the past four years.

The veteran diplomat completes his tour of duty as Israel's representative to Canada at the end of August. He visited the offices of *The CJN* last month and, in his careful, articulate manner, reflected on his time in Ottawa.

Continued on page 18

Haim Divon

Birthright celebrates 5 years

Over the past five years some 70,000 young Jewish adults from 40 countries have visited Israel on the unique and highly successful program Birthright Israel. These young Canadians, from left, Monica Cornel, Carli Rabinovitch & Tamara Sander, were among the most recent participants.

[Isranet photo]

Single malts the toast of kiddush clubs

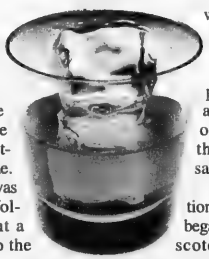
By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Neil Nathan has given new meaning to sharing a toast with his parents on their wedding anniversary.

While he drank a l'chaim with his kiddush club at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue to toast the event, his parents, Bella and Phil, drank the same single malt scotch at approximately the same time at their home in London, England.

"[Their anniversary] was a significant event, [so] I logged on to the website of the distillers of one particular single malt and ordered a bottle to be shipped from Scotland to my parents' home.

"Their anniversary was on a Friday, and the following day I brought a bottle of the scotch to the weekly kiddush club, where we toasted my parents.



"In London, my parents were sitting amidst the flowers I had ordered and drinking the same scotch," he says.

Nathan, an information technologist, says he began drinking single malt scotch 35 years ago in London, at the same time as he started his career. "I had my first sniff of Glenfiddich and I suddenly discovered Scotland."

At B'nai Torah Congregation, says George Weinberger, a Toronto chartered accountant, his kiddush club – one of two at the synagogue – meets after Shabbat services. It used to be evenly split between rye and scotch drinkers, now, "more and more people are drinking scotch.

Continued on page 29

Shabbat: Ekev
Candlelighting: 8:15
Havdallah: 9:20

Greater Toronto Area

Jewish life reborn in Kazan — please see page 28

Canada

Montrealer Graduates

NEW YORK — Montrealer Daniel Levy is one the first nine graduates of Yeshivat Chovevei Torah Rabbinical School, a self-described "modern and open Orthodox institution" founded in 1999 by former Yeshiva University professor Rabbi Avi Weiss, who heads AMCHA – the Coalition for Jewish Concerns. Rabbi Levy, who is completing a master's in education at YU, will teach next year at Solomon Schechter High School in Westchester, N.Y.

World

Yukos Exec Wanted

MOSCOW — A Russian court issued an arrest warrant for a Russian Jewish leader and philanthropist on charges of complicity in murder and attempted murder. Leonid Nevzlin, a major shareholder of embattled oil giant Yukos, fled to Israel last fall after the arrest of his former boss, Yukos founder Mikhail Khodorkovsky. Nevzlin had already been put on the international wanted list on charges of tax evasion and stealing state property. Prosecutors suspect he contracted the murder of a Russian couple in 2002 in a conflict over financial assets.

N.Z. Jew Sought

AUCKLAND — A member of New Zealand's Jewish community has been linked to an alleged Israeli spy ring. Police were seeking Tony Resnick, a 35-year-old paramedic and former member of the Auckland Jewish Council, in connection with two Israelis jailed for passport fraud, the *New Zealand Herald* reported. The paper said Resnick left the country for Hong Kong after Eli Cara and Uriel Kelman were arrested in April. He is believed to have headed to Israel, where his wife and children later joined him. New Zealand accuses Cara, Kelman and a third Israeli still at large of a plot to assume the identity of a wheelchair-bound New Zealander in order to obtain his passport for a Mossad operation. Resnick had previously treated the disabled man, the *Herald* reported. Israel has not commented on the spy charges.

Harvard Returns Gift

BOSTON — Harvard University has returned a $2.5-million gift donated in 2000 by the president of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Zayed Al Nahyan, to fund a chair in Islamic studies. Students and Jewish groups at Harvard's divinity school protested the gift because of the UAE president's support for a UAE think-tank that funded speakers who made anti-Semitic comments. The think-tank has since been closed.

Charity Charged

DALLAS — A major U.S. Islamic charity was charged last week with funnelling money to Palestinian terror groups. The Holy Land Foundation was charged with sending $12.4 million (US) to Hamas and other groups promoting violence in the Mideast. Officials for the Texas-based group said the FBI fabricated evidence and relied on faulty Israeli translations of documents.

Comments Clarified

JERUSALEM — An Israeli newspaper has clarified comments by Jewish official Malcolm Hoenlein that led a U.S. Muslim group to call for his resignation. An apparently faulty translation caused the confusion. Hoenlein, executive vice-chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, was quoted last week on *Ma'ariv*'s English website as saying that America is the "ultimate battleground" for Muslims. After the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR) saw the remarks and called for Hoenlein to quit, the remarks were changed to refer to Islamists, not Muslims. The mistake was blamed on a Hebrew-speaking reporter who did not differentiate between Islamists, a term that can refer to Islamic fundamentalists, and Muslims in general. Hoenlein told JTA CAIR exploited the situation, making public calls for him to resign without contacting him for clarification.

Leader Threatened

BELGRADE — The head of a Jewish community in Serbia has stepped down after receiving death threats. Members of the 200-strong Subotica Jewish community said Mira Poljakovic and several board members resigned last month. The community made no comment, and it was unclear who made the threats. The community has been split recently by internal disputes between factions that supported and opposed Poljakovic's policies. In 2001, Poljakovic, a prominent lawyer, was attacked and beaten up on the street, apparently for her opposition to the regime of ex-strongman Slobodan Milosevic.

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Hoax Perpetrator Given Suspended Sentence

Marie Leonie-Leblanc

PARIS — A French woman who claimed she was the victim of a violent anti-Semitic act but later admitted she had lied has received a suspended sentence.

Marie Leonie-Leblanc, 23, was found guilty last week of reporting an imaginary crime and was given a four-month suspended sentence. She was also ordered to pay symbolic damages to France's national railroad company and get psychiatric help.

On July 9, Leonie-Leblanc told police she had been attacked on a train in suburban Paris by four men who she claimed scrawled swastikas on her stomach and overturned her baby carriage because they thought she looked Jewish. The purported attack shocked the country, with senior politicians and Jewish groups issuing forceful condemnations. Three days later, however, Leblanc admitted she had lied about the attack and that she had drawn the swastikas on her own body.

The Canadian Jewish news

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Israeli tourism ministry to invest in marketing

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Aharon Domb, director general of Israel's Ministry of Tourism, learned last month that his ministry would receive an extra 30 to 40 million shekels – about $10 million Cdn for marketing.

Although it's not as much as he'd asked for, he believes in "working harder" with less money, so as not to compromise his goals, he said during a recent one-day stop in Toronto.

Tourism is a wise investment for the Israeli government, according to Domb, because every 100,000 tourists to Israel translates into about 4,500 jobs for Israelis and about 200 million NIS for the country's GDP.

Over the past two years, 45,000 Israelis in the tourism industry lost their jobs, said Domb, who was accompanied by Daniela Aharoni, his senior advisor (and translator for the interview), and Rami Levi, New York-based tourism ambassador to North and South America. They were interviewed at the office of Dani Shahal, director for Canada of the Israel Government Tourist Office.

But notwithstanding the drop in tourism since the intifadah began in September 2000, Domb brims with enthusiasm for his work. "Speaking in ideological terms, this is the best job in the world. What could be more beautiful than to make Israel likable in the eyes of Israelis and people who are overseas?"

His current position, he stressed, fits well with his personal ideology, "the feeling that in Israel you have special things that you don't have in the rest of the world."

A native of Haifa who has lived in Kiryat Arba, just outside Hebron, virtually all his adult life, Domb spent most of the 1990s working for the regional council of the settlements in Judea and Samaria as well as in Gush Katif, first as spokesperson, from 1992 to 1996, and for the next three years as director-general.

Aharon Domb

Aharoni attributes the increase, which began to be apparent in late 2002, to the ministry's change of marketing approach in the spring of that year. Instead of dealing only with tourism professionals, ministry personnel began to visit communities and "speak to the end user in person. We understood that the situation is such, that you have to go to the consumer and convince him in person."

Regarding the place the territories have in the Israeli tourism picture, Domb noted that hundreds of Jews from Toronto have visited Hebron, but said that "the question of whether you visit Tel Aviv or Hebron isn't as important as the general picture."

What he wants is increased tourism to Israel, and by Israelis within Israel. From January 1 to May 31 of this year, 17,000 people visited Israel from Canada, a 74 per cent increase over the same period last year, said Shahal. He added that the number is consistent with a concurrent overall increase in tourism of 60 to 65 per cent.

On the Toronto leg of his trip, his only Canadian stop, Domb's small delegation met with tour operators and representatives of the Jewish and Evangelical Christian communities.

"We really value those communities, especially in today's geopolitical situation," he said. "If Canada has approximately 90,000 households in the Jewish community, and if each comes to Israel only once a year, that will definitely increase our tourism."

The benefits are not Israel's alone, he pointed out. "Jews all over the world have in the back of their mind the knowledge that they'll have a safe place, and that will be Israel. This connection between Jews in the Diaspora and the Israelis in Israel is very important."

But Zionist motivations and expressions of solidarity aside, visitors to Israel can "have fun and enjoy the country as a tourist destination," Domb said. "What could be nicer, in December, than to be in the Dead Sea and climb Masada, and not be here in the cold?"

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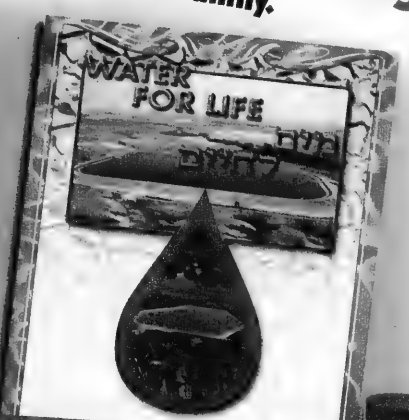

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From the editor's desk

To be sure, from the beginnings of our tradition, study was encouraged for its own sake. But our sages understood and urged upon our forebears another compelling truth: the morality that we learn in our studies must be tied to action and action must be tied to the broader good of the community at large.

That broader good of the community at large has been a central preoccupation of our teachers, scholars, writers and leaders from biblical to post-biblical and modern times.

Thus, it is not only an orientation towards text and text-based inquiry that the Jews' attachment to Torah and the commentaries has inculcated in us over the millennia.

It is also, if not foremost, an affinity, indeed a deep reverence for, the very idea and structure of law, the governance by human beings over other human beings according to law.

Throughout the years, that expression of affinity has depended upon the conditions of the local Jewish communities living at the pleasure of the non-Jewish majority. Until approximately the middle of the 19th century, that expression was directed towards running purely internal communal structures and organizations.

In modern times, however, the Jews branched out, as it were, and applied their inbred, age-old affinity for the rule of law to the institutions of the wider community.

How they did so and the different contexts and societies in which they did so make for fascinating study.

Not Written in Stone: Jews, Constitutions, and Constitutionalism in Canada (University of Ottawa Press, 2003) does precisely that. It examines how the Jews of Canada expressed this affinity within Jewish and non-Jewish organizations in the context of evolving Canadian society.

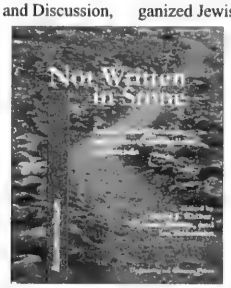
The somewhat cumbersome title of the book evokes images of a dry and dusty tome. But the substance of the book belies the image.

Edited by the late Daniel J. Elazar, president of the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, Michael Brown of York University and Ira Robinson of Concordia University, it is accessible and a trove of interesting archival tidbits.

Like a well-organized graduate seminar, the book is divided into three parts, each its own multi-faceted nugget and each nugget leading to the next.

Part I establishes the Setting. Its three essays essentially explain why and how the work came about.

Part II, the Analysis and Discussion, is also a chapter in three parts. It fleshes out and elaborates upon the purpose of the work as defined by the editors. The three essays in this part examine the different approaches to governance in Jewish communal institutions and also explores the impact of a Canadian as opposed to an American context for those structures.



The third part is a reference library of selected constitutional documents, some of which are decades old, from diverse Jewish organizations across Canada.

The book is rich in its eclecticism. The editors have combined their considerable collective knowledge to this purpose. Thus, the work integrates history with sociology and Judaic studies. Scholars will delight in the collection of new and archival material, along with the research and the comprehensiveness of the footnoting in the various essays. Casual readers will take pleasure in the sheer sweep of the information.

One of the most instructive essays for this reader was that by University of Toronto law professor Lorraine Eisenstat Weinrib, one of Canada's most renowned constitutional law experts. It explored the evolution of Canadian constitutional law from the political beginnings of Canada to the advent of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and explores the role that the Jews of Canada played in helping shape the Charter. It is a highly informative essay about the interest in and involvement of the organized Jewish community in bringing Charter rights to Canada.

"This is a story [the promotion of full and equal membership in Canadian society] in which Canada and Canadian Jewry can take great pride," Weinrib concludes. "The Jewish community's commitment to the values of liberty and equality, as well as its security within the new constitutional order, have allowed it to strive to extend the reach of Canadian constitutional justice to include other disadvantaged groups."

Not Written in Stone is a product of academic curiosity. But its reach exceeds academia. It is an interesting read for anyone interested in the history of the Jews of Canada and the type of society they helped build in this new land for themselves and for all Canadians.

—*MBD*

See JN

INTERFAITH DIALOGUE: Jason Gottlieb, Temple Emanu-El's director of education, spoke about "What are Jewish and Muslim children learning about and from each other" at a recent meeting of the Canadian Association of Jews and Muslims, a group dedicated to promoting interaction between Jews and Muslims in Canada and making joint efforts to fight anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and hate crimes. For more information, visit www.salaamshalom.com/cajm. [Stephen Epstein/Ponkawonka.com photo]

Jewish input sought in review of religious courts

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

Several Jewish organizations have been invited to make submissions to an Ontario government review of the use of religious courts in the province, including beit dins.

The appointment by Premier Dalton McGuinty earlier this summer of former NDP attorney-general Marion Boyd to review Ontario's 1991 Arbitration Act, which permits religious courts to function, was prompted by concern over a new Islamic tribunal that would use *sharia*, or Muslim law, to settle family, business and civil disputes.

Debate over the Islamic Institute for Civil Justice – the group that plans to use the act to operate panels of trained arbitrators to settle private disputes using *sharia* – has been roiling for months. Muslim women's groups in particular have expressed concern that the panels, whose decisions would be binding, would oppress women because *sharia* does not regard them as equals, especially when it comes to divorce and division of property.

Critics fear that immigrant women especially would be coerced into accepting rulings that would favour men, or else face ostracism from their community.

The International Campaign Against Sharia Courts in Canada was formed last spring and has set up a website that has gathered thousands of signatures on a petition calling on the government to halt the panels and revamp the Arbitration Act.

Others have expressed concern that the Islamic panels would constitute a parallel court and that its rulings would trump Canadian law. Officials on both sides of the debate have assured that the panels' rulings would conform to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Criminal Code and human rights legislations.

The Arbitration Act permits religious groups to resolve civil disputes within their faith, provided all parties involved consent to the process.

Under the act, the Jewish community has been operating beit dins for years to resolve mainly business and commercial disputes. Native groups, Ismaili Muslims and in some instances, Catholics also use the act to operate internal religious courts.

Concern over Muslim sharia tribunals prompts provincial investigation

Boyd told *The CJN* that it is not her intent to repeal the Arbitration Act or those sections pertaining to religious groups but to ensure that the vulnerable are protected.

"That includes women, new immigrants and the disabled. We're concerned about the elderly, too," Boyd said.

She said her mandate is to review "the broad picture of how the Arbitration Act is used," as well as the "implications if we removed arbitration" – presumably leaving religious communities to settle disputes using non-binding mediation.

She said she will try to find "what, if any, protections can be built into the act, [and] not to take away established rights." She stressed that decisions of religious courts would have to conform to Canadian law.

Boyd said she will seek the views of Canadian Jewish Congress, Jewish Women International, the Canadian branch of the Coalition of Jewish Women for the Get, the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews, and Auberge Shalom, a Montreal shelter for Jewish women.

As well, Toronto family lawyer John Sytrash is preparing a submission on beit dins.

Evelyn Brook, the Montreal-based president of the Coalition of Jewish Women for the Get, said one of the issues before Jewish women is whether they can trust a beit din.

"There are some a woman will trust, and some she won't. It's a question of how they interpret Jewish law," she said. "Our concern has always been that a woman be allowed to take an advocate with her."

She said that in Israel, women appearing before a beit din to obtain a *get*, or a Jewish divorce decree, are permitted to bring advisers, known as *toanim* or *toanot*, who are schooled in Halachah, or Jewish law. She said she would like to see the practice brought to North America.

Brook said she understands the concerns of Muslim women in Ontario.

Women opposed to *sharia* courts have argued, among other things, that Islamic family law dictates that male heirs receive a greater share of inheritance than females (in order to look after female relatives); that only husbands may initiate divorce; that fathers are usually awarded custody of children, and in extreme cases, that fathers may force their underage daughters to marry.

They also fear that many Muslim women would be pressured into relying on the *sharia* panels instead of secular courts.

Rabbi Reuven Tradburks, secretary of the Toronto beit din, explained that while Halachah forbids Jews from taking each other to secular court, the Shulchan Aruch (code of Jewish practice) allows a Jew recourse in a secular court if all else fails.

"We are not coercive," he said.

Homa Arjomand, co-ordinator of the International Campaign Against Sharia Courts in Canada, held a three-hour meeting with Boyd on July 15. Arjomand, a Toronto social worker who says she has seen the worst of *sharia* in her native Iran, argued that family law must be removed from the Arbitration Act.

The issue has resonated around the world. Protests are scheduled for Sept. 8 in front of Canadian embassies in several European countries and in cities across Canada.

Boyd's report is due Sept. 30.

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Cdn. Presbyterians reject Israeli divestment

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The Presbyterian Church of Canada, unlike its counterpart in the United States, has not called for divestment from Israel.

Responding to a query from the Canadian Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, Rev. Stephen Kendall, principal clerk of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, stated late last month that the church has "not adopted any resolution with respect to divestment in Israel."

The Canadian church's statement came after last month's controversial decision by Presbyterian Church (USA) to stop investing in Israel.

Meeting at its 216th annual General Assembly in Richmond, Va., the U.S. church, which has about 3 million members, also equated Israel with apartheid South Africa.

The vote to sever economic ties with Israel was approved 431-62. The church is believed to be the largest organization or institution to join the divestment campaign against Israel and is the first Christian denomination in the United States to do so.

"The Canadian Presbyterian Church, by refusing to go along with such a one-sided and inappropriate resolution, is helping both the cause of peace in the Middle East and the need for Canadians of all faiths to realize that Israel is the only democracy in that part of the world," Leo Adler, director of national affairs for Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center in Toronto, said in a statement. "To equate Israel with apartheid is not only completely false, but contrary to reality in Israel.

"We thank the church for their integrity," Adler added.

The U.S. church's call for divestment is seen as a potential serious matter for Israel: In 2001 the combined value of its foundation and pension fund was estimated at $7 billion (US).

According to the decision, any company earning more than $1 million annually as a result of investments in Israel, or which invests more than $1 million a year in Israel, will be entered on a blacklist prepared for church leaders. The church is now likely to divest from any company appearing on that list.

"By reaching this decision we want to make sure that we are not investing in activities of the kind we are trying to prevent. We see so much violence, and we want to assure ourselves that we have nothing to do with it," said Jay Rock, coordinator for interfaith relations at Presbyterian Church (USA).

Rock said the new divestment policy is motivated by more than a desire to insulate and detach Presbyterians from the violent Israeli-Palestinian dispute. He said the church also has an affirmative desire to "make our voice heard about the direction of Israeli policy."

Leaders of Presbyterian Church (USA), a mainline Protestant denomination, approved several other anti-Israel resolutions and also refused to halt funding for so-called messianic congregations which target Jews for conversion.

James Rudin, senior interreligious adviser to the American Jewish Committee, called the Presbyterian actions "a catastrophic disaster."

Leaders of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) strongly criticized the divestment resolutions in a letter to Presbyterian leader Rev. Clifton Kirkpatrick.

"To assert that there is a moral equivalency between the racist policy of apartheid and the efforts to protect the citizenry of Israel is unconscionable," said the ADL. The resolution "calls into question the efforts of interfaith dialogue between Presbyterians and Jews."

Presbyterian Church (USA) spokesperson Rock told the *Forward* that Jewish-Presbyterian relations "are very good." The only problem is a "wildly different opinion on how to go about resolving the Israeli-Palestinian situation. I think there's a blindness on both sides of the disagreement. I think there's truth on both sides."

Rabbi Gary Bretton-Granatoor, interfaith director for the ADL, said the divestment measure by the U.S. Presbyterians signalled "a new phase of aggressive behaviour in the expression of their feelings toward the Israeli-Palestinian conflict."

He said that while the ADL and other American Jewish organizations maintain contacts with the Presbyterian church, the denomination's leaders did not inform the American Jewish leadership about preparations for the divestment policy – nor did the Presbyterians give the organized American Jewish community a chance to respond to the developments at their general assembly.

The church said it plans to issue a clarifying statement soon, saying that it will not boycott every company that invests in Israel or earns profits from business with Israel.

Rather, the Presbyterians want to direct the divestment policy toward "companies that might cause damage and hurt the peace process," Rock said.

Singled out for special attention was U.S. tractor and heavy equipment manufacturer Caterpillar, whose products have been alleged to be used by the Israeli army to raze Palestinian houses in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Sources in the Presbyterian Church said they don't know whether their church has investments in Caterpillar.

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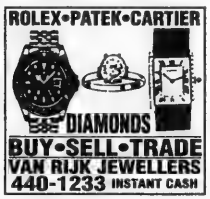

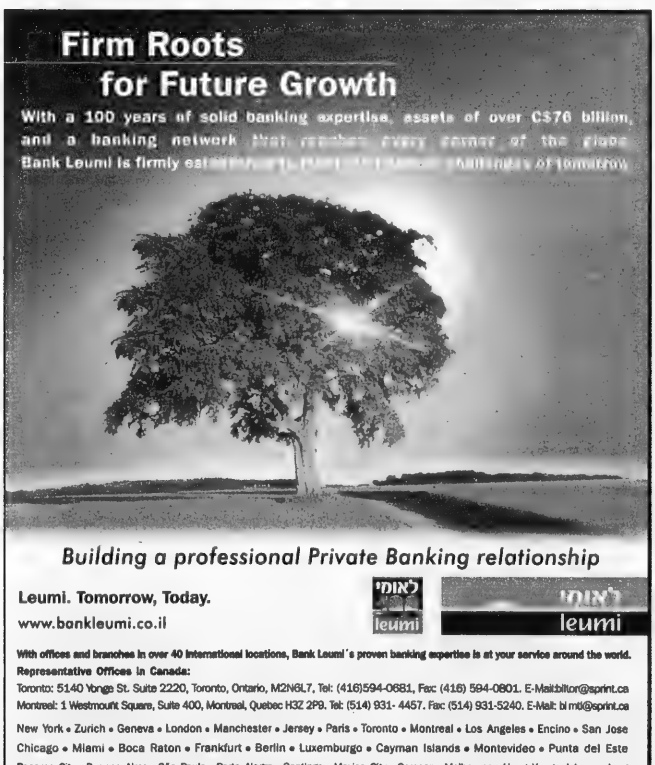
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Anti-Muslim graffiti at Ryerson deplored

The government of Ontario last week joined Jewish and Muslim groups in condemning anti-Muslim graffiti found in late June at a multifaith room at Ryerson University.

Attorney General Michael Bryant said "incidents designed to degrade, threaten or intimidate anyone have no place in Ontario."

"The battle against hate and prejudice… requires a concerted effort on the part of all right-thinking, honest, humane people and organizations to take on this struggle by speaking out," said Monte Kwinter, minister of community safety and correctional services.

The ministers were responding to reports that on June 23 a multifaith prayer room often used by Muslim students was sprayed with graffiti that stated, "Die Muslims Die," and included Stars of David.

News of the graffiti was reported in mid-July by the Canadian Arab Federation (CAF), based on descriptions provided by Ryerson students. Ryerson officials acknowledged the incident, but declined to describe the nature of the graffiti in detail.

Canadian Jewish Congress deplored the incident, calling it "a despicable act."

"These kinds of attacks are abhorrent and cannot be tolerated in our society," said Joel Richler, chair of Congress' Ontario region. "No one should have to suffer this kind of racism."

"An attack against one of us is an attack against all of us," said Ed Morgan, Congress' national president. "This is an unacceptable act and efforts should not be spared in identifying the perpetrators and dealing with them accordingly."

In a news release, the CAF called on Ryerson's administration to treat the incident as a hate crime and to involve police in the investigation.

The Canadian Islamic Congress (CIC) welcomed Ontario's condemnation of the incident, but the CIC's president, Mohamed Elmasry, also stated, "The CIC has gone on record saying that government officials frequently downplay anti-Muslim acts, while emphatically condemning anti-Semitism, or anti-Judaism. To see evidence now of a public course correction in our government's approach to any form of hate-crime is greatly appreciated."

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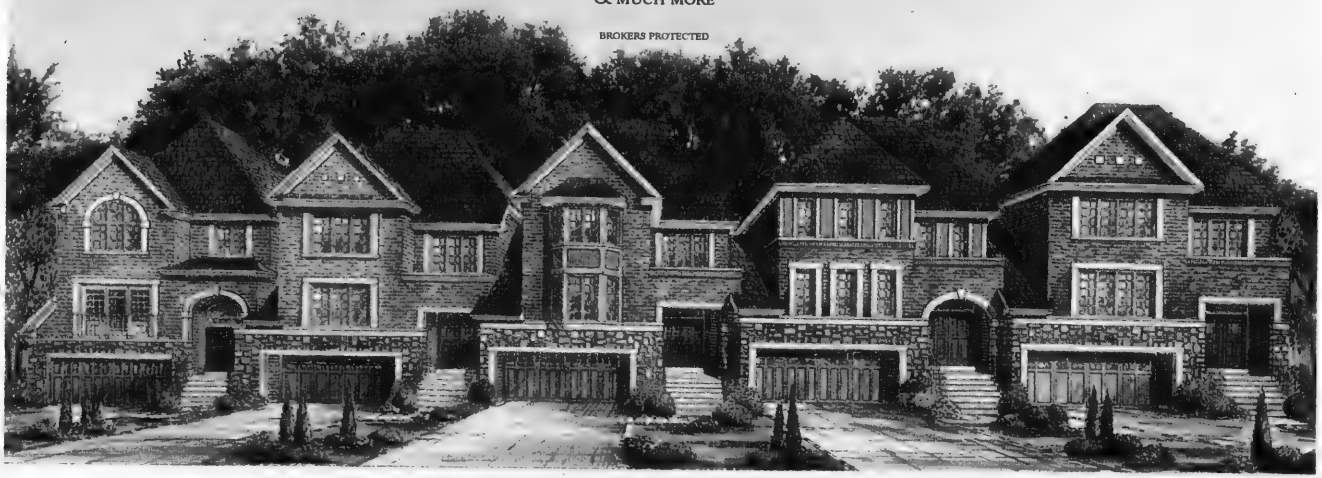

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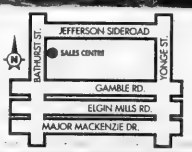

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Dry Bones

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An international threat to peace

Can there be any doubt after the legal and diplomatic charade last week in Tehran that Iran has now become the chief threat to peace in the world? The inhumane, brutal taking of Canadian Zahra Kazemi's life and the lies and prevarications regarding its cover-up ought put an end to the notion that there is any basis on which to trust the theocratic, tyrannical Iranian regime.

What is most troubling, however, about the behaviour of the Iranian government in the Kazemi affair is not the brazen flouting of even minimal norms of fairness, decency and civility. Rather, it is the alarming fact that such behaviour has itself become the norm for the ruling ayatollahs. There is no other conclusion to be drawn from the pattern of Iran's behaviour during the past years.

The most cursory examination of the ayatollahs' record tells the malign tale.

• They have established ties with Al Qaeda. That is now indisputable. The 9/11 Commission has reported that nine of the Sept. 11 terrorists travelled through Tehran on their way to their murderous mission.

• They have been caught lying repeatedly to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) about the nature of, and their intentions for, Iran's nuclear reactors.

• They are the chief funders and supporters of terrorists cells in the world today.

• They head the most virulently anti-Israel regime in the world, leading the charge to destroy the Jewish state. They arm, equip and direct Hezbollah in south Lebanon and have provided their Shi'ite proxies thousands of missiles, many newer and longer range, that are aimed at Israel. They purchase arms for PA President Yasser Arafat's out-of-control militias. They fund Islamist terror cells in Gaza and the West Bank. And they are trying to foment insurgency among Israeli Muslims in the Galilee.

Last week, Revolutionary Guards Commander Seyed Masood Jazayeri was quoted by the Iranian student news agency ISNA as saying Iran would "wipe Israel off the map" if Israel attacked the Islamic Republic's nuclear sites. Rumours also swirled that Iran was spearheading efforts to equip the rockets it has supplied to Hezbollah with unconventional warheads.

The international community must act against Iran. The risks of inaction – not only to Israel but to the entire world – are simply too great.

In an editorial last week, *The Globe and Mail* argued that "Tehran must be made to feel the heat over its shameful record on domestic human rights." But there is a great deal more for which Iran must be made "to feel the heat." Iran's calculated anti-Western and anti-Israel policies threaten international peace and security.

Zahra Kazemi's murder is symptomatic of a far deeper dysfunction than disregard for domestic human rights. It bespeaks a contemptuous, dangerous disregard for human life.

Criticism of ICJ overstated

I read Ben Archibald's analysis of the court decisions on the Israeli security fence ("A tale of two courts and two rulings," July 29) and wish to voice my opinion.

Without wishing to be an apologist for the International Court of Justice, I think Archibald's criticism, as well as that of other pro-Israel commentators, overstates the case by labelling the court indifferent to Jewish lives. The court ruled that the route of the fence is contrary to international law. It did not say Israel could not erect a fence on the Green Line. The fact that Israel may have legitimate geo-political reasons not to do so does not necessarily mesh well with the international legal principles that the court based its decision on.

Given the question posed to it by the United Nations General Assembly, the court could hardly have reached any other decision, and Israel chose not to argue the merits of the case. Israel objected to the ICJ's jurisdiction and I understand that it did not try to justify the barrier to the court. The court was operating under the premise, as determined by the General Assembly, that the West Bank lands on which the fence was built are illegally occupied. As such, it was a foregone conclusion that the judges would rule that the fence is illegal. When Archibald notes that the court said it was not convinced that the route of the fence is necessary for security objectives, he overlooks the fact that Israel did not argue the point and that its own Supreme Court – in a separate, earlier ruling – concurred with the ICJ's decision, at least in part.

I think Archibald lets the Israeli court off too easily. Many are uncomfortable with the extent to which the Supreme Court feels it can overrule military decisions. It stated that it generally accepts the opinion of the Israel Defence Forces on military matters, but then substituted its own judgment for that of the military in ruling that parts of the fence must be moved. It remains to be seen if this interventionist trend will continue to pick up strength and how it will affect the security of the nation.

Morris Sosnovitch
Toronto

* * *

ICJ ignores terrorism

In 1945, the International Organization of Nations, consisting then of 50 independent countries, was established by permanent charter in San Francisco to promote and maintain international peace and security and foster understanding between free nations.

But since Israel's declaration of independence in 1948, the organization now known as the United Nations has surrendered its raison d'être to the whims and diatribes of Arab countries and their supporters.

Today, Arab countries and their allies repeatedly assault the Jewish state with foul reports and false and injurious charges, while downplaying terror attacks launched against it from Palestinian areas. Meanwhile, lawlessness, intimidation, incompetence and widespread corruption have turned the West Bank and Gaza into areas of enduring violence.

When it comes to Israel and the Middle East, the United Nations applies legal norms selectively. The UN's International Court of Justice ruled recently that Israel's security fence is a violation of international law, but it ignored the Arab countries that promote and fund incessant attacks against Israeli citizens, and it failed to call for the immediate dismantling of terror networks by Palestinian leaders. It also ignored the fact that many other countries have similar barriers.

Israel is a small country whose safety and existence is being challenged by an international organization that purports to provide equal treatment to all countries.

Albert L. Stal
Toronto

* * *

Accuses *CJN* of bias

I hold you personally responsible for the specious and narrow-minded bent of your paper.

Maybe the word "Liberal" should precede "Canadian" in your name and you should eliminate the unnecessary word "Jewish," making it the *Liberal Canadian News* instead of the nonsensical *The Canadian Jewish News*.

Are Jews in this city, province, country infiltrated with such left-wing brain cramp, general apathy and just plain tiredness of the constant betrayal by and of our own Jewish so-called leaders, to such an extent that this fatigue and sometimes hopelessness demonstrate that we are forever stuck in this quicksand of Liberal dictatorship, which has proven unequivocally, by its own members, that it is anti-Israel and, oh yes, very anti-Conservative? Wake up!

We've been insulted by the truly undignified and useless United Nations, and now by incumbent Liberal cabinet ministers. I feel similarly about your sycophantic missives that protect your Liberal Party bias. It is time you showed fairness.

Victor Redlick
Toronto

* * *

Looking for Lemkin

I am writing a biography of Raphael Lemkin (1900-1959), the father of the United Nations Genocide Convention. After World War II, he helped his brother Elias Lemkin to settle in Canada, with the aid of his cousin Ruth Agulnik of Montreal. I am seeking information about Elias Lemkin, his wife Lisa and their two sons.The Lemkins were also friendly with a Mr. Roskies of Grosvenor Street in Montreal. I would be happy to hear from anyone who has information about the Lemkins.

John Cooper
131 Broadhurst Gardens
London NW6 3BJ England
E-mail: johnandjudycooper@btinternet.com

* * *

Looking for Newman

I would be grateful for any help in obtaining any information about, or locating any relatives of, my grandfather, Mr. J. Newman, who once resided at 89 Brunswick Ave. in Toronto. His sister was named Chana Hinda and she married Laizer Herszkopf.

Yitzhak Herszkopf Silbert
P.O. Box 5419
Ashkelon, Israel

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CJC rallied to keep Canada out of Berlin's 1936 Olympics

By DANNY ROSENBERG

During the last two weeks of August, most of the world's attention will be focused on the Olympic Games in Athens.

The deflection this event will create away from other global affairs and domestic problems and the political gains to be accrued by the country in which they are held are perceived benefits that were not lost on other cities and countries that have, in the past, hosted the greatest sport spectacle of the modern era.

The exploitation of sport to advance international political objectives was perfected in Nazi Germany, when Berlin hosted the XIth Olympiad in 1936. By that time, the Nuremberg Laws had been enacted, and Europe was nervously watching German expansion on many fronts. The Games were awarded to Germany by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in 1933, the year Hitler came to power.

Thousands of Jews in several Canadian cities protested the anti-Jewish activities of the Nazis. However, the spread of anti-Semitism was not restricted to Germany.

The anti-Jewish climate in Canada had worsened in the 1920s and '30s, and that had a profound impact on the Jewish community. Efforts to warn the Canadian public about the dangers of German fascism and the growth of anti-Semitism at home led to requests throughout 1933 to reconstitute the Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC), which had become inactive after holding one general meeting in 1919. When Congress reconvened in January 1934, it served as an umbrella body for local Jewish organizations throughout the country, although several important Jewish groups remained outside its fold.

According to historian Irving Abella, the main objectives of the new CJC were to lobby the Canadian government to allow more Jewish immigration, fight against anti-Semitism, support Jewish settlement in Palestine and fund Jewish communal activities.

Congress relied on a handful of Jewish elected officials in all three levels of government to educate non-Jewish politicians about the plight of Jews at home and abroad. Leaders in the Christian community were solicited for their support in combating anti-Semitism. Anti-defamation efforts were coordinated with labour and union organizations, as well as newly created anti-fascist groups.

The most aggressive scheme to emerge from the alliance was the decision to support the international boycott movement of German goods. As part of this campaign, between 1934 and 1936, the CJC tried to prevent Canadian participation in the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin.

The first call to boycott the Nazi Olympics came from Canada's Communist Party, because it believed that "true sportsmanship" required peace and respect for human rights – two ideals it felt did not exist in Germany.

Archival documents from the CJC show that the Olympic Games were first mentioned in relation to the second international German boycott conference in Europe. In a letter to Congress dated July 3, 1934, Cyril Henrique, secretary of London's Jewish Representative Council, suggested that the CJC launch an "attack" on the Berlin Games. To pressure the Canadian Olympic Committee (COC) and other sport governing bodies, a strategy demonstrating that Jewish athletes would not receive fair treatment by the German regime was recommended. By the end of 1934, Congress was under the impression the strategy had paid off and the COC had decided Canada would not participate in the Berlin Games if there was discrimination against Jewish athletes from Germany.

Still, in the second half of 1935, efforts were stepped up in Canada, in line with opposition forces throughout the world, to halt decisions about participating in the Olympics. The Amateur Athletic Union of Canada (AAUC), whose support was needed by the COC, convened in Halifax in mid-November to make a final decision on Canada's entry or withdrawal from the Games. Most boycott appeals led up to this one crucial meeting to sway the vote against Olympic participation.

In August, CJC general secretary, Hannaniah Meier Caiserman, prepared reports of persecution against German Jewish sport organizations. The reports were taken to national level meetings of the AAUC.

Many Jewish communities in Canada knew about the Olympic boycott movement and Jews raised the issue locally. For example, in October, M.I. Lieberman of Edmonton met with Sgt. John Leslie, secretary of the AAUC and other important sport officials. Part of his letter to the head office of the CJC states, "I have Sgt. Leslie's assurance that he will vote against sending any Canadian athletes to the Olympic games in Germany."

A Hamilton rowing club sent out raffle tickets to raise money for the Olympics. When potential Jewish supporters were solicited, many sent the tickets back in protest.

In early November, a CJC archival letter indicates that Dr. M. Stitt, president of Lake Cities Lodge B'nai Brith, Fort William, Ont., served notice of motion against participation at the Olympics to the Thunder Bay Athletic Association.

Moses Finkelstein, president of the Western division of the CJC, met with members of the AAUC and expressed his frustration with those athletic officials who would not make public commitments against Canada's involvement in the Olympics.

Congress representatives Zimmerman and Levin presented the CJC's Olympic position before an executive meeting of the British Columbia Amateur Athletic Union in Vancouver.

Finally, Rabbi Maurice Eisendrath of Toronto's Holy Blossom Temple met with P.J. Mulqueen, president of the COC, to urge the leader of Canada's Olympic movement to boycott the Games. Of this meeting, Rabbi Eisendrath reported, "He was cordial and sympathetic, but diplomatically non-commital [sic]."

The CJC not only followed a national sport and athletic strategy in its Olympic boycott efforts, but it was also informed of or aligned to other boycott initiatives. For example, there was Canadian Jewish representation at American Amateur Athletic Union (AAAU) meetings, at which the boycott question was fiercely debated. The CJC was aware of the progress and details of those discussions. Congress was also asked to endorse the international boycott movement through the Paris-based International Committee on Fair Play in Sport.

Throughout October and November 1935, the CJC worked with labour unions, anti-fascist groups and religious bodies to specifically protest Canadian participation in the Berlin Olympics. At a Toronto Labour Anti-Nazi conference, a circular was sent to organizations throughout the city asking them to send wires to the AAUC's Halifax meeting, demanding that Canada boycott the Games. A resolution of the International Association of Machinists endorsed Winnipeg City Council's refusal to assist sending athletes to the Olympics.

All of the preceding examples indicate that the "official" voice of the Canadian Jewish community, the CJC, worked on a national and international scale, alone and with others, on behalf of the Olympic boycott movement. Unfortunately, Congress' message, together with the appeals of numerous organizations, did not make a significant impact, especially among those in the sport community. On November 21, 1935, in Halifax, the resolutions committee of the AAUC passed a motion unanimously, and with no discussion, that Canada follow the lead of Great Britain, whose Olympic committee decided in February to attend the Berlin Games.

By early 1936, the Olympic question was no longer a significant issue and only the general German boycott program was still pursued by the CJC. Canada would eventually send 100 athletes to Germany, including at least one Jewish athlete from Windsor who played on the silver medal-winning basketball team.

Two Jewish Olympic boxing hopefuls, Sammy Luftspring and Ben Yackubowitz, did boycott the Olympics by refusing to go to the national trials in Montreal. The CJC, in part, supported their attempt to participate at the International Workers' Olympics in Barcelona, but the anti-fascist games never came off due to the start of the Spanish Civil War.

Boycott of the Nazi Olympics failed in Canada, but what is remarkable is the extent and scope to which the CJC became involved in this campaign. Just six months after being reconstituted, it was already considering the call to boycott. When it joined the movement in earnest in 1935, Congress representatives across the country met with sport organizations, leaders of regional and national sport governing bodies, sports writers and government officials.

CJC efforts were co-ordinated with left-wing political groups (but not the Communist Party), labour organizations, educators and members of the clergy, Jewish and workers' sports clubs, and some international opposition committees.

Although the CJC did not take a visible lead in the boycott campaign, it played a vital role in the movement and recognized that the Nazi Olympics were part of the struggle against anti-Semitism at home and abroad.

Danny Rosenberg, PhD, teaches sport history and philosophy at Brock University in St. Catharines, Ont.

The opening of the summer Olympic Games in Berlin 1936.

Boycott of the Nazi Olympics failed in Canada

A rampant disease

David Mamet, the great American playwright, makes an important distinction between what he calls real and imaginary Jews.

In an article in Ron Rosenbaum's *Those Who Forget The Past*, a massive anthology of reflections about contemporary anti-Semitism, Mamet writes, "Imaginary Jews are the delight of the world. They include Anne Frank, Janusz Korczak, the Warsaw ghetto fighters, and the movie stars in Exodus."

Rabbi Dow Marmur in Toronto

Perhaps Jesus the Jew should also be included in this list. It may explain why ardent Christians, often on the left, pass impressive resolutions in favour of Judaism in the abstract, yet are less than supportive of Jews in the flesh, particularly in Israel.

Mamet observes that imaginary Jews "delight the world in their willingness to die heroically as a form of entertainment." On the other hand, "the plight of actual Jews... has traditionally been more problematic."

Israel is about real Jews who are alive and determined to survive. Much of the hostility towards the Jewish state is due to this fact. Actual Israelis destroy the fantasy of imaginary forbears and fictitious contemporaries.

It is not easy to admit to a suspicion that the world prefers dead Jews to living Jews, especially if you believe that the western world should know better. Although Americans – perhaps also Canadians – still have such knowledge, travelling in Europe makes me wonder about the integrity of today's custodians of the cradle of western civilization.

The present worldwide revival of anti-Semitism may indeed be inspired by sinister forces in the Muslim world. However, the way this hatred has been embraced in Europe is ominous. Though anti-Semitism isn't state-sponsored as it was in Nazi Germany and still is in many Muslim countries, its prevalence in circles we thought knew better suggests that the disease of anti-Semitism has only been in remission in Europe. There is little evidence that it has ever been cured.

Medical terminology points to anti-Semitism as a disease of the non-Jewish world. Author and professor Bernard Lewis, arguably the foremost authority on the Middle East, says Muslims seem to have caught the disease from Europeans, and are using it for their own purposes. In its present mutation, anti-Semitism is as virulent and as dangerous as it was in the past.

Jews can help with the diagnosis and urge the patient to act on doctors' orders, but only the non-Jewish world can cure itself of the disease. Jews in Israel and the Diaspora can make sure they protect themselves as much as possible from the effects of this illness.

Mamet writes that "the western world is... deeply confused between the real and the imaginary." We must help it clear up the confusion – for its sake and for our own.

Au revoir, and thanks

It's been two years since I started writing this column, but I've only come a few inches closer to understanding who – and what – it is that I am.

As a secular Jew whose ties to the community were initially not as strong as I would have liked them to be, I have found that trying to strengthen them has been a complicated and extremely rewarding process.

Barbara Balfour in Calgary

I now understand that being a Jew carries a sense of obligation. For some people, realizing that obligation means marrying a Jew, while for others it means keeping Shabbat and observing the Jewish holidays.

For me, I have discovered that my obligation lies in continuing to tell our stories, to use my pen to make up for my lack of Jewish education and experiences growing up. I want to help keep our stories alive for others who are looking in, to remember what has led us to where we are today.

Being a Jew isn't just about matzah balls, Hebrew, or a common genetic code.

Being a Jew is, however, an emotional experience, because of the baggage we carry and our shared history that is so rife with wrongdoing at the hands of other people.

It is often about the challenge of reconciling your future with not only the ghosts of your own past, but also with those of your parents, grandparents and even your great-grandparents.

It's about burden and heartache, but it's also about pride and resilience.

Most of all, it is about finding your place in the world and standing up for yourself at times when others may not – and often will not – always understand you.

I know that sometimes, I will still feel like an outsider among my fellow Jews – but I've come to accept that that's OK. After two years of making my foray into this new world, I won't be quite as cautious in the future about diving right in, and I won't feel the need to be politically correct about it.

I marvel at how far I've come in educating myself, and at what can happen with the passage of time. In a way, my columns have been like letters to myself in the future. In them, I have shared some of my most intimate and searing moments with you, my readers, and I have only become better for it.

Perhaps the best realization that I have come to is that out there, somewhere – indeed, practically anywhere – are people just like me, who feel the way I do, see the world the way I see it and continue to question, daily, who they are and what their obligations to the world and to their faith are.

Readers have have contacted me from as far away as Brazil and Israel, as well as from right here in Calgary or a stone's throw away in Edmonton.

I see my columns as an ongoing dialogue – about myself, about others and about the state of the world. I don't know where else I could have gotten such a marvelous experience or such a diverse education about what it means to be a Jew. There's nothing quite like the act of finding yourself when you get to do it in a public forum.

Thank you all for listening, for reading and for understanding when I expressed views not necessarily congruent with your own. Thanks for your e-mails, your encouragement and your kind words.

The time has come for me to move on – to other worlds and other ventures. This experience will always remain a large part of who I am and who I will become in the future. You, my readers, will also remain a part of me.

I hope that some day we will meet again.

In fact, I'm pretty sure we will.

Barbara Balfour can be reached at bbalfour@ucalgary.ca.

The Israeli way

Last week, a would-be suicide bomber was within steps of a popular Jerusalem café when he turned around and decided not to become a *shahid*.

In addition to the dynamite strapped around his waist, he had a gun. He planned to shoot the security guard standing at the café's entrance and then run into the shop, so as to kill as many people as possible.

We will never know why this man turned around, because he was killed in gunfire when the Israel Defence Forces invaded the house in which he was staying.

Joanna Grossman in Halifax

I have been in Jerusalem for a month now, and I admit that this would-be suicide bomber caught me off-guard.

When I first arrived here, I was very much a Canadian on Israeli soil. As I sat on the patio of a bar, I couldn't help but keep my eyes on the people walking by, rather than on my boyfriend sitting across the table. I was nervous.

I am working at a think-tank, so in addition to the fact that the news is all about the security fence, my days are also filled with the details of the arguments about the fence, since I am editing a soon-to-be-published article on the fence, written by a lawyer, Justus Weiner.

As the UN passes yet another resolution, I can confidently say that the countries who speak against Israel and the fence without bothering to take a look at what's going on are not on moral high ground.

Last May and June, when I spent two months in Israel, it was a different time. The bus that went through the Jerusalem neighbourhood in which I lived was blown up, killing and injuring many.

A good friend of mine took that bus every day – from the *Jerusalem Post*, where he was an intern, to the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies, which we both attended. Thankfully, he wasn't on the bus the day it blew up, but it was a close enough call for me to understand what was going on.

The successes of the fence, despite its failings, are evident to anyone on the streets.

This summer, the atmosphere in Jerusalem has changed. The streets are filled with tour buses, and you can't go anywhere in the city without running into one of the many Birthright tour groups. Ben-Yehuda Street is jammed every night with a food festival.

I think it is fair to say that no one is surprised by the hypocrisy of the International Court of Justice (ICJ). The judgment against Israel was implicit in the question the United Nations originally submitted to the international court.

As well, the fact that so many nations objected to the court's jurisdiction on the issue, an issue which is political rather than legal, doesn't seem to have influenced the countries that voted the court's recommendation into a new UN Resolution.

None of this comes as a shock, yet when one stops for a moment to think about the situation, it's hard to comprehend.

I always fear appealing to anti-Semitism as an explanation of international responses to Israel. I want to believe that underlying even the most irrational responses to Israel, there is some justification that cannot be reduced to anti-Semitism.

However, as the international community persists in failing to recognize the severity of the terrorist threat Israel is facing, it becomes increasingly difficult to understand why Israel is subject to constant criticism, while human rights abuses and violations of international law continue throughout the world with no response.

One need only look to the recent judgment of Israel's High Court of Justice, in which the defence ministry was ordered to reroute some 30 kilometres of the security fence, to understand that Israel does not need external castigations to assume an introspective stance and faithfully evaluate policy and procedure.

Whatever the political situation is, the one thing that never changes, especially on the streets of Jerusalem, is the willingness of Israelis to debate, discuss, and consider politics and policy in a way that only Israelis can – with absolute honesty and no ulterior motives.

That's the Israeli way.

The Kirshner File

Cheddi and Janet Jagan: Guyana's odd couple

Politics should definitely be in Nadira Jagan-Brancier's blood, given her distinguished pedigree. As the daughter of two former presidents of Guyana – a developing country situated on the northern coast of South America – she ought to be fixated by politics.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Yet curiously enough, politics hardly inspires her, at least on a purely personal level.

"I was never involved in politics," said Jagan-Brancier, a 48-year-old jeweller who lives in the rustic Ontario town of Milton with her husband and two teenage children. "I don't get into politics."

Yet Jagan-Brancier has enormous respect for her parents, Cheddi and Janet (née Rosenberg), and basically agrees with their left-wing views.

She runs a website dedicated in their honour (www.Jagan.org). She has written a self-published book about her late father, *Cheddi Jagan: My Fight for Guyana's Freedom*. And thanks to the support of a network of friends, she and her mother have established a non-profit institution – the Cheddi Jagan Center – in Georgetown, Guyana's capital, to promote and perpetuate his socialist ideas.

"I want them to live on," she explained. "He was a great man. He fought for Guyana's independence, the rights of the poor and universal suffrage."

By most standards, Jagan, an East Indian, and Janet, an American Jew – the subjects of Suzanne Wasserman's intriguing biopic *Thunder in Guyana*, which was screened at the recent Toronto Jewish Film Festival – were certainly an odd couple.

They met at Wayne State University in the early 1940s, when they were both students and idealistic radicals and Guyana was still a European colony known as British Guiana.

The only British imperial outpost in South America, it was settled by the Dutch in the late 16th century and wrested away by the British in 1831. A multiracial hodgepodge consisting of East Indians, Africans, Amerindians, Portuguese, Chinese and people of mixed race, British Guiana was granted independence in 1966.

But long before this physically spectacular but economically impoverished nation achieved statehood, the Jagans were doggedly fighting for that objective.

They could not have been more different in terms of upbringing and race.

Jagan was the son of hard-working Hindus who struggled to eke out a living on a sugar plantation. Janet, born in Chicago, was raised in a leafy middle-class neighbourhood. When she was a young woman, she took flying lessons, a luxury the Jagans could scarcely have afforded.

Wasserman, Janet's younger cousin, does not explain why and when the pair embraced Marxism. But their identical political beliefs must have been an integral factor in cementing their romance.

Janet's conventionally conservative parents opposed their marriage – so much so that her father, Charlie, threatened to shoot Jagan on sight. Janet, however, was not intimidated. "Nothing much frightened me," she observes in *Thunder in Guyana*.

They arrived in British Guiana in 1943, when World War II was raging. Janet's presence in Jagan's family circle caused shock waves. What was a nice Jewish girl doing in a tropical backwater like this?

Initially, they attempted to organize poorly paid sugar workers. But when they realized they could be more effective as politicians, the Jagans threw themselves into the struggle for national independence.

In 1950, they established the People's Progressive Party, British Guiana's first modern political party. Three years later, at the height of the McCarthyist era in the United States, Jagan was elected chief minister, while Janet was elected deputy speaker of parliament. Being the first Marxist leader in the western hemisphere, Jagan was viewed suspiciously by Britain and the United States.

Deposed by Britain after 133 days, the Jagans were summarily arrested, spending the next six months in prison. But in 1957, they were back as government ministers, working to eradicate malaria and obtain vacation pay for the toiling masses. By then, the United States had revoked her citizenship.

When Jagan was elected prime minister in 1961, Janet was widely regarded as his eminence grise. "Mom would be blamed if people didn't like dad's policy," said Jagan-Brancier, who was twice beaten up by classmates during this period. "She was a scapegoat, and the opposition used racial obscenities and slurs against her."

Some adversaries went so far as to link her to American atomic spies Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, to whom she was not related.

In one of his first steps as president, Jagan travelled to the United States to try to convince U.S. President John F. Kennedy to support Guiana's bid for sovereignty. But he failed, Kennedy being suspicious of his views.

Several years later, in 1964, Forbes Burnham, Jagan's former ally, defeated him in what was widely considered a rigged election. In opposition, the Jagans were mistreated by Burnham, Jagan-Brancier said. "My father was treated like dirt," she comments in the film. When Janet wanted to make a speech in parliament, Burnham would say, "Sit down, you stupid American."

Jagan roared back to power in 1992 in what, *Thunder in Guyana* claims, was the first free and fair election in Guyana's history. He died on March 6, 1997 of a heart attack.

A new election was called and Janet, the editor of *Thunder* – the official organ of the People's Progressive Party – and a person who considered herself a freedom fighter, was asked to campaign for the presidency.

Nadira Jagan-Brancier, left, with her father, brother and mother.

"She didn't really want to run for president," recalled Jagan-Brancier, saying her mother has never craved or enjoyed the limelight. "But she felt it was her duty."

It was a close election, but Janet won, becoming Guyana's first Jewish, foreign-born, female president, and reportedly the first American woman to be elected president of a foreign country.

Local newspapers dubbed her "Bubbe of Guyana" and "Mother of the Nation."

Felled by a heart attack herself, Janet was forced to resign 20 months into her presidency.

"She regretted having to give up the office. Basically, she carried on dad's policy. She had been quite ill before winning the election. The job would have killed her."

In Jagan-Brancier's estimation, *Thunder in Guyana* is an accurate portrayal of her parents. "It's a good overview."

But there are gaps.

"My mother has been a children's book writer and political journalist for most of her life, and that doesn't come out."

And her commitment to women's and children's rights, for which she was awarded a United Nations medal, is omitted as well.

Although Wasserman alludes to it early on, Janet's Jewish background is also peripheral in the film.

"It's not played a big part in her life," said Jagan-Brancier. "We're not a religious family, but we're not anti-religious either. My brother and I were not brought up Jewish. Basically, I'm an atheist."

Janet, who turns 84 in October, has since recovered from her heart attack. "But she still has a lot of health problems."

These days, she occupies herself with party affairs a couple of times a week and works on Guyana's national art collection.

"Art is one of her passions," explained Jagan-Brancier, who studied jewelry design in Guyana and was then a jeweller apprentice in Los Angeles.

That was where she met her husband, Mark, a gemologist, in 1981. They moved to Milton the following year and have resided there ever since.

Though they live thousands of kilometres and a continent apart, she and her mother are in constant touch. Janet is a regular visitor to Milton, just west of Toronto, but she finds it quite boring.

Just as attached to Guyana as her mother, Jagan-Brancier visits Georgetown once or twice a year. "I like the weather better there. I never became accustomed to the cold. And I prefer the way of life in Guyana. Here you work and work. There the pace is slower. Not everyone is running all the time."

She doubts whether she will ever return permanently. "I would still like to live in Guyana, but unfortunately, it won't happen. We have a business here, and my husband wouldn't want to start over again."

As for her famous mother, Jagan-Brancier is quite sure she is in Guyana to stay.

"She would never leave Guyana."

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Jewish Life

Genealogy as a labour of love

By ZE'EV GLICENSTEIN

"I'm working on a book of family history," Sara Edell Kelman declares, as she shows me her massive collection of archival documents, ketubot, photographs, Yiddish letters and other family memorabilia, spilling out of diverse albums, binders and boxes. "No, it's more than one book – it's a series of books. There's a lot of stuff here, and it's sprouting wings and branches on all sides."

A noted genealogist who lived in Chicago and Boston for years, the former Sara Edell Schafler returned to the city of her birth four years ago to become the wife of Rabbi Joseph Kelman of Toronto's Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda congregation. A former president of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Boston, she has numerous research projects on the go, all involving aspects of Toronto's Jewish community.

Born in Toronto in 1928, she attended the Brunswick Talmud Torah, Harbord Collegiate and the University of Toronto before leaving for New York in 1949 to study at the Jewish Theological Seminary. Then she and her former husband, the late Rabbi Sam Schafler, raised a brood of kids. Only in retrospect did she realize that her children would know practically nothing of her family's long association with Toronto.

Kelman's grandfather, Rabbi Joseph Weinreb, was an impressive figure in the community's early days. Before the turn of the century, when he was still in Europe, the Shomrai Shabbos congregation sent him a letter, offering a pulpit. He arrived in Toronto in 1900, became known as the Galitzianer Rav, and served as a rabbi here for more than 40 years.

In 1980, during one of her frequent visits to the city, Kelman took a highly nostalgic walking tour led by archivist-historian Stephen Speisman. Afterwards, she read Speisman's book, *The Jews of Toronto: A History to 1937*, and discovered details about her grandfather she hadn't known before. While she had always believed he had come from Pamorin (Pamoryzany), according to Speisman, the illustrious rav was working in Jasi, Roumania, when he received the Toronto invitation.

Questions began to gnaw away at her. How long had he been in Jasi? Where did the family come from before that? Who was her great-grandmother, after whom she'd been named? "I felt guilty that I never asked my mother or grandfather about her. What did she look like, what was she like? I began to think about those things, the things I didn't record. These people have a right to be remembered."

Bitten by the genealogical bug, she interviewed elderly relatives, traipsed through cemeteries and visited libraries and archives from Salt Lake City to Poland, Jasi to Jerusalem. And by a fluke, she found a relative in Haifa who told her stories about her great-grandmother. "I found out about my namesake from this lady, Tirzah. She told me stories that were irreplaceable."

Love of Jewish genealogy and history may be in Kelman's genes. Her late brother, Sol Edell, was a dedicated amateur historian-archivist who helped establish the Ontario Jewish Archives. And nephew Yale Reisner is chief archivist of the Ronald Lauder Genealogical Project at the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw.

Nearly a quarter-century into her quest, having traced some ancestral lines back to the 1740s, Kelman expresses amazement "that I was able to recover so much, so late, when everybody was gone." Like many of us, she's now faced with the formidable challenge of publishing her findings for future generations.

She flips through an impressively thick batch of papers – a partial first draft of a manuscript that she's been working on for a long time. "I've put so much work into this that I want it to be preserved," she declares. "I want it to be in a unit that you can hold in your hands." And so, with help from Above, her labour of love continues.

Religion and state must remain separate

By RABBI YEHIEL BEN AYON

I believe in the separation of church and state. Call me a liberal if you wish, but I have always felt that the less a government involves itself in matters of religion and faith the better. I am not naïve in believing that there could be a clear defining line between the two.

Here in Canada, while we try to separate the two, the line often manages to become fuzzy and even blurred. Take Sunday laws, for instance, or the government funding of Catholic schools, for another. However, at the end of the day, the fact remains that the government sees itself as having no business in the way people worship.

The State of Israel is a secular state. As much as we may fantasize that it is a Jewish state, it is, and until the coming of the Messiah, will remain a secular democracy. As such, the State of Israel, just like any other democracy, grapples with the sensitive issue of separation of church and state.

Small and large steps have been taken towards this separation (for instance, this year's abolition of the ministry of religion). These necessary moves have never been easy. I say necessary, and use a case currently before the Jerusalem city council to illustrate my point.

There is a motion before the city council to disallow permits for the construction of a synagogue in the capital's neighbourhood of Givaat Masua. The petition was brought forth by the Shiniu party, representing some 30 opposing families. The grounds for opposition are not based on zoning, on regulation or on any other municipal bylaws; they are totally based on the fact that this building will house a synagogue.

The opposing parties are basing their stands on another judgment by the Israeli Supreme Court. It seems that awhile ago, a butcher shop wished to open in order to sell *bassar lavan* – literally, white meat – to the public. *Bassar lavan* is the Israeli euphemism for pork. This butcher also faced opposition, and the establishment's right to open was brought before the Supreme Court.

In that case the court ruled that the nature and sensitivities of a neighbourhood must be taken into account, as well as any other viable alternative. In that case, those wishing to buy their ham had to find it elsewhere. In the case of the synagogue the argument is that those who are wishing to pray should do so elsewhere.

No matter how well-meaning such suggestions may be, I don't believe God either intended or desires us to have laws of government support His religion, whether in stopping the consumption of pork or in disallowing the construction of a house of worship. Don't get me wrong, I cringe as much as the next person at the idea that bacon and pork chops are offered for sale in Jerusalem. But stopping a shop from opening is not the same as stopping consumption of pork.

That God created man in His image is understood to mean that man is given the right to choose. Only when that right is exercised freely and, hopefully, correctly does it have any meaning or significance to God. If we do or don't do something because it is the law of man, then we don't follow religion but rather man's law.

I for one would leave the purveyors of pork alone and leave the builders of the synagogue alone, and I would give the people the freedom of choice to frequent one or the other. And if this makes me a liberal, then so be it.

Jewish Life

The Orthodox viewpoint

Contemporary Orthodox Judaism's Response to Modernity **by Barry Frundel, KTAV Publishing, $22.95 US.**

Books
Bernard Baskin

In this readable volume of relatively brief essays, the author, who is the rabbi of a modern Orthodox congregation in Washington, D.C., and an expert on Jewish ethics, summarizes 31 diverse teachings. These topics range from God, prophecy and gentiles to miracles, afterlife, women, conversion and the Holocaust.

The question at the heart of the challenging problem of evil is, "How can I remain Jewish or believe in God after the Holocaust?" The author responds that he has never understood the cogency of the question, "If God does not exist, does the problem get any easier? Indeed, it seems to me to get harder, at least in an emotional sense. With God in the equation, the possibility of an explanation exists. Without God, we have an uncaring universe. Everything that occurs is random and without purpose. Is that really a better or more satisfying answer? At least when we acknowledge the existence of God, there is some address at which to hurl the challenge, and one can demand an explanation."

The essay on gentiles discusses various forms of paganism in the ancient world and in our own time. Judaism, of course, was unalterably opposed to the idolatry of the Bible, with its human sacrifice, bodily mutilation and fertility rituals. Maimonides taught that it was the belief in multiple gods that defined an idolater. On this basis, he believed Islam was not idolatrous. Other Jewish authorities made a similar determination about Christianity, which has moved from Trinitarian expressions that saw the father deity, the son deity, and the spirit deity as three separate entities to more unitarian expressions that see all three as different manifestations of the same single God. Over the centuries, the unitarian approach has come to be the dominant Christian understanding of the Godhead.

What about the belief in an afterlife? The author is convinced that the most widely held inaccurate idea about Judaism is that it doesn't accept the idea of immortality. On the contrary, Rabbi Freundel affirms the belief is well established, although there are no references to it in the Torah. It is a concept that developed in the later rabbinic period and was upheld by the Pharisees. It is true the entire notion is not widely discussed among Jews, largely because the Jewish emphasis is on this world rather than the world to come.

Are there dangers in the current popularity of mysticism? The author warns that "spirituality must be lived and pursued constantly; it cannot be turned on and off like a light switch. Also, false momentary highs raise expectations and may leave a person with no place to go for follow up. That type of experience can 'turn off' far more than it 'turns on.'"

He cautions that false and exaggerated mystical teachings led to the tragedies of the false messiah Shabtai Zvi and the charlatan Jacob Frank.

When is a person to be considered dead? Some traditional rabbis assert that a brain-dead person on life-support should be unhooked from the respirator and buried. To not do so is to violate the Torah's prohibition of delayed burial, which is tantamount to disrespecting the dead. On the other hand, some rabbis believe doing so would be an act of murder.

Rabbi Freundel is a good teacher – clear, fair, intelligent and knowledgeable about halachic sources.

Of course, less traditional Jews will find his approach informative and helpful, but not definitive or conclusive.

Jews and the Olympics – Part 2

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Last week, we began to look at the Olympics and the successes that Jewish and Israeli athletes have enjoyed in competition – and the pain they have suffered along the way. This week, rather than sports and politics, we'll look at another, sometimes difficult relationship: sports and religion. But first, Jewish Athens for the real – and the virtual – tourist.

If you plan to be in Athens for the Olympics, you won't have to go without kosher food. The KosherAthens site has information about availability of kosher food and the city's kosher restaurant, as well as the city's synagogues, Jewish sites and mikvah. **[www.kosherathens.com/]** Chabad of Greece will try to help you with Shabbat hospitality. **[www.chabad.gr/]** And you can brush up on the history of the 2,400-year-old Jewish presence in Greece in an essay written by the founder of that country's Jewish Museum. **[www.greecetravel.com/jewishhistory/]** For much more about the country, surf through the links on the Jews of Greece page. **[www.haruth.com/JewsGreece.html]**

When the Games end, Athens will have three weeks to catch its breath before it welcomes its next set of athletes and visitors. They'll be coming to be part of an elite competition – with Jewish roots. On Sept. 17, Greece hosts the world's top athletes with disabilities at the Paralympics. **[http://tinyurl.com/23yk5]** The idea for these Games came from Sir Ludwig Guttmann, Guttmann, a Jew, was a neurosurgeon in Breslau before fleeing to England in 1939. He came up with the idea for the games while working at the National Spinal Injuries Centre at Stoke-Mandeville near London. You can read more about him at the Jews in Sports website. **[www.jewishsports.net/BioPages/LudwigPoppaGuttmann.htm]** Israel is a veteran participant at these Games. In fact, Tel Aviv hosted the third Paralympic Games back in 1968. **[http://paralympic.org/games/1968/]**

Despite the media frenzy that always surrounds the Olympics, not everyone has been caught up in the hype. In his essay on "Why the Olympic Spirit Lacks a Jewish Neshama," Eliezer Segal suggests that historically, Judaism has always looked upon organized sport with a somewhat jaundiced eye."Whereas Jewish objections to Greek sports were primarily due to their inherently pagan character (as well as to their immodesty and frivolity), the Romans introduced a new dimension to the arena: cruelty which even surpassed that of professional hockey." One notable exception was Israel's first chief rabbi, Abraham Isaac Kook, who believed in the importance of maintaining a healthy mind in a healthy body. That is, as long at the healthy body would permit Jews to better perform their religious duties. **[www.ucalgary.ca/~elsegal/Shokel/870901_Olympic.html]**

In "Olympics & Kavanah," Richard Greenberg draws a parallel between the intense concentration that athletes use to visualize their goals and the kavanah, (focus) used in the performance of mitzvot and the recitation of prayer. However, Greenberg concludes by drawing a distinction between sports and Judaism. "In sports, winning is everything. But in Judaism, trying your very best can also get you to the medal stand." **[www.aish.com/spirituality/prayer/Olympics_and_Kavanah.asp]**

I'll leave the last word to Rabbi Mitch Smith, a Reconstructionist rabbi in St. Petersburg, Fla., and a certified sports psychologist who has worked with Israeli national teams. "To be the very best in life, we can take our cue from the gold medal athletes. If we dream dreams for ourselves, if we summon the dedication and commitment to those dreams and take the steps necessary to achieve them, if we take responsibility for our circumstances and summon the positive thoughts and self-confidence, if we define success on our own terms and not those which society dictates, and if we cast our portion with something larger than ourselves, then we can hold our head proudly as we take our place on the gold medal podium of life." **[www.jewishsports.com/reflections/struggold.htm]**

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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Seminar aims to put Toronto in the Yiddish big leagues

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

If you think Yiddish is a dying language in Toronto, a program running from Aug. 16 to Sept. 3 at the Miles Nadal JCC just might change your mind.

Toronto's First Annual Yiddish Seminar, which will offer Yiddish programs for beginners and advanced students, is modelled after successful Yiddish programs around the world that are attracting both young and old.

Mitch Smolkin and his wife Sylwia Szymanska-Smolkin are co-directors of the seminar, which will feature Abraham Maximo Lichtenbaum, a world authority in Yiddish language and literature.

Lichtenbaum, who lives in Argentina, is executive director of the Yiddish Scientific Institute (YIVO) in Buenos Aires. He has presented workshops at Columbia University and the University of Vilnius in Lithuania and has made more than 1,000 appearances at cultural institutions in Argentina and around the world.

"The Yiddish seminar is built on a dream," says Smolkin, who is the artistic director of the Ashkenaz Foundation and Festival. "This seminar will lay the groundwork for a full-fledged summer program in the future."

He says that with two Yiddish programs in Toronto – at the University of Toronto and York University – "the city is ripe for an international summer seminar that will show off our great appreciation in Toronto for the Yiddish language."

The program features a one-day Yiddish marathon for absolute beginners on Sunday, Aug. 29, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Its goal is to prepare participants for the beginners Yiddish one-week seminar, to be held from Monday to Friday, Aug. 30 to Sept. 3.

This one-week intensive program will covers basic elements of the Yiddish language and will be taught by Gloria Bruemer. It will include basic grammar and conversation, and use Yiddish songs and films to introduce participants to the sound and shape of the language.

For advanced students, there is a three-week seminar with Lichtenbaum that runs from Aug. 16 to Sept 3. It will examine the works of such luminaries as Isaac Bashevis Singer, Sholem Asch, Abraham Sutskever and Itsik Manger, as well as modern Yiddish poetry.

There will also be afternoon Ashkenaz cultural workshops at the Miles Nadal JCC from Aug. 30 to Sept. 3 that will feature guest lecturers, music and film.

Smolkin, a graduate of U of T's drama program who focused on acting and singing, has studied Yiddish at U of T, Columbia and in Vilnius.

He notes that over the past few decades, Yiddish has come to represent not only the language of Ashkenazi Jews, but an identity in and of itself.

"Throughout the world and in major centres, students gather from around the world to study Yiddish and its cultural context and history. The irony is that the current body of scholars and lay students are from all backgrounds, not only Jewish."

Szymanska-Smolkin notes that Yiddish scholars and enthusiasts have a tremendous resource in this city.

"We have the opportunity to communicate with those people in our society who have learned Yiddish as their mamaloshen," says Szymanska-Smolkin, who earned an MA at the Historical Institute at Warsaw University with a thesis titled *The Jewish population of Otwock during World War II*. She has worked as a historian and translator at the Institute of National Remembrance in Warsaw and taught Yiddish at Warsaw University.

"We need to expose as many people as possible to Yiddish in order to continue in the Jewish tradition of oral learning, and not take for granted an immensely valuable treasure of our current Jewish community," she says.

For more information or to register for the First Annual Summer Yiddish Seminar, call 416-924-6211, or e-mailinfor@milesnadaljcc.ca.

Palestinian intimidation of journalists: an untold story

Israel receives far more critical media attention than any of its neighbours. This is largely because, as the sole democracy in the Middle East, Israel allows a free and vigorous media to operate, often to its detriment. But that is the price Israel pays for having an open society, and hosting the largest per capita concentration of journalists in the world.

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

In the Arab world, journalists are greatly constrained – either by direct threats or through more subtle forms of intimidation – from shedding light on issues Arab rulers would prefer to keep hidden from international attention.

This disparity in media coverage is rarely mentioned by journalists in their reports, although they will discuss it in private. The unwillingness to air the subject publicly is also part of the climate of repression – a form of intimidation that has worked for decades in the Arab world, where journalists vie for visas and access to officials who do not look kindly on those who disobey the rules of the game.

It is against this background that Matthew Kalman's article, "Defiant Arafat reasserts grip on power" (*Globe and Mail*, July 21), appears as a revelation. Reporting on the crisis in Arafat's rule, Kalman wrote: "But the most troubling aspect of Mr. Arafat's reassertion of control was a warning to Palestinian journalists to cease all coverage of the kind of street protests that rocked the Gaza Strip and some West Bank cities last weekend. Reporters have also been threatened with severe punishment if they depict clashes between rival groups in the Gaza Strip, such as the gunfight in Rafah that injured 12 people on Sunday [July 18].

"The ban effectively prevents international news outlets from covering these events, since they depend on Palestinian photographers, reporters and editors to produce news footage and written copy for broadcasters, print and wire services."

The last time such intimidation happened, Kalman wrote, "was in September of 2001, when Palestinian reporters were forced to suppress images of huge street celebrations in Nablus and Bethlehem after the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington. International news bureau chiefs for wire services including Reuters and Associated Press were warned that their cameramen would be in danger if their footage was broadcast in the West."

The threats in 2001 largely worked. The CBC's Neil Macdonald was one of the only Western correspondents to get these images on air and, unknown to viewers, he was subsequently threatened. A Palestinian cameraman working for AP received a death threat. Fearing for his life, AP withheld tapes of the street celebrations.

Kalman reported that the latest threats were "issued through the Palestinian Journalists' Syndicate, a quasi-trade union controlled by Arafat loyalists."

On July 24, when Arafat spoke publicly in Ramallah for the first time since the protests began, Kalman reported for CTV's national newscast (the *Globe* and CTV are both owned by Bell Globemedia). He may have been the only correspondent in the world to air Arafat's plea for "one million martyrs to march on Jerusalem" – a well-known call for the continuation of suicide bombings and ultimately for the destruction of Israel.

Reporting from Ramallah, Kalman said: "[Arafat's] critics are demanding reforms and an end to corruption in his administration. But he spoke about the struggle against Israel rather than the battle for democracy at home."

If only more journalists displayed the same courage and commitment to their craft, despite intimidating tactics aimed at getting them to suppress crucial stories.

Paul Michaels is communication director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

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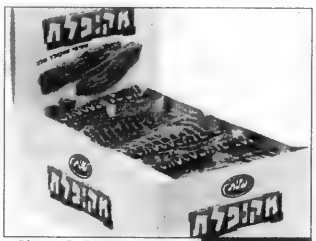

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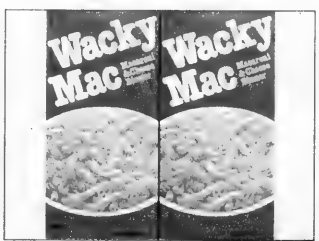

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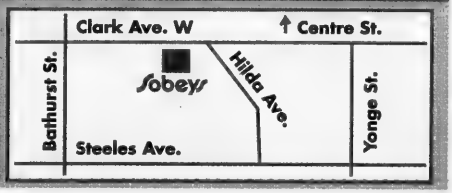

Greater Toronto Area

Thornhill resident competes in Miss Teen Canada pageant

By JESSICA HELLEN
CJN Intern

At 13 and at 14 years old, Elise Goodman auditioned for the National Ballet School in Toronto, and both times the selection committee told her she was too tall for ballet.

Now five feet 10 inches tall, Goodman, 18, has been named Miss Teen Thornhill by the Miss Teen Canada International organization and her height isn't an issue.

On Aug. 28, she goes up against 39 other delegates from across Canada for the title of Miss Teen Canada International 2005.

The winner of the pageant receives a university scholarship as well as the opportunity to share her message and travel around Canada, Goodman said.

The positive message she would like to share with other teens is that "organized, constructive activity is the key to lower rates of violence, drug abuse and gang involvement," she said.

Goodman, who is busy with ballet, school and volunteering, said she has seen the positive effects in her own life.

Elise Goodman, who takes part in the Miss Teen Canada International pageant next month, has received the William Kagan Award for youth volunteer work.

For the Miss Teen Canada application process, Goodman wrote an essay about why Canada is such a great place to live, she was interviewed, and she submitted reference letters, an autobiography and her school marks.

The Miss Teen Canada International organization accepts applicants from across Canada who have good grades, talent, strong community involvement and a sense of sportsmanship.

Unlike other pageants, this one isn't about looks.

"It's not based on beauty, it's based on being a good role model," Goodman said. "It's a good way to portray a positive message to kids my own age."

Goodman said she's always been interested in being a role model and her family and friends know that.

"Everybody's really excited and supportive," she said.

The Miss Teen Canada pageant, which doesn't have a swimsuit competition, is non-profit, so each delegate must find a sponsor to cover her costs, including hotel accommodation and food. All the delegates are provided with dresses in case they don't have the means to buy one.

Goodman said her own role model is her mother, Ruth. "I really look up to my mom. We have a really big (extended) family and she's always been very supportive of everyone. She's very strong, no matter what has happened. She has a strong work ethic and she's very determined."

Goodman's mother has worked at Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care for the past 17 years.

"She's always brought me with her, but I wasn't allowed to volunteer there until I was 13," she said.

Goodman currently has more than 500 volunteer hours from Baycrest, and in June she received the William Kagan Award for youth volunteer work.

She works with cognitively impaired seniors in the behavioural neurology unit at Baycrest and has helped establish a movement-to-music program there, for which she used her dance training.

"It was a challenge, but the program is very successful," she said.

Goodman has been dancing since she was four years old and has won several awards. She continues to take lessons and participates in ballet productions with the Canadian Ballet Theatre.

"We do *Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake* and *Giselle*," she said.

Her other hobbies include painting, theatre and playing tennis.

Goodman recently graduated from Langstaff Secondary School's French-immersion program as an honour-roll student and will attend York University this fall to study French.

"I'm hoping to go to law school eventually," she said. "I'm leaning towards being a lawyer, but I'll always have the dancing."

Starting Aug. 20, the 40 Miss Teen Canada delegates from across Canada will spend 10 days together in Mississauga. They'll take tests in math, English and geography, work on a talent portion for the show, tour the city and do interviews.

To prepare for the big event, Goodman has been practising the ballet dance she will perform and has just finished writing a short autobiography about her achievements, awards and extra-curricular activities.

Most of the judging is done before the event, Goodman said, but Miss Teen Canada hopefuls find out the competition results on the night of the pageant.

Goodman said she hopes to win the competition and become Miss Teen Canada International 2005 because she would love to represent Thornhill and other young people her age.

"I have a really positive message," she said, adding that it would be an honour to be a role model.

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גידי קורן וחברים

ישראל-יולי 2004

האו"ם ובית המשפט הבינלאומי מגנים את חומת המגן, שהצליחה למנוע, כך נראה, תשעים ותשעה אחוז מפעולות הטרור בישראל. האו"ם מעולם לא גינה את רציחתם של יהודים בידי שָׁהִידִים. המסקנה המתבקשת היא: ישראל צריכה להמשיך לעשות מה שטוב לישראלים.

עד כאן הכל ברור ואין עליו ויכוח. הבעייה היא- מה טוב לישראלים? האם הקמת חומת המגן באמצע כפרים פלשתינאים, בצורה שהופכת את חייהם לבלתי נסבלים יכולה להיות טובה לישראל? לראייה- בג"צ הורה לצה"ל להזיז את הגדר כדי שלא תהפוך את חיי הפלשתינאם לגהינום. לו היתה מוקמת החומה על גבול הקו הירוק של ששים ושבע- סביר להניח שגם בית המשפט הבינלאומי היה מסתכל על העניין אחרת. אבל אריק שרון, איש ימין שנבחר על ידי הימין, לא יכול היה לבנות את הגדר על הגבול הבינלאומי, כי תומכיו התנגדו. אותם תומכים מתנגדים עכשיו ליציאה מעזה. שרון, שמבין היטב את הצורך לצאת מעזה מחליף את הקואליציה שלו כדי לאפשר תזוזה כזו נגד רצון שליש מחברי מפלגתו שלו.

במסגרת ניסיונו של שרון להגדיל את הקואליציה- הוא פנה גם לחרדים, שאת דעותיהם הפוליטיות אפשר לשנות בעזרת תקציבים לישיבות, מועצת דתיות ומקוואות. מפלגת "שינוי", שתפתו העיקרית בקואליציה תנוכחית, הודיעה שהיא בָּחוץ אם החרדים נכנסים.

כדי לנסות להבין מה השיגה "שינוי" מאז חבחירות, הקשבתי לראיון עם מנהיג המפלגה תומי לפיד. לדבריו קוצצו תקציבי הישיבות בחצי, בוטל משרד הדתות, וגיור לא אורתודוקסי נמצא על סף אישור. מצבה של המכונה הממסדית הדתית שחלבה את מיטב התקציבים לאורך חמישים שנה נמצא בכי רע. לא פלא שהם מוכנים לוותר לממשלה כמעט בכל מחיר שיחזיר אותם לברז התקציבים. יהיה מאוד חבל אם המהפכה האזרחית המדהימה הזו שחביאה "שינוי" תיפסק בגלל מה שקורה עכשיו. צריך לקוות ששרון ולפיד ימצאו דרך להמשיך בבניית השלטון החילוני. אבל שישאר ביניהם.

אלימות 2004

ממחקר שקיימה אוניברסיטת תל אביב עולה שִׁבְעָתִ האלימות הגוברת מטרידה שמונים וחמישה אחוז של ישראלים. זה לא מפליא, שכן ביום אחד ספרתי ב"ידיעות אחרונות" יותר מעשרה מקרים של אלימות, כולל רצח שופט ברמת השרון, רצח קשיש בחיפה, אונס של נערה בשירותים של מועדון לילה, התאבדות של זוג זקנים, ודקירת חייל בטרמפיאדה בגליל. המעניין במחקר הנ"ל הוא, שבתשובה לשאלה "מי הגורם שיכול הכי יעיל למנוע את האלימות" ציינו רוב הנשאלים, לא פחות ולא יותר, את צה"ל. לא המשפחה, לא בית הספר, כי אם צה"ל. אפילו היה צה"ל (שהוא בעצם מעוז ה"אלימות הלגיטימית") מתגייס לעניין- איך אפשר בדיוק לשנות אלימות שהוטבעה באנשים במשך שמונה עשרה שנה בבית, בבית הספר, בטלביזיה, בטרור הערבי?

אפרופו אלימות- המטוס נוחת בטורונטו, ועשרות ישראלים נדחקים לצאת ממנו, למרות שפוווופלם ימתינו לאותו אוטובוס שיסיעם לטרמינל, ואחר כך עוד חצי שעה למזוודות. מה שקוראים אלימות לשָׁמה.

"מותק"

אחרי שנים רבות שלא נפגשו, הזמין גבר קשיש את חברו ממלחמת השחרור לבקר בביתו. האורח התרשם עמוקות מהיחסים הנפלאים בין המארח ואשתו הקשישה. כשנשארו לבדם חוא מחמיא לו: "תשמע, זבולון, אני ממש מתרשם: אני זוכר אותך בתור חיה רעה שלא בדיוק ידעה לתת רֶסֶפֶקט לבחורות, והיום עכשיו 'מותק', 'חאני', -ממש כל הכבוד!"

המארח מתקרב לאוזנו ולוחש לו: "לחגיד לך את האמת- שכחתי את השם שלה לפני עשר שנים ומאז אני קורא לה 'מותק' ו'חאני"....

Coast to Coast

Producer seeks Jewish families for new reality TV series

By PETER CAULFIELD
Special to The CJN

VANCOUVER — A B.C. television producer is seeking Jewish families in the Lower Mainland to take part in a new documentary reality series.

The 13-part series, called *The Mazel Tov Chronicles*, will feature some of the simchot celebrated by families in the Vancouver Jewish community.

Daniel Leipnik, president of Vancouver-based production company Vibrance Alive Entertainment Inc., says he will start filming bar mitzvahs and weddings, as well as Pesach, Purim and Sukkot celebrations in September.

Leipnik says he is looking for a wide range of lively, expressive families, from observant to liberal, who are willing to invite his production company into their living rooms, kitchens and wedding reception halls to record their celebrations on film.

The Mazel Tov Chronicles will be "host-driven," Leipnik says.

"We are looking for a female host, somebody who's outlandish and over the top, who will get involved with the families and act as a guide for the audience," he says. "The host will make the series fun and enjoyable, so that anybody, no matter how little they know about Judaism, will enjoy it."

Leipnik says he is looking for a female host, because much of the preparation for Jewish celebrations is done by women.

He hopes the series will act as an antidote to Israel-bashing and anti-Semitism by showing "how joyously beautiful" Jewish religion and culture is.

"Hopefully... people of all walks [of life] will watch the series and come to know a little more about Judaism so that education, in this instance, can create tolerance and understanding," Leipnik says.

The Mazel Tov Chronicles will be carried on Vancouver-based Channel M (Cable 8), a multicultural station that broadcasts programming in more than 20 languages.

Channel M's vice-president of programming Johnny Michel, who lived in Jerusalem for 18 years, says he wants to show the rich religious and cultural traditions of Judaism in the program.

"Many people in Canada don't know much about Judaism and have a negative viewpoint because of the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians," Michel says. "We hope the program will correct that."

Rabbi David Mivasair, spiritual leader of Congregation Ahavat Olam in Vancouver, is acting as an unofficial consultant to Vibrance Alive.

Originally from Melbourne, Australia, Leipnik came to Vancouver seven years ago when he was an international trade management consultant who helped Australian companies develop export strategies.

"When I got here, I discovered the film industry and decided to become an independent producer," he says.

Earlier Vibrance Alive TV projects include *My Mother, My Hero*, a 10-part half-hour program about how the Holocaust shaped mother-child relationships, and *Out On TV*, a 26-episode gay and lesbian magazine news show.

Families that want to speak to Leipnik about taking part in *The Mazel Tov Chronicles* can reach him at 604-709-8098 or at daniel@vibrancealive.com.

Melchior to help launch Winnipeg CJA campaign

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Labor-Meimad MK Rabbi Michael Melchior will be on hand to help kick off the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg/Combined Jewish Appeal's 2004 campaign on Sept. 7.

Rabbi Melchior was named Israel's ambassador to Diaspora Jewry by the government of former Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak. As a result, said Bob Freedman, the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg's executive director, Melchior is in high demand as a speaker at European and North American Jewish events.

"I have heard a lot of speakers over the years, and Rabbi Melchior is one of the greatest. He is unbelievable," Freedman said, adding that Winnipeg is the only North American community Rabbi Melchior will be visiting on his trip.

The grandson of a former chief rabbi of Denmark, Rabbi Melchior became involved in Israeli politics through the moderately Orthodox Meimad Party, which elected him as its chairman in 1998.

After the 1999 election, Rabbi Melchior led Meimad into Barak's Labor-led coalition government and was appointed to a newly created ministerial post responsible for relations between Israel and the Diaspora. With the formation of a national unity government after the 2001 election, he also became Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister.

In the current Knesset, he chairs the children's rights committee and co-chairs the Jewish-Arab coexistence and environmental affairs caucuses.

Outside his Knesset responsibilities, Rabbi Melchior has been head of the Birthright Israel steering committee and founded the International Commission to Combat Anti-Semitism.

He is also a leader in interfaith dialogue and helped convene the Alexandria Summit of Religious Leaders in January 2002. He has received the Sovlanut Prize for promoting tolerance in Israel and the Coventry Peace Prize in England for his efforts in working toward peace.

Freedman said the goal of this year's CJA campaign is $4.5 million, an increase of $200,000 over last year.

"We are working in a very competitive field and there is ever-increasing pressure from our beneficiaries for more funding," he said. "Nonetheless, we are optimistic that we can achieve our target. After all, we have met and exceeded our goals in each of the last four years."

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Greater Toronto Area

Ambassador bids farewell; completes tour of duty

Continued from page 1

An Israeli ambassador, he said, must be both a diplomat and a marketer for the State of Israel.

"As a marketer, we have to put things in their proper context. We have to be able to develop a strategy for imparting the information that will strike a responsive nerve with the Canadian public to show Canadians that there is a state out there [Israel] that most average Canadians do not see. There is a state beyond the constant barrage of negative images. Six million people get up every day, go to work, or go to school, and lead lives of family, business, social and other pressures, much like in most other places in the world.

"There is no doubt that the medium of television has had an impact on the [Mideast] conflict. What can the television show in 20 seconds? The journalist on the spot delivers what his producer wants him to. The camera shows the demolition of the home. It does not show the smuggling of the rockets, the guns and the bomb belts through the tunnels underneath those homes.

"We must provide the background information that explains what the camera shows. If the source of the public's information is only what they see on television, then the public will be very badly informed.

"It is our job to bring the story of Israel and its people to the people of Canada. Sometimes that story shows imperfections in Israeli society. Like all peoples around the world, we too make mistakes. And we have to explain them honestly."

An earnest speaker, Divon often uses his hands to punctuate his thoughts, and he always seems to be searching for just the right word to capture the full nuance of what he is trying to say.

"My role as a diplomat and as ambassador," he said, "is to find pragmatic ways, each day, to be of assistance to my country, to be ready at any given time to promote good relations and better understanding between our two countries."

He elaborated: "For example, I was able to convince Canadian businessmen to visit Israel, to see the vibrancy of the country first hand and to consider investing there for the mutual benefit, obviously, of the economies in Israel and Canada. We made the introduction, but it was one business leader speaking to another."

When Divon arrived in Ottawa at the end of the summer of 2000, the Middle East was a calmer place. Although U.S.-brokered peace talks at Camp David and Taba had been unsuccessful, there was still a sense a deal could be reached between Israel and the Palestinians with the appropriate goodwill on both sides.

Less than a month later, the situation changed radically with the start of a renewed, and ongoing, round of Palestinian terrorism.

"It was Rosh Hashanah," Divon recalled. "Some of us were on holidays. We received a message from Jerusalem that all personal holidays were cancelled."

Holidays have been a rare indulgence for the ambassador ever since.

The Jerusalem-born Divon learned about public service and devotion to ideals from his parents, who had emigrated to Mandatory Palestine from England. His mother was a third-generation British Jew. His father, a doctor born in Lithuania, eventually became director of the Hadassah Medical Centre in Jerusalem. Indeed, it was only by chance that he was not among the 77 nurses and doctors in a medical convoy to Hadassah on Mount Scopus who were slaughtered by Arab gunmen on April 13, 1948.

Divon's interview with *The CJN* took place the day before Canada's abstention in the UN General Assembly vote on the International Court of Justice ruling concerning Israel's security barrier.

Divon was asked about Israel's relations with Ottawa, in light of Canada's voting record on the Mideast at the UN.

"When there are disputes between us, as there will always will be between friends, it is imperative to overcome them in friendly and amicable ways," he said.

"It is very important to be able to have a frank dialogue with members of the cabinet of Canada, explaining, for example, the context for the building of the security fence.

"Our efforts must be effective, rather than emotional. To be sure, there is a place for emotions, but they must bring us to the point where our strategy becomes effective.

"We must carry on the type of dialogue with the government of Canada so that when the president of the State of Israel comes here on a visit, he is deeply moved by the reception extended to him. That dialogue solidifies the base from which we can move ever forward. It enables us to expand joint collaboration in other important fields as well. For example, did you know that Israel is possibly teaming up with Canada to provide specialized agricultural aid to Ethiopia?"

Divon is unambiguous in describing Canada's relations with Israel.

"Despite our disagreements, such as Canada's voting record at the UN, I would characterize Canada as one of our best friends," he said.

"When I send reports back to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem, I am not gloomy in my outlook. We do have the support of friends here."

On the subject of the conflict with the Palestinians, Divon was equally emphatic.

"Eventually, we have to put an end to the conflict. We seek peace not as a favour to anyone else, but out of deep loyalty to our own needs, interests and values. Peace is in the prime interest of the State of Israel," he said.

"The political map is changing in Israel. The majority of Israelis support the disengagement initiative of the government. Prime Minster [Ariel] Sharon himself has undergone dramatic, historical change. He typifies the changes that have taken place in Israeli society."

Speaking of the disengagement plan, Divon said,"My heart is with [the Jews of Gaza]. They were the modern day chalutzim [pioneers], sent there by their governments. But if we want a democratic, Jewish state, there is no other way."

Citing Psalms, Divon noted that "we are commanded not just to seek peace but to actively pursue it."

When asked to recall personal highlights of the past four years, Divon mentioned the state visit by Israeli President Moshe Katsav and the exhibit in Montreal and Ottawa of the Dead Sea Scrolls, "where people were actually able to see a history of the Jews in Israel that spanned some 3,000 years." He also spoke about promoting joint scientific and trade programs between Israelis and Canadians, and the many visits of Canadian dignitaries – parliamentarians, professors and artists – to Israel, even during the height of the intifadah.

But he especially emphasized his relationship with Canada's Jewish community.

"The Jews of Canada have played an important role in helping boost Israeli morale and confidence these past four years. Canadian Jews are among the finest, most-organized, motivated and supportive communities in the *galut* [Diaspora]. I have even reported this to the prime minister and his officials in Israel.

"We were always made to feel like part of the family. It is as if we are bidding farewell to family. To say goodbye is difficult, because it is always hard to say goodbye to family.

"I would like to thank the community for enabling us to have had such a unique experience over the past four years."

Divon extended his good wishes to his announced successor, Alan Baker, whom he described as a highly qualified, superb professional.

"Israel will be well served, and the Jewish community will be delighted with him."

Divon made sure to place special emphasis on his parting remarks.

"The most difficult battle has yet to be won – that is, the battle for peace. But battling for peace makes us stronger, just as the love and support of Canadian Jewry also makes us stronger."

SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

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by Friday, August 13

We thank all applicants for their interest; however, only those invited for an interview will be contacted.

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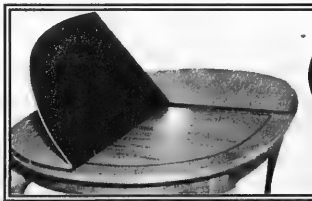

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On Campus

An ending and a new beginning

Guest Voice

I'm sitting in my 10th floor office in New York, with client files cluttering my desk and a look of disbelief on my face.

Has one year elapsed already? Do I really need to close all my old cases and transfer any active clients to my fellow legal advocates who remain at the Urban Justice Center? Are there really only seven more work days left and will I really be at the AVODAH: Jewish Service Corps's final retreat next weekend?

By ELISHEVA GOULD

My mind is reeling and my heart is confused as I try to fathom how such an intense year of front-line anti-poverty work, Jewish communal living with nine other unique people, learning about and pursuing tikkun olam, and living and working in Brooklyn and New York City, could be drawing to a close.

My 17 fellow AVODAH members and I have lived or worked together in New York for more than 11 months. We have had heated, late-night discussions about kashrut, communal food shopping and cooking, Shabbat observance and what it means to be invested in an "intentional community."

I have experienced some of what I imagine the tensions and joys of founding and living on a kibbutz must be! I have also faced the challenges of juggling an emotionally difficult job advocating for the needs of homeless and indigent clients with my own needs, as well as those of my housemates, my friends and my family at home.

As a young community living in the United States, we have explored crucial issues such as homelessness and urban poverty, globalization and gentrification, racism and education, and leadership and social responsibility, and often filtered them meaningfully through a lens of tzedakah and Jewish ethics.

We have planned and attended our own twice-weekly programming, monthly Sunday workshops and several weekend retreats. We've attended rallies and protests, supported one another's efforts and values, and visited each other's workplaces to better understand the diverse social justice work we've been doing. We have come back to our house late after work, a program, a trip home or a date, to find at least a handful of housemates waiting to hear how our day went, share stories, continue debates, comfort us or just be there to laugh and unwind together.

And now we will soon part ways. I think the hardest part will be the loneliness of not having nine housemates – as frustrated as we may have been with each other at times – simply "there" for me. Of course, some of us were closer friends than others, as is only natural, but we've shared so many trying and hilarious experiences that I think it's safe to say we all feel close to each another in many ways.

When we returned home after our winter retreat, for instance, our boiler had shut off and stayed off for three days, and the entire house was an enormous icicle. We could see our breath, had to bundle up in long underwear, ski jackets, hats and gloves, and turned on our two gas stoves for heat. When we walked up to the third floor, we discovered that the cold had made one of our walls crack and crumble and huge chunks of paint and plaster covered the stairs. We became well acquainted with our landlords after this incident!

Last weekend, we threw an end-of-the-year party and invited our friends and colleagues to see us off in style. It's easy to forget community politics and individual preferences when you band together to clean, decorate, shop and cook for a party, and then dance and joke around with your housemates and friends. Our party was a great success and it marked a milestone for us in our AVODAH *bayit*.

> ***And now we will soon part ways. I think the hardest part will be the loneliness of not having nine housemates – as frustrated as we may have been with each other at times – simply 'there' for me.***

As we prepare to leave our home, some of us are gearing up for graduate school, others for international travel – to Israel, India, France and England. Some are going to their family homes, others to different jobs and apartments in New York City.

I am excited to be starting a new job as a Jewish studies teacher for grades 3 and 7 at a progressive day school on the Upper West Side.

In less than two weeks, my colleague, friend and fellow AVODAH member, Jenny, and I will be moving into our apartment near Columbia University and starting a new part of our lives.

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Wish their relatives, friends & neighbours a happy and healthy New Year

A2

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel
The Israel Family

A3

Ben & Hannah Israel
5730 Leger Avenue
Wish their relatives & friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year

B1

Mr. & Mrs. Ben Israel
Carol, Judith and Nachum
Wish their relatives, friends & neighbours a happy and healthy New Year

B2

Wishing all our family and friends a happy and healthy New Year
The Israel Family
5730 Leger Avenue

B3

Ben & Hannah Israel
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Jewish Kids' Fun Page
by Ellene Newman and Hallel Newman

Shabbat Shalom

This story is based on a true event. It is set in Amsterdam, Holland, in the 1700s.

"**Papa's home! Papa's home!**" The excited children ran to greet their father. "Shabbat shalom, Ezra, Shabbat shalom, Miriam," laughed Jakob de Vries, bending down to kiss his children.

The table, swathed in a white-on-white tablecloth, was set with exquisite china. The candles from the previous night had already burned out, but the polished brass candlesticks still stood there, gleaming. Jakob's silver Kiddush cup was waiting for him at the head of the table, and next to it were two loaves of challah, draped in a lacy cover. Sarah, Jakob's wife, emerged from the kitchen. "Shabbat shalom," she smiled.

"Could I pour Papa's cup?" asked Ezra.

"Yes," said Sara, "but be careful." Holding his hands steady, Ezra filled the shining silver cup with bubbly red wine. Jakob picked it up, and recited the Kiddush.

"And the children of Israel shall keep the Shabbat... between Me and the children of Israel, it is an eternal sign that in six days God created the heavens and the earth and on the seventh day He rested...."

After Kiddush they washed their hands, said the blessing, and returned to their seats. Jakob picked up the two loaves, still covered in lace, and made the blessing over bread. Then he sliced the top challah and gave pieces to his wife and children.

A peaceful silence descended on the room as they ate their challah. Jakob smiled. He was glad it was Shabbat. Any other day of the week he would be busy with his gem business, examining precious stones, buying and selling. But today was reserved for himself, his family — and God.

"Papa," said Miriam, "You know what I learned from my tutor this week? When Moses was a baby his mother had to hide him, so..."

She was interrupted by a loud pounding on the door.

"Jakob de Vries?" demanded a commanding voice.

Jakob stood up and opened the door. Two well-dressed men were standing there.

"We are here on behalf of our master, the duke. He needs a quality diamond immediately. Please come at once with your finest selection. You will be rewarded greatly."

Jakob paled. The duke was his biggest customer. "Today is my Sabbath. The duke knows I do not do business on the Sabbath. I am terribly sorry, but I cannot come until tonight, when the Sabbath is over."

The messengers mounted their horses and rode off.

Jakob returned to his seat. "Papa, are you in trouble?" asked Ezra.

"Not at all," said Jakob. "Miriam, what were you saying about Moses?"

Half an hour later, the knocking came again. The messengers were back, accompanied by officers.

"Our master the Duke cannot wait until tonight. He needs a diamond now. If you refuse to come, he will never do business with you again. Do you understand?"

"I understand," replied Jakob, "but I cannot obey."

Another half hour passed, and the messengers returned, with more officers than before. They spoke harshly and tersely, with daggers in their eyes. "The duke is not interested in playing games with you. If you flont him like this he will take away your licence to sell gems."

Jakob swallowed. He spoke slowly, but with steel in his voice. "Your master knows that I would do anything for him. But I also answer to another master. My God forbids me to do business on His Sabbath, and I will obey His command."

Jakob returned to the table. "Yes, Ezra, I think I am in trouble." He turned to his wife. "But this shall not disturb our Shabbat." He raised his voice in song, and the entire family joined him.

"Between Me and the children of Israel, it is an eternal sign that in six days God created the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested."

* * * * *

Jakob held his cup high and recited the Havdalah in the flickering light of a colourful braided candle.

"Blessed are you, God, who separates between the holy and that which is not." He drank most of the wine. His daughter Miriam tilted the candle over a plate, and her father poured the remaining wine over it, putting it out.

"*Shavuah Tovah*," he said, "a good week."

Then he hastened to the basement, retrieved his valise of diamonds, mounted his horse, and galloped off to the duke's palace, formulating apologies in his head.

"You did the right thing," he told himself. "You did the right thing, come what may."

The Duke was waiting for him, smiling... smiling?

"Jakob! Thank you so much! You just made me 20,000 guilders richer! The governor of Flanders was visiting me the other day, and when I told him how religious you are, he bet me 20,000 guilders that if I offered you enough money and threatened you enough, you would be willing to violate your Sabbath. Thank you, Jakob. I knew you'd come through!"

Hidden Pictures

Can you find:
a cupcake, safety pin, crown, comb, tulip, lollipop, treble clef, bass clef, and a teacup?

©2004 Ellene Newman and Hallel Newman Write to us at ENewman613@aol.com

Food, Scrumptious Food

Fast, fresh food – year round

By NORENE GILLETZ

Cookbooks are piled up in my office, my kitchen, my bedroom – wherever there is a spare corner. When I have a few moments, I sift through the tottering piles, looking for inspiration for my food column. I'm extremely busy, but I like preparing quick, healthy meals that celebrate summer's bounty.

When I opened award-winning author Peter Berley's book *Fresh Food Fast* (Regan Books, $49.95 Cdn), I was hooked. Here was an incredibly busy chef, teacher and family man who spoke my language. Berley understands how little free time most people have these days to cook healthy, hearty dinners made from fresh, flavour-packed ingredients.

Berley, together with Melissa Clark, offers recipes for 48 delicious, seasonal vegetarian meals that can be prepared with ease in under an hour. There are 12 mouth-watering menus for each season, including recipes, a shopping list organized by grocery aisles and an equipment list. There are delectable dessert recipes for each season. The recipes will bring pleasure to vegetarians and omnivores alike.

Berley offers speed tips that reveal the tricks of the restaurant trade. He believes that knowing the right tools and techniques to use is essential for getting dinner on the table amid the high-speed life most of us lead. He suggests using a food processor to help cut and shred vegetables if you are not skilled with a knife. Use a single pot of boiling water to blanch vegetables before cooking pasta. If you need to cut onions for two different dishes in the same menu, cut them at the same time. He suggests trying to cook seasonally, buying produce at its peak – when it will definitely taste best.

Unlike like most other cookbooks, which give only recipes, Berley's book of menus gives the reader a peek into the kitchen of a committed and professional fast, fresh cook. Each menu has a step-by-step game plan that shows you how to orchestrate the whole meal, including tips on how to combine the prepping steps so the recipes are quicker and easier to put together than they would be if made separately.

Berley offers the following game plan for this scrumptious summertime menu: Preheat the oven to 450 degrees. Meanwhile, prepare the squash salad, then prepare the vegetables and vinaigrette for the chopped salad. Make the pizzas, then finish the salad. Shave some parmesan cheese over the pizzas and serve immediately, accompanied by the squash. Enjoy!

PAN-SEARED SUMMER SQUASH

Pan-searing the squash caramelizes it and produces a nice crust. The sugars become concentrated and the juices are locked in. You can use the same technique with eggplant slices and onion rings.

2 pounds summer squash, sliced ½-inch thick
2 tbsp. freshly squeezed lemon juice
2 tbsp. fresh mint, torn into pieces
2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
1 tsp. coarse sea salt or kosher salt, plus additional salt to taste
½ tsp. crushed red pepper flakes
3 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
freshly milled black pepper

Warm a large heavy skillet, griddle or grill pan over medium heat. Arrange the squash in a single layer and sear until speckled with brown and beginning to blacken, about 5 minutes. Flip the squash and cook for 4 to 5 minutes more. Repeat with remaining squash.

In a serving bowl, combine the lemon juice, mint, garlic, salt and red pepper flakes and let marinate for 5 minutes. Whisk in the oil.

Transfer the seared squash to the bowl, toss to coat with the dressing, and let rest for about 5 minutes. Season with additional salt and pepper and serve. Yields 4 servings.

PITA PIZZA WITH GREEN OLIVES, MONTEREY JACK AND CHOPPED SALAD

Pocketless pita bread makes a convenient pizza base. You could also use any other tender, chewy flatbread, such as lavash.

For the chopped salad:

1 garlic clove, peeled and halved
2 tbsp. balsamic vinegar
1 small red onion, halved and very thinly sliced
¼ cup extra-virgin olive oil
coarse sea salt or kosher salt and freshly milled black pepper
3 hearts of romaine, coarsely chopped (about 8 cups)
4 medium Kirby (pickling) cucumbers, quartered lengthwise and cut into bite-sized pieces
2 medium tomatoes, cored, seeds and diced (about 1 cup)
1 ripe avocado, diced
5 fresh basil leaves, torn into pieces
8 to 10 fresh mint leaves, torn into pieces

For the pizzas:

4 (7-inch) rounds of pocketless pita bread
8 ounces Monterey Jack cheese, coarsely grated
½ cup pitted and roughly chopped green olives
2 jalapeno peppers, minced, or 1 tsp. crushed red pepper flakes
freshly milled black pepper
shaved parmesan cheese for garnish

Place a pizza stone or an inverted rimmed baking sheet in the upper third of the oven and preheat the oven to 450.

To prepare the salad, vigorously rub the inside of a large bowl with the garlic. Add the vinegar and red onion and set aside for 5 minutes. Whisk in the oil and season with salt and pepper. Add the lettuce, cucumber, tomato, avocado, basil, and mint and toss well.

Bake the pitas, in batches if necessary, on the heated pizza stone or pan for 3 minutes.

In a small bowl, combine the cheese, olives, jalapenos and black pepper. Divide this mixture among the 4 pitas.

Return the pitas to the oven, 2 at a time, and bake until the cheese is bubbling and lightly browned, about 5 minutes.

Mound the salad on top of the pizzas, sprinkle with parmesan cheese and serve. Yields 4 servings.

Norene Gilletz is a cookbook author, cooking teacher and food consultant. For information, call 416-226-2466 or visit her website at www.gourmania.com.

Family Moments

only from The Canadian Jewish news

Mazel Tov to...

Happy first birthday Eli, son of Alan & Erika Racko of Davie, Fla., from Zaidie Sid & Bubbie Ida Racko.

Eric & Lynne Cohen, Arnold & Sandy Silver announce the engagement of their children Justine & Ryan. Grandparents: Lorraine Shapiro, Sollie & Sylvia Finklestein.

Michelle Fleishman and David Winter are pleased to announce their marriage on May 16 at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda.

Rena Zayit & Ken Lebow announce their engagement. Parents: Marge & Ben Mintz, Raye & Abe Lebow. Children: Yoni Lebow, Anne & Ross Mason, Rabbi Tziona Szajman.

Happy first birthday Jordana and Samantha, daughters of Gayla & Matthew Ber. Love, Bubbie Lesley & Grandpa Marty Atkins, Great-Bubbie Eleanor Abrams and Great-Grandma Pauline Atkins.

Eugenia & Josif Varenboud and Sima & Yuri Studin wish to congratulate their daughter and son, Alla & Irvin, on their wedding of June 6, and wish them the very best.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

Label the back of all photos and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Send all your photos to: The CJN, Family Moments, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, ON, M3B 3K4.

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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

INSCRIBE YOUR LOVED ONES ON THE YAD VASHEM HOLOCAUST WALL OF REMEMBRANCE
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What's New Deadlines: Monday, Aug. 9, is the deadline for the Aug. 19 issue and Monday, Aug. 16, is the deadline for the Aug. 26 issue. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

SUPPORT CANCER RESEARCH

"Rock and Roll for The Weekend to End Breast Cancer." Come out to the Swimming Pool Bar at 3200 Dufferin St. for live bands, great food, silent auction, raffle and much more sponsored by the Breast Assured Team, in support of Princess Margaret Hospital. 7 p.m. $20. Tickets available at the door. For more information call **Liz** at 416-932-8381.

Sunday, Aug. 8

A HEALING SERVICE

Experience hope, comfort, faith and support at a healing service led by **Rabbi Jay Kelman** and **Judy Shier Weisberg**, musician and holistic practitioner, 3-4 p.m., at the Lipa Green Building, 4th floor. Wheelchair accessible parking, no fee, open to the public. Call **Etta**, 416-944-3359.

Other news

AVIVAH ZORNBERG

Dr. Avivah Gottlieb Zornberg, author of the award-winning book *Genesis: The Beginning of Desire*, speaks on "Cries and Whispers: The Akeida and the Death of Sarah." Thursday, Aug. 26 at 8 p.m. 147 Overbrook Place. $10. For information, call 416-633-5770, 416-398-1510 or visit www.torahinmotion.org or www.mekorot.ca

SINGLES EVENING

Shaar Shalom Singles and Intersynagogue Singles (35+) host a Wine and Cheese Evening at Shaar Shalom Synagogue Sunday, Aug. 15, at 7:30 p.m. Admission $12, includes wine tasting and a glass of wine. 2 Simonston Blvd. For information and reservation, call **David** at 416-224-9494.

MIZRACHI SHABBATON

Mizrachi and Congregation Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem Montreal present a summer shabbaton, Aug. 27-29, at TBDJ, The Baily Shul. Hospitality will be provided in the community. Programming for children age 6 and up, compliments of Bnei Akiva Montreal. $100/adult and children over 12. $75 for children 5-12. $36 for children under 5. Discounts available for large families. Transportation arrangements from Toronto. For reservations, call 416-630-9266 or 514-483-3660 or contact mizrachi@rogers.com.

GIVE BLOOD

Canadian Blood Services needs donations of blood. Clinics will be held across the Greater Toronto Area throughout August. For the blood donor clinic near you, call 1-888-236-6283 or visit www.bloodservices.ca.

VENDORS WANTED

Na'amat Canada is looking for vendors for its annual Craft and Gift Sale to be held at Bayview Village Shopping Centre, Monday, Oct. 11., 10 a.m.-5 p.m., under the auspices of Club Beersheba and Club Aviva. For information, call 416-636-5425 during the day or **Rosaline Nowell,** 905-881-8161, in the evening.

SHABBAT WITH NELSON

After receiving overwhelming accolades for his performance in Toronto in May, **Joshua Nelson**, singer, songwriter and entertainer returns Friday, Oct. 22 and Saturday, Oct. 23 to perform with **Rabbi Elyse Goldstein** and **Bais Grove**. "Halleluyah It's Shabbas" will be a weekend to "rock the soul." For reservations, call Kolel at 416-485-7007 ext. 0.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service Information/registration call 416-638-7800, ext. 215. Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St.

Living with Cancer. A 6-session group for women. Topics include coping with emotions, changing relationships, and dealing with health and wellness issues. Begins Tuesday, Sept. 7, 1-2:30 p.m., 4600 Bathurst St.

Continued on page 23

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What's New

Continued from page 22

Effective Parenting. This 4-session group will help parents learn what they can do to raise a happy, motivated, well-behaved child. Topics include how to nurture self-esteem, encourage problem solving and help children cope with difficult feelings, how to increase parent-child communication, and how to set effective limits and get kids to follow rules. Begins Tuesday, Sept 28, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at 4600 Bathurst St.

Social Skills Programs for Children and Adolescents. Eight-week groups that provide a positive environment to enhance self-esteem and foster social skills. Ages 6-8 group begins Tuesday, Oct 12, 6-7:30 p.m.; ages 9-11, begins Thursday, Oct 14, 6-7:30 p.m.; early adolescent ages 12-14, begins Monday, Oct. 18, 7-8:30 p.m.; older teens ages 15-17, begins Thursday, Oct. 21, 7-8:30 p.m.

FOR SENIORS

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Dances every Saturday night through August; Beginner Hebrew classes, Tuesday mornings 10 a.m.-noon, $25/month. Now booking for Casino Niagara and Casino Rama in the fall. Call 416-395-7881 Mondays to Thursdays 9 a.m-1 p.m.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the boardroom at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Call 416-630-9444.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. Aug. 5, bingo; Aug. 8, Israeli Valentine Party at 7 p.m.; Aug. 12, Israeli movie; Aug. 18, *Oklahoma*. Call to reserve. Contact **Menachem Wallach**, 905-731-7748, or **Malka Colla,** 416-630-5771.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

"Who Watches Too Much Television: The Impact of Mass Media" with **Prof. Hugh Innis**. Tuesdays, Aug. 10, 17, 24 and 31, 10-11:30 a.m. Members $1.50, non-members $3.

Summer Festival, Wednesday, Aug. 11, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Families and friends welcome.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew-speaking seniors meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Aug. 10, picnic at Earl Bales at 11 a.m.; Aug. 17, lecture; Aug. 24. sing-a-long. Call **Galit Osadtsuk** at ext. 115.

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

The next fitness session begins on Monday, Aug. 16 and continues into December.

Bereavement Group meetings are open to all Wagman members and people living in the community. This group is for those aged 55 and older and offers understanding about the issues of loss, loneliness, pain and healing. No charge. Call for information.

The Wagman Annual Barbecue takes place on Tuesday, Aug. 24, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Tickets must be purchased in advance at the service desk.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

The Koffler Gallery presents **Mitch Robertson**: "S & P 100," though September 26.

The BJCC and Mount Sinai offer prenatal classes Aug. 8 and 15 from 10-4 p.m. The cost is $136 per couple. To register, call ext. 390.

The BJCC School and Daycare has day-care space available for September 2004, a new extended Tic Tac Two morning program from 9-11:30 a.m. and new preschool, nursery, junior kindergarten and senior kindergarten, morning options of 9-11:30 a.m. or 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Call ext. 248 to book a tour or for more information.

The Koffler School of Music registration for fall classes open for Babies and Toddlers Music, preschool music, piano, guitar, violin, flute, saxophone, ensembles, Suzuki piano and violin, Nashir Children's Choir, opera master classes, opera appreciation and Resa's Pieces Band.

Register now for drama classes at Leah Posluns Theatre School. Call ext. 464 for information or ext. 231 to register.

The BJCC invites you to partake in a special block of tickets for Cirque Du Soleil's *Alegria*, Sept. 9, 8 p.m. at Ontario Place. Tickets are $180. With the purchase of every ticket, you are entered into a draw to win a weekend for two to Las Vegas. Call ext 271.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or wwwmilesnadaljcc.ca.

Registration for fall programs has begun at the Miles Nadal JCC. Program book now available or check the website. Exciting programs for adults and children, including fitness, recreation, cultural arts, adult education and community celebrations.

Summer Yiddish Seminar 2004, Aug. 29-Sept. 3. This program includes an intensive study of Yiddish language for beginners and advanced students and a cultural component, which includes guest lecturers, music workshops and films. There is also a special one-day Yiddish Marathon for absolute beginners. Advanced program, members $550, non-members $600. Beginner's program, members $200, non-members $250. One Day Yiddish Marathon, members $75, non-members $89. Cost includes materials. Call for information and registration.

Volunteers Wanted

SHUK IN THE PARK

Volunteers are needed to help plan, organize and staff Shuk in the Park 2004, an Israeli marketplace Sunday, Aug. 29. To get more information, contact 416-485-7007, ext. 200, or visit www/shukinthe park.com.

BAYCREST CENTRE

Volunteers are needed for the Palliative care Unit. Training and supervision are provided. Good English skills are necessary. Other languages needed are Hungarian, Italian, Portuguese, Mandarin or Spanish. Training begins Sept. 4. The Health Centre is also looking for volunteers who are well organized and like working with people. Good English skills and the ability to speak other languages are also helpful. Flexible times available. For information, call 416-785-2500, ext. 2575.

THE CONCERNED KIDS

Learn to be a professional puppeteer and educate young people about bereavement, drug awareness, HIV/AIDS, substance abuse, violence and more. The Concerned Kids needs energetic volunteers with dramatic flair to help present interactive puppet programs to young people ages 4-14. Must be willing to travel and commit one day per week from September 2004 to June 2005. Call 416-636-1656 or visit www.theconcernedkids.com. Training begins Sept. 1.

People in the News

KASHRUT COUNCIL

Meyer Feldman was recently elected chair of the Kashruth Council of Canada, Le Conseil Cacherout du Canada.

EMUNAH SCHOLARSHIPS: Emunah Women of Toronto awards scholarship to two young women who are planning to spend a year studying in Israel. This year's recipients are Ariella Pratzer, a CHAT graduate who will spend next year at Midreshet Lindenbaum in Jerusalem, and Shira Sokol, a graduate of Ulpanat Orot who will study at Michlelet Orot in Petach Tikvah. Winners were presented with their awards at the Mother in Israel dinner held at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. From left are Joyce Rifkind, Pratzer, Sokol and Marlene Segal.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION: Jeanne Beker was the guest speaker and recipient of the Corporate Good Citizenship Award at the Toronto Hadassah-WIZO volunteer recognition dinner. From left are Stephanie Shuler Fages, volunteer recognition chair; Beker; and Judy Zelikovitz, president of Toronto Hadassah-WIZO.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 16

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OBITUARIES and Related Notices

To place any other family related notice, please call at least 10 DAYS prior to the issue date

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

HEDREW BASIC

David Zeitchyk	Jul 13/04	9800 Yonge St
Manuel Fuith	Jul 14/04	3560 Bathurst St
Samuel Abrams	Jul 14/04	217 Park Home Ave
Gerald Feldt	Jul 15/04	2 Hogan Court
Sam Shapero	Jul 16/04	23 Shelborne Ave
Toby Olsen	Jul 19/04	1657 Bathurst St, LD
Irwin Wenus	Jul 19/04	27 Acton Ave
Jack Clement	Jul 18/04	980 Lynn Valley Rd
Alan Frank	Jul 19/04	2075 Bayview Ave
Irving Schwartz	Jul 18/04	36 Spencer Ave
David Weinstein	Jul 20/04	7440 Bathurst St
Charlotte Caplan	Jul 21/04	7189 Joliette Cres
Irv Mudrick	Jul 21/04	3560 Bathurst St
Leo Kon	Jul 21/04	8 Covington Rd
Eddy Bachner	Jul 21/04	25 Mortimer Court
Jack Levenson	Jul 22/04	595 The West Mall
Nathan Abramowitz	Jul 23/04	3181 Bayview Ave
Joe Krupski	Jul 24/04	179 Honiton St
Ada Glatter	Jul 22/04	1121 Steeles Ave W
Celia Smith	Jul 23/04	3636 Bathurst St
Ralph Castor	Jul 24/04	7 Townsgate Blvd
Margarita Reinsburg	Jul 11/04	429 Walmer Rd
Joan Ceresne	Jul 13/04	17 Farmstead Rd

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
LEO HANIFORD ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 8th, 12:30 p.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Sunnyside Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
Bella Rochwerg ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 8th at 11:00 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
986 Wilson Ave
Ozerower Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
FANNY DAVIDSON ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Aug. 15th, 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Bathurst, south of Steeles
Yavneh Zion Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
Alter Steinfeld ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 8th at 10:00 a.m.
Lambton Cemetery
Chmelniker Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
JACK KATES ז"ל
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Sunday, Aug. 15th, 10:00 am
Dawes Road
Kehilla Yakov Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
MANIA BIELAK ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Aug. 15th, 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Bathurst, south of Steeles
Keilcer Society Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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Would Kerry's policies help Israel?

By RON KAMPEAS
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

BOSTON — It has become the buzz phrase of the U.S. Democratic convention: "Strength and wisdom are not opposing values."

Former U.S. president Bill Clinton earned an extended ovation in Boston last week when he packed John Kerry's message on security and international relations into those seven words. Kerry would not hesitate to act, the message suggests, but he also would show greater openness to the concerns of those outside his administration, and abroad.

"Democrats favour shared responsibility, shared opportunity and more global cooperation," Clinton said. "We live in an interdependent world in which we can't kill, jail or occupy all our potential adversaries, so we have to both fight terror and build a world with more partners and fewer terrorists."

The anxious question Jewish Democrats have been posing to those running the Massachusetts senator's campaign has been: What does the message – and its implied criticism of President George W. Bush's foreign policy – mean for Israel?

No one would speak on the record at what is necessarily a love-fest for the party's candidate. But in numerous behind-the-scenes meetings with senior Kerry officials, Jewish Democrats have posed hard questions: Would Kerry's overall plan to consult more with other nations, raise the profile of international bodies and restore Clinton-era co-operation with Europe pull the United States away from the extraordinary closeness Bush has forged with Israel?

The anxieties have hardly been quieted by speeches at the convention, where speaker after speaker has emphasized the kind of global co-operation that Israel's current Likud-led government reviles because of the perceived pro-Arab tilt of the European Union and other international bodies.

It didn't help that figures who have been on the wrong end of Jewish community anger eagerly reinforced that message in forums large and small.

Former U.S. president Jimmy Carter, who many Jews feel has taken a consistently pro-Palestinian line since being voted out of office in 1980, riled some when he drew a link between the Bush administration's Israel policy and anti-American animus.

"Violence has gripped the Holy Land, with the region increasingly swept by anti-American passions," Carter told the convention in a prime-time speech that many Democrats said marked his revival as a central figure in the party.

Robert Borosage, an adviser to Jesse Jackson's presidential campaign in 1988, reinforced the point in an Arab American Institute panel.

"America today is more isolated and less admired and less secure than ever," he said, citing U.S. policy toward Israel as one reason.

Senior Democrats say Kerry's message has more to do with alleviating pressure on America in Iraq, and not specifically with Israel. But that didn't stop the questions in closed-door forums.

Specifically, would Kerry defer to European demands that the United States end its isolation of Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat?

As well, would Kerry be as proactive as Bush in pressing the Europeans to contain the surge in anti-Semitism? And would Kerry be as aggressive as Bush in isolating Iran and pressing it to dismantle its nuclear capability?

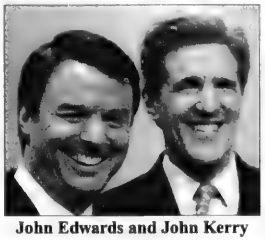
For answers, Democrats point to the party platform and Kerry's record:

He is unequivocal in supporting the isolation of Arafat and a nuclear shutdown in Iran. As far as anti-Semitism goes, Kerry campaigners suggest he may be even more adamant than Bush.

The president only has alluded to virulent strains of anti-Semitism in the Egyptian and Saudi mainstreams, they say, while Kerry has been more direct, even using an expletive in a meeting three years ago with Hosni Mubarak when the Egyptian president insisted he couldn't control the phenomenon.

On Iran, James Rubin, a Clinton-era State Department spokesperson who is touted as a possible national security adviser in a Kerry administration, said Kerry's policy of working more closely with European powers that are trying to persuade Iran to end its nuclear capabilities would be more effective than the Bush administration approach.

Should the Iranians fail to respond to European demands, Rubin said, the United States would then be in a position to use its allies to more effectively sanction Iran.



John Edwards and John Kerry

"That's called smart and tough diplomacy," he said.

Jewish leaders take comfort in such reassurances, but Democrats have been put on the defensive by a relentless Republican opposition research team: Even a tiny donation that trickled down from Teresa Heinz Kerry's charitable foundation to the virulently anti-Israel Council on American Islamic Relations has become an issue. Top Kerry officials say Heinz Kerry was at least three times removed from the donation, and was unaware of it.

It also doesn't help that Kerry often appears to follow Bush's lead in his pro-Israel policy, approving Israel's West Bank security barrier only after Bush did, and recognizing some Israeli West Bank claims and rejecting a Palestinian refugee "right of return" after Bush had already made those historic gestures.

The question of Kerry's approach to peacemaking was central in a packed National Jewish Democratic Council forum last week on whether Jews are turning Republican.

Several noted many in Israel are apprehensive at the prospect of increased U.S. pressure on Israel to make peace when it feels it doesn't have a trustworthy partner on the other side. Others at the forum said there was no reason to fear U.S. activism.

"Being pro-Israel means making sure Israel is at peace," said Geoffrey Lewis, a Boston lawyer who is active with the Israel Policy Forum. "An active U.S. engagement is critical to that goal."

Lewis said he believes most U.S. Jews would support greater engagement in the Middle East peace process.

Until now, one problem for the campaign had been the lack of a central pro-Israel figure in its top tier. Kerry filled that hole last week when he named Mel Levine, a former California congressman, to head the campaign's Middle East policy formulation.

The Kerry team is already using Levine, who until recently was a member of the board of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, to reach out to U.S. Jews, and he spoke at several Jewish events during the convention.

Kerry also has consulted with top Clinton-era Middle East officials Martin Indyk and Dennis Ross, both Jews, with a possible eye to appointments.

Levine, Ross and Indyk all have superb relations with the Jewish community, but they still pose a problem of timing: The current Israeli government, led by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, rejects the approach to peace that their biographies suggest, such as initiating and promoting final-status solutions that Likud leaders feel should be left only to Israel.

The Jewish Democrats attending the convention sympathize to a degree with the outlooks of Levine, Ross and Indyk.

Still, they dread confrontations between Sharon's government and a Kerry administration that could arise over disagreements about whether one side or the other is fulfilling its commitments.

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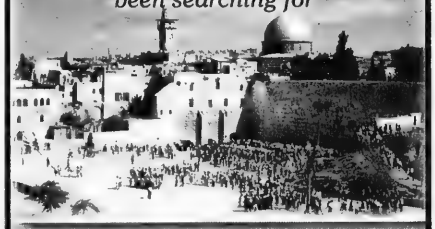

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More Gaza violence

Israel Defence Forces troops killed four armed Palestinians who were planting an explosive device near the al-Bureij refugee camp in Gaza last Friday, Army Radio reported. Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz was set to convene a meeting of security officials to discuss continued Qassam-rocket attacks on Israel, after Palestinians fired five rockets at Sderot in the Negev earlier in the day. Six people were treated for shock, and some municipal infrastructure sustained damage. Two rockets fell on the same area the day before. Earlier in the week, the IDF killed three terrorists in Gaza and the West Bank.

Straight as an Arrow

Israel and the United States conducted a successful test of the Arrow anti-ballistic missile system off the coast of California. The Defence Ministry said the Arrow intercepted an incoming Scud missile over the Pacific Ocean, while it was still in flight. This realistic test of the Arrow system was the first of its kind, and had been planned for two years. Israel developed the $2.2-billion (US) Arrow with U.S. assistance in response to the failure of American Patriot missiles to down the 39 Iraqi Scuds fired at Israel during the 1991 Gulf War.

Paris pleased with Sharon

France welcomed Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's praise of its efforts to quell anti-Semitism. "We have seen the statements by the Israeli prime minister saluting France for its determined action in fighting anti-Semitism, action which he said was of exemplary value," a French Foreign Ministry spokesperson said last Thursday, referring to remarks by Sharon the night before. Addressing a group of 200 new French immigrants in Tel Aviv, Sharon thanked France for its "determined action" to stop anti-Jewish violence. The remarks were seen as a bid to repair ties with Paris after he recently called for French Jews to immigrate and avoid "the wildest anti-Semitism" in France. There has been a jump in aliyah from France recently – it was up by 26 per cent in the first half of 2004, Jewish Agency officials said.

Arafat, Qureia make up

The Palestinian Authority prime minister withdrew his resignation last week. "The president has rejected my resignation and I will comply," Ahmed Qureia told reporters after emergency talks with PA President Yasser Arafat in which Arafat allegedly promised Qureia more responsibility in security matters.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

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Jordanian minister: Israel's fence 'national security threat'

By DANNY RUBINSTEIN and YOAV STERN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

AMMAN — The current route of Israel's separation fence constitutes a "grave national security threat" to Jordan, Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan Muashar warned last week.

In a wide-ranging interview in his Amman office, Muashar said the fence's current route, which cuts into the West Bank in several places, will prevent the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Such a state is crucial for Jordan, he said, because without it, many West Bank residents would emigrate, and their only option is Jordan.

"Israel must understand that we are not against a fence per se. Israel's need to defend itself is clear and understandable, but it can put the fence on the 1967 border. A fence inside Palestinian territories, as currently planned, will divide the West Bank into three parts, and every Palestinian will need an Israeli permit to go from one part to another.

"In the long run, they'll have the following options: to seek Israeli citizenship, which won't happen; to continue living under occupation forever; or to emigrate to Jordan. It's clear which option they'll choose," Muashar said.

"This affects our national security. Jordan does have a large proportion of Palestinians, but it is not an alternative homeland for the Palestinians in the territories. I think they also understand this in [Israel's ruling] Likud [party]. They tell us in Israel that we are exaggerating, that nothing will happen and the scenario is extreme. We say that if we look 10 years ahead, the situation could change and the scenario won't be so extreme, so a Palestinian state must be established. The fence eliminates that option, and the option of peace with other states."

Muashar said Israel never made any proper response to the Arab peace initiative, which began as a Saudi Arabian initiative and was adopted by the Arab League summit in March 2002 with the support of all Arab states. The plan included full recognition of Israel and normalized relations with all Arab countries in exchange for a full withdrawal from territories captured in 1967. It also said the refugee issue would be resolved on the basis of UN General Assembly resolution 194, but in a manner agreeable to both sides, meaning Israel would be able to veto anything it did not accept.

"Two years have passed since then. There have been two Arab League summits and dozens of conferences and changes in the Arab world – but no Arab country has reneged on the peace initiative or retreated from the agreement to recognize Israel and forge fully normalized ties with it. The initiative includes… security guarantees for all countries in the region.

"Nobody will throw you into the sea, and the Arabs will give up on going back to Jaffa or Haifa," Muashar said, adding, "I think the Arabs made a mistake when they did not make an effort to appeal to Israeli public opinion."

Istanbul synagogue reopens eight months after bombing

By YIGAL SCHLEIFER
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

ISTANBUL — The shattered front of Istanbul's Neve Shalom synagogue, some eight months after powerful suicide truck bombs struck it and another local synagogue, is still covered in a tall white tarp that flaps in the wind.

Beside the synagogue is a deep pit, all that's left of an adjacent building that had to be torn down because of the damage it sustained. Across the street from Neve Shalom, scattered among the small neighbourhood shops that have reopened, are still-vacant buildings with windows shattered from the Nov. 15, 2003 blast.

Behind the tarp covering the synagogue's front, though, workers are busy pouring concrete and putting metal reinforcing rods in place for a new entrance. Inside Neve Shalom's main sanctuary, which suffered less damage from the bomb, workers on scaffolding are painting the synagogue's stately dome and installing new electric wiring.

It's a scene that, in many ways, symbolizes the current situation of Istanbul's Jewish community. While the damage and the scars of the November bombings are still easy to see, the community is busily working to move on. At the same time, community leaders say, the bombings have led to new security realizations and requirements, which may make it difficult – if not impossible – to return to life as it was before.

"We are in an ongoing trauma situation," says Lina Filiba, the Turkish Jewish community's executive vice-president. "The whole community right now is a construction pit – it's a continuation of the crisis that started Nov. 15."

"The change of lifestyle, the security consciousness, the restriction on the use of facilities is something that people are still getting used to."

The closing of Neve Shalom, the city's central synagogue and the spiritual heart of the community, has meant Istanbul's Jews have been without a place large enough to hold weddings, bar mitzvahs and other events. Community leaders say its reopening will be an important symbol of the community's rebuilding effort.

The synagogue was temporarily reopened this week, but the building's formal reopening is not slated until October.

But for Istanbul's Jews there is much else to get used to. Most of the city's 15 synagogues still remain closed, while the community re-evaluates the security situation at each building to determine what kind of changes are needed. Among the changes on the agenda are reinforcing walls to withstand bomb blasts and changing traffic patterns near Jewish institutions.

The city's largest Jewish social club, where classes were held and youth groups and a theatre club met, has been permanently shut down while a new club is being built in a more secure location. The entrance to the old club was on a busy thoroughfare; the new one is in a quiet neighbourhood behind a high cement wall.

"What's changed in our daily life is that in every Jewish institution there are now real security precautions. This is a transition period, until we take a look at the precautions and figure out if everyone is in a safe place," says Tilda Levi, editor of *Shalom*, Turkey's weekly Jewish newspaper.

Although there have not been any further attacks against Jewish targets since the November bombings – which also included strikes against the British Consulate and a British-owned bank several days later – there have been several events that have engendered deep unease in the Jewish community. In March, two suicide bombers from a militant Turkish Islamist group attacked a masonic lodge on Istanbul's Asian side, killing two and injuring six.

Masons are frequently accused by Islamists and nationalists in Turkey of being a front for Jewish and Israeli interests, and, according to Turkish press reports, one of the bombers shouted "death to the Israeli lodge" as he was being taken injured to the hospital.

In the subsequent investigation, it turned out that a gun the bombers had been carrying had been the one used in the unsolved murder of Yasef Yahya, a Jewish dentist who was found killed execution style in his office the previous August. In a police re-creation of the murder, the suspects who had been arrested told investigators that they decided to kill Yahya after seeing his Jewish name on the sign outside his office.

In early May, meanwhile, Turkish police arrested a group of 16 men in connection with an alleged plot to bomb the NATO summit that recently took place in Istanbul. Although the plan was vague, the group – which police said had links to Al Qaida – apparently had a more developed plan to bomb one of the synagogues in Bursa, a city near Istanbul that has a small Jewish community of 70 people.

For many members of the Turkish Jewish community, the combination of events and the emergence of home-grown Turkish militant Islamist groups that see Jews as legitimate targets has had a chilling effect.

"People don't want to go to synagogue. They are scared," says Bensi Elmas, a dentist whose office is down the street from that of the murdered Yahya. "People think that an attack could happen again. But the community leaders say we should go, otherwise the terrorists will win."

Community members and leaders say their sense of discomfort has also been heightened by what they see as the increasingly vocal criticism of Israel in the country, criticism that they say is often turned toward them.

"When Israel does something against Muslims, you have protests here and then people here look at us and say, 'Look what you did,'" says Sabbatai Iyigor, a cantor at one of Istanbul's synagogues.

For example, a recent article in *The New Yorker* magazine that claimed that Israeli agents are training Iraqi Kurd commandos in the event that Iraq falls into chaos and the Kurdish north declares its autonomy, led to a flurry of criticism of Israel in the Turkish media.

Israel has denied the claims, but Turkey views any moves the Kurds make in Iraq with great suspicion and the possibility that Israel, an ally, was working with them was not well received. Some of what was written, though, was pointedly directed at Turkey's Jewish community.

JCCGV PROGRAM DIRECTOR

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UIA Federations Canada is a national Jewish fundraising organization and community planning body which was established in June 1998, as a result of the merger between the United Israel Appeal of Canada Inc., and the Council of Jewish Federations of Canada. Having fundraising and community development at the core of its objectives, UIAFC recognizes its responsibility to support and strengthen Jewish communities across Canada. With responsibility both to Canada and Israel, UIAFC looks to raise funds from communities both for local and overseas needs.

Jewish life reborn in Muslim Russian republic

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

KAZAN, RUSSIA — Although Kazan is a major industrial town with a reputation for fine universities and technical schools – Lenin studied here as a youth – the capital of the Tatar republic is barely known outside of Russia.

Located 800 kilometres east of Moscow on the Volga River, Kazan is home to 10,000 Jews. Jews have lived in this mostly Muslim city of 1.3 million for upward of 150 years, but the city's Jewish population increased substantially during World War II as refugees fled ahead of Nazi forces.

Kazan was also the site of important wartime factories – some already in place, others that were disassembled in western Russia and transported east by rail to take them outside the range of German guns.

Although the residents of Kazan avoided the kind of destruction seen in Moscow and Stalingrad, the Jews of this city know the horrors of the Holocaust, the trauma of communist repression and now, the joys resulting from the rebirth of Jewish life.

Elizabeth Brekeleva's life spans all three eras. At 82, she is a regular at Chesed Moshe, the community's seniors' club that meets in a large room above the city's lone synagogue. In the Soviet era, she could only dream that one day she would be free to gather with like-minded friends and celebrate their Jewish heritage.

A graduate of a pedagogic institute and for many years an English teacher, Brekeleva was evacuated from Moscow to Kazan during World War II.

After the war, she taught English, retiring in 1987. With the renaissance in Jewish life in Russia following the collapse of communism, Brekeleva sought out Chesed Moshe, where she has volunteered for six years as an English teacher.

Brekeleva's Russian husband died a few years ago, and she finds the camaraderie and companionship of fellow Jews heartening. Today, she has more than a few regrets about her life choices, many prompted by the unforgiving cruelty of living under a communist regime after the Nazis had murdered most of her family.

Her daughter, Zinaida Brekeleva, a surgeon visiting Kazan from the Arkhangelsk Region in Russia's far north, shares some of her mother's regrets as well as the comforts of an awakening Jewish consciousness.

"I was a Jew and sometimes I was ashamed of my nationality [during the Soviet period]," said Elizabeth. As a teacher in the city's Aviation Institute, she avoided using her Jewish-sounding patronymic, Zinovieva. Instead, she went by the name Petrovna, which is "more of a Russian name," she said. "After the war," she explained, "there were many people against Jews."

She also felt alone, unconnected to the Jewish world she had been forced to leave behind. Back in her native Byelorussia (Belarus today), the Nazis had killed her parents along with three brothers and a grandmother. With her immediate family destroyed and her link to her Jewish past gone, she married a Russian man.

Though he treated her well, Elizabeth nevertheless looks back on her life with sadness. "It's my great sorrow, you see. I lost my parents, three brothers, my grandmother, very young. I was 19 then. I saw them in 1940. It was my last meeting with my parents. All my life, I cry. It's very hard.

"I did want a man to understand me well. I always wished to marry a Jewish man, to have a soul connection," she said.

Although that element was missing in her life, the creation of Chesed Moshe a few years ago seems to have rekindled a connection to the Jewish people. "Chesed helped me remember my nationality and to feel happy here," Elizabeth said. "It's my second home here. I feel here very well."

Elizabeth Brekeleva and her daughter Zinaida

Beyond the friendships and social activities offered by Chesed Moshe, Elizabeth has begun celebrating Jewish traditions and holidays, as she did when she was a girl.

"It makes me feel very well. I am quite calm," she said.

Zinaida, who has four children ranging in age from 36 to 16, said she appreciates her mother's renewed interest in her Jewish heritage and she, too, has found that lost Jewish soul. All of their lives, she said, she felt her mother's sadness and her inability to find a Jewish way to express it.

"Here she feels herself Jewish, and I'm pleased to feel myself Jewish," she said. "I feel in my soul that I'm Jewish. Any Jewish melody will always bring me to tears. It's not a Russian tradition. The Russian tradition is more open, more festive, while the Jewish soul is always a memory, a connection to history, to the people."

Only a few years ago, there was no Chesed Moshe in Kazan, no organized religious life, no Jewish school, not much of anything to connect Jews to their collective soul.

With the liberalization of Russian society, religious life has blossomed and many faith communities have seized the opportunity to worship openly.

At great risk, Jews had maintained an underground religious life during the Soviet years. Shabbat was celebrated with prayer services in private apartments, but locations were frequently changed to avoid the notice of police. Matzah had been baked in Kazan for years and distributed through a clandestine network to those who wanted it. The community even supported a shochet until the 1980s, and anybody who wanted kosher meat knew how to find it.

With the end of the Soviet era, life began to ease for those wishing to live an openly Jewish life. Leonid Sonts, a musician and community leader, popularized Jewish culture through his renowned band, Simcha, reminding Jews of their rich heritage and proving Jewish culture could have a broad appeal.

In 1995, the old synagogue, which the communists had turned into a cultural centre, was returned to the community. In February 1997, the community's lone rabbi, Yitzchak Gorelik, moved to Kazan with his wife, Chanah, and their family. Gorelik, 30, was one of dozens of rabbis sent to Russia by the Chabad movement to do missionary work within the country's far-flung Jewish communities.

Russia's main cities, Moscow and St. Petersburg, had no problem attracting rabbis, but Jews in smaller centres in European Russia, as well as in Siberia and the newly independent former Soviet republics like Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova and Lithuania found it difficult.

Gorelick was willing to go wherever Chabad sent him. In Kazan, he found a community eager for him to establish the framework of Jewish religious life, help it reclaim its Jewish heritage, create community institutions, educate its children and help them celebrate Jewish holidays.

In the early days of religious freedom in Russia, young Chabad rabbis and students were sent as shiluchim (emissaries) to begin the long process of educating the communities in Jewish religious practice.

When he arrived in 1997, Rabbi Gorelick found the community had maintained a rudimentary religious life, albeit in the shadows.

With two vintage Torah scrolls that had been hidden from the authorities, Rabbi Gorelick set about developing the synagogue as the centre of community life. It was a task, he said, that was in keeping with long-standing Lubavitch practice. Lubavitch, he noted, had originated in Russia and the fifth Lubavitch rabbi's religious activities had landed him in a Soviet prison. One of his acolytes, Rabbi Alter Stolov, had served as Kazan's religious leader from 1945 to his death in 1968.

The local authorities knew about his activities, but because his work was not done in the open and most of his congregation were elderly, he was allowed to function.

However, teaching young people about Judaism was forbidden and one rabbi, Yitzhak Zilber, was harassed for doing so. Forced to flee to Tashkent, Rabbi Zilber eventually made aliyah and now lives in Israel, Rabbi Gorelick recounted.

Like Rabbi Zilber, Rabbi Gorelick also has a Tashkent connection. His father was born in the Uzbek city and his grandparents hailed from Rogachov in what is today Belarus. His grandfather, also a rabbi, was imprisoned for eight years for organizing Jewish activities and was only amnestied when Stalin died in 1953.

Rabbi Gorelick considers his move to Kazan a return to his Russian roots. "If you drop something, it falls in its place," he said.

When Chabad officials suggested he take the position in Kazan, he readily accepted. "I was brought up in a Chabad atmosphere and since early childhood, I was told [we should] be *shiluchim*. I knew after graduation, we would go somewhere where we would be helpful."

In the division of labour adopted by the Kazan Jewish community, Rabbi Gorelick is in charge of the religious life as well as Jewish education. In addition to operating the synagogue, he offers religious classes, organizes the chevrah kadishah, arranges for brit milahs, operates the mikvah, officiates at bar mitzvahs and weddings, places mezuzot on doorposts, offers books of Judaic content to the congregation and helps organize a kindergarten for 17 children.

He plans to open a religious school next year.

Rabbi Gorelick is also the most visible representative of the community. At state and municipal functions, it is Rabbi Gorelick who stands in for the Jewish community.

Alexander Velder, chair of the United Jewish Community of Kazan, explained that Rabbi Gorelick has the same representative status as the local mullahs who speak for the Muslim community. However, the secular community organization also has good relations with the regional government – a development he attributes in large part to signals emanating directly from Russian President Vladimir Putin.

In a highly publicized event, Putin attended the opening in Moscow of a community campus building, reconstructed by Chabad after it was firebombed by anti-Semitic vandals. "It's quite enough he makes positive statements about Jews and Jewish life," said Velder, speaking through his interpreter and son Ilya. "All the other governors are in line with that."

In another highly publicized event, Tatarstan president, Mintimer Shaimiev, invited Rabbi Gorelick to the local "kremlin" – the government offices – in 2002 to light a large chanukiyah and to send greetings to the Jewish community, said Ilya.

Ilya, who plans to study law in the United States, said, "Here, this place is really tolerant and the community has equally good relations with the presidential administration and the mayor."

While the community has good external relations, internally it is struggling to meet the social and cultural needs of a people who had long relied on government for all its needs.

So far, it has established the seniors' club, a Jewish high school, a student union and the kindergarten.

In the spring, the community purchased a building for three million rubles ($100,000 US) and is planning to create a seniors' hospice that will eventually house 50 elderly Jews. Velder said the Joint Distribution Committee has agreed to support it in part, as will the local government, but Kazan's Jews will have to come up with half a million dollars.

Velder acknowledges it is hard to convince Russian Jews to ante up the funds needed for such projects. "For about 80 years of Soviet power, the authorities demolished every sense of Jewish identity, and only for the last 10 years we have been trying to revive it."

Today, the community's budget relies on gifts from about 15 well-to-do businessmen, 10 of whom sit on the community council's board. "There are a lot of people who have the idea that the community is well funded by foreign organizations and this is a reason people don't need to support the community. Our task is to convince them it's not the case," Velder said.

Paul Lungen was recently a guest of Chabad Lubavitch in Russia.

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Single malts the toast of kiddush clubs

Continued from page 1

"The demand for scotch has risen tremendously in the past few years. It has become the drink of choice for large numbers of North Americans, and also Japanese who are big consumers. Twelve years ago, no one would have predicted today's demand for scotch."

Especially in synagogues, he said, kiddush club members are enjoying it across North America.

Nathan says he had his first taste of whisky when he was seven years old and "my bubbie gave me a little bit with warm water. My parents are now [in their 80s] and they have a glass of scotch every day. It is in my blood; I grew up with it."

Although whisky is made in a number of countries, says Nathan, scotch whisky comes only from Scotland. Single malt indicates that the whisky, though possibly from different casks, was made in only one distillery and has not been blended with any other product.

Blended scotch, on the other hand, contains a variable proportion of blended malt and grain whiskies. A good quality blend may contain more than 40 per cent malt, an inferior one much less.

The maturation of scotch stops at bottling, so a 12-year-old whisky bottled four years ago is still a 12-year-old whisky. "One member of the kiddush club has bought a barrel of scotch and is waiting 10 years for it to mature," says Nathan.

It is a sipping drink, he says. "People drink it for the taste. I'm amazed when I pour someone a good single malt and they gulp it down. You cannot gulp and appreciate. Vodka is a fuel, it has no taste; scotch is to be appreciated."

Different scotches have different flavours, he says. "I can detect the smoothness, smokiness, colour, and bouquet or smell. When it is poured, I hold the glass in my hand to warm it up, and then swill it around to release the taste. Scotch glasses have a wide top so the drinker can sniff it while drinking."

It is usually accompanied by snacks. "At a simchah, we drink scotch at the cocktail hour, but not at the meal. The absolute best thing to eat with scotch is shmaltz herring. When I come home from work, I may have a glass of scotch and some herring before I decide what to have for dinner."

He brings a bottle of single malt scotch to the kiddush club when there is a special occasion such as a birthday, or the recent anniversary.

There has been some controversy about the kashruth of certain scotches, he says, because some rabbis have an issue about drinking scotch that has been aged in a wine or sherry-based cask. Wines, and other products made from grapes, are subject to rigorous halachic strictures.

Sherry casks are wooden barrels that were originally used for the storing or aging of sherry wine. Similarly, port casks used in some scotch selections were originally used to store or age port wines.

But the halachic issue surrounding the case of sherry or port casks has been answered, according to Nathan, by Rabbi Jeremy Rosen, an Orthodox rabbi from Glasgow who has a pulpit in a north London synagogue. He writes that the "sherry casks used to mature some malts are imported bone dry and the main value of the sherry lies simply in the seasoning of the wood and perhaps some discolouration.

As well, Rabbi Reuven Lauffer, of Ohr Somayach/Tannenbaum College in Jerusalem, says that "from a halachic standpoint, even if the scotch is aged in sherry casks, the scotch is more than six times the volume of the wood, and it is kosher."

The first time Weinberger was served scotch, he says, he was told it was an acquired taste. "I soon began drinking any type of scotch I was given.

"When I started drinking single malt scotch, however, I was converted completely. I hardly drink rye now at all.

"Scotch is a drink that needs to be sipped. Then the flavour can be appreciated."

After a Friday-evening meal, he says, he puts out four or five selections of scotch so his guests can have a choice. "I will put out rye, if that is what they want."

At the B'nai Torah Congregation's Haftorah kiddush club, they generally drink blended scotch unless there is a special occasion, says member Michael Stavsky.

"Some blends are good, but when I drink single malt, I can detect the smoothness. If I were blindfolded, I could tell the difference. Each single malt has its own subtle flavour."

Stavsky, 28, who began drinking scotch several years ago, has expanded his collection since he moved here from Denver, Colorado, he says.

"Scotch should not be drunk like wine. It is for a l'chaim or after dinner. It is very much a social drink. It's not something to drink for the alcohol effects. It should be sipped and enjoyed with friends."

About Nutrition

Q. Now that so many great fruits are in season, I am wondering which are the best ones to choose?

A. Eating a wide variety of fruit is in general a good rule of thumb, because you get a variety of nutrients. However, some are more nutritious than others. Choose blueberries – they're a real nutrition powerhouse, excellent for your heart and brain. Choose strawberries – they're high in vitamin C, fibre and low in calories. Choose cantaloupe, an excellent source of vitamin C. Choose peaches and nectarines, as well as plums, cherries, raspberries, blackberries and watermelon. Most importantly, eat the fruits you enjoy, and lots of them.

Q. I was recently told that my cholesterol is high. I don't really understand what this means or what I should do.

A. First, and very important, go back to your doctor and find out what part of your cholesterol is high. When cholesterol levels are gleaned from a blood test, many readings are usually taken, including your HDL cholesterol (good cholesterol), LDL cholesterol and triglycerides (both bad cholesterols, but requiring different dietary interventions). Many people do not know which is the problem and, therefore, can't make the appropriate dietary changes.

Once you gather that information, follow these recommendations.

If your HDL is high, you're OK. This is your protective cholesterol and sometimes makes your overall or total cholesterol number high, when in fact you're in good shape.

If your LDL is high, you should reduce your intake of foods containing saturated and trans fats, such as red meat, butter, cream, pastry, cheese, fried foods, crackers and cookies. At the same time, you should eat more foods with fibre and boost your activity levels.

If your triglycerides are elevated, reduce sugars and alcohols, in the form of such things as fruit, pastry, desserts, jams, juices, pop, beer and liquor.

Losing about 15 to 20 pounds also usually helps reduce bad cholesterol.

Lisa Weinberg is a registered dietitian/nutritionist in Toronto, in private practice and at the Genesis Professional Group. If you have any nutrition questions, please send them to The CJN.

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Arts & Travel

Jammers relive their high-school rock-band glory days

By DAVID SILVERBERG
Special to The CJN

I slide my left hand down the top string of the electric bass, hitting the right note for the chorus of Van Morrison's *Brown Eyed Girl*.

I'm jamming, I say to myself, as if the activity is as novel as scuba-diving would be for me. It feels empowering.

Surrounding me are strangers who are sharing in my rock-star moment: Godwin is an emergency physician by day, guitar virtuoso by night; Melissa practises law but sings like The Mamas and The Papas' Cass Elliot; Brian is self-employed and a singer-cum-pianist, a smile always stretching across his face.

What invigorates these closet musicians are the jam sessions at Downtown Jam, on the fifth floor of a Toronto building at Richmond and Church streets.

Six nights a week, Downtown Jam members file into three studios equipped with drum sets, guitars, microphones, speakers and electric keyboards. Wires snake across the floor.

The jam's founder, Andrew Hall, says it's a playground for adults, where amateur musicians can play classic rock tunes in a carefree, audience-free space. The jam provides songbooks containing 500 songs, along with their guitar and bass tabs – written notes or chords – printed above the lyrics. Musicians simply call out a song and the others flip to the page to follow along.

Hall has run Downtown Jam for eight years, to give Torontonians a chance to relive their high-school rock-band glory days. "This isn't the karaoke experience," he says. "People forget about their day jobs and collaborate here. They actually create."

And is the jam as satisfying to organize as it is to participate in? "I'm making a living out of having fun," Hall says.

He spends 75 hours a week on Downtown Jam, and although others might consider him an entrepreneur, Hall says he's not the type to wear a business suit. "I never took a business course," he says.

In 1996, after an inspirational talk with his brother, Hall took his musical experience – as a drummer and self-taught pianist – into the business realm and opened Downtown Jam. At first, only a handful of people joined the jam, but today each night is packed with a half-dozen groups of four to nine jammers.

A first-year jam membership costs $289. For a 2½-hour jam session, there's a $23 charge for musicians and a $16 fee for singers. Non-member rates are $46 a session for musicians and $32 for singers.

When new members join the jam, Hall says he has to hold their hands until they get used to the format. Ideally, members learn to network and join jam sessions that are in progress, he adds. Several bands have formed out of Downtown Jam.

"Watching people connect really fires me up," Hall says. He has seen different cultures – Jewish and Asian musicians, for instance – collaborate to create "truly rockin' music," he says, adding that music has always broken barriers.

Hall has a message for prospective Downtown Jammers. "If you're here for fun, you're here for the right reason."

While I'm playing at Downtown Jam, I study the faces around me. The drummer's lips are pursed as he slams his stick on the cymbal. The guitarist grins as his fingers dance in a Jimi Hendrix-style solo. Here, I understand that dreams can be realized and the past can return like a beloved melody. Like hundreds of beloved melodies.

Downtown Jam is at 74 Richmond St. E., fifth floor. For more information, phone Hall at 416-585-9998.

Jamming are Doug McLellan, guitar (TV editor), Kyle Tung is on the drums (financial analyst), and Frank Heisler is on the bass (computer network consultant).

Control Room takes close look at Al-Jazeera

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Until recently, Al-Jazeera – the Arab satellite television station with an estimated viewership of 40 million – had little or no regard for hallowed journalistic standards such as fairness and objectivity.

Intensely criticized by the United States and Israel for its one-sided coverage of the second Gulf war and the Arab-Israeli conflict, Al-Jazeera won the admiration of some Muslims by broadcasting exclusive images of Al Qaeda chieftain Osama bin Laden in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C.

And of late, Al-Jazeera, based in Doha, Qatar, has been a principal medium for anti-American Iraqi insurgents announcing the capture and killings of foreign hostages.

Taking Washington's criticism to heart, Al-Jazeera last month unveiled a new code of ethics to ensure balanced and sensitive reporting.

Several days later, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC), in a long-awaited decision, ruled that cable and satellite operators here may carry Al-Jazeera on digital channels.

The CRTC, however, stipulated that Canadian distributors of Al-Jazeera would have to monitor it for "abusive comment" and "alter or curtail" programming deemed offensive.

This caveat won the support of the Canadian Jewish Congress, which had been quite concerned about Al-Jazeera's propensity for airing material many Jews regarded not only as crudely anti-Israel but as implicitly anti-Semitic.

Judging by Jehane Noujaim's new and jaunty documentary about Al-Jazeera's treatment of last year's war in Iraq, *Control Room*, currently playing in Canadian theatres, western standards of objectivity appear alien to Al-Jazeera.

Deema Khatib, a young producer, puts it best when she observes that objectivity is "almost like a mirage," and that both the United States and Al-Jazeera have an agenda to pursue.

In keeping with its mandate to show the human cost of the war in Iraq, Al-Jazeera touched off a storm of protest in the Bush administration when it ran inflammatory footage of wounded Iraqis, captured and slain U.S. soldiers and shattered buildings bombed by American pilots.

Addressing this contentious issue head-on in the spirit of fair-mindedness, *Control Room* lets both sides vent steam.

Samir Khader, Al-Jazeera's senior producer, a reflective man raised in Iraq, makes it abundantly clear that, as Arabs and Muslims, he and his colleagues are "for the Iraqi people."

Fair enough.

Continued on page 32

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

ASHKENAZ FESTIVAL 2004 LIVENS UP LABOUR DAY WEEKEND IN TORONTO

Focusing on the theme of migration, the Ashkenaz Festival of New Yiddish Culture 2004 brings a bustling weekend of music, film, theatre, literature, lectures and storytelling to Toronto's Harbourfront Centre over the Labour Day weekend.

The festival, which has put Toronto at the forefront of the international klezmer scene, runs from sundown Saturday, Sept. 4, through Monday, Sept. 6. The international roster includes artists from Ethiopia, France, South America, and Holland. Pre-festival activities begin Aug. 31 and many events are free. Highlights include:

• A free open-air concert by **The Klezmatics**. Harbourfront CIBC Stage, Sept. 4, 9:30 p.m.

• Pre-festival concert by **Klezmer en Buenos Aires**, with clarinetist **Cesar Lerner** and accordionist **Marcelo Moguilevsky**. Miles Nadal JCC, Thursday Sept. 2, 8 p.m. The group also performs in Harbourfront's Brigantine Room, Sept. 5, 7 p.m. $36 for each concert.

• Pianist **Marilyn Lerner** performs her original score to the silent Yiddish film *East and West*, which was **Molly Picon's** first film. Nadal JCC, Wednesday Sept. 1, 8 p.m. and Harbourfront's Studio Theatre, Sept. 5, 2 p.m. Klezmer en Buenos Aires presents its musical version of the comedy film classic, Sept. 6, 5 p.m. $18 for each performance.

• The Yiddish Radio Hour resurrects the classics of Yiddish radio in Canada from the 1930s to the '50s, celebrating many forgotten geniuses and important recordings. Harbourfront, Sept. 5, 4:30 p.m. and Sept. 6, 2:30 p.m. $15.

• **Yossi Vassa**, the "**Eddie Murphy** of Israel," presents *It Sounds Better in Amharic*, a moving and often hilarious personal account of his 700-km trek from Ethiopia to Israel. Harbourfront Studio Theatre, Sept. 4 and 5, 8 p.m. $15.

• From Holland, **Ot Azoj** presents an artful blend of klezmer and contemporary eastern European folk music. Harbourfront CIBC Stage, Sept. 4, 8 p.m.

• The Berlin duo **Khupe** offers improvisation and innovation that remain true to klezmer's roots. Harbourfront CIBC Stage, Sept. 5, 9:30 p.m. and Sept. 6, 2:15 p.m.

•The French-Canadian band **Manouche** delivers sexy, energetic renditions of old Yiddish standards. Harbourfront's *Toronto Star* stage, Sept 5, 5:30 p.m. (Other Quebec performers at the festival include **Shtreimi** and **Jeszce Raz**.)

• Film buffs will enjoy **Yale Strom's** *Klezmer on Fish Street* as well as the 1935 French-Czech cult film *The Golem*, the hilarious *Catskill Honeymoon* and the **Edgar Ulmer** and **Moishe Oysher** melodrama, *The Singing Blacksmith* (*Yankel der Schmidt*).

For tickets and information, please call 416-973-4000 or visit the websites, www.ashkenazfestival.com or www.harbourfrontcentre.com.

***

Yiddish Lecture: Prof. **Yoshiji Hirose** of Notre Dame Seishin University, Okayama, Japan, speaks in Yiddish about the work of **Isaac Bashevis Singer** and how Singer inspired him to master the Yiddish language. Workmen's Circle, 471 Lawrence Ave. W. Wednesday Aug. 4, 7:30 p.m.

***

New Stories from Rosenfarb: Prominent Canadian Yiddish author **Chava Rosenfarb** has recently published *Survivors: Seven Short Stories*, a collection of newly translated stories that focuses on characters who attempt to reinvent themselves in various adoptive lands but can't shake their persistent memories of the internment camps of Europe.

Rosenfarb, who has received numerous prestigious literary prizes, discusses and reads from this new collection, which was translated from Yiddish to English by her daughter, **Goldie Mortentaler.** Israel's Books and Judaica, 870 Eglinton Ave. W. Refreshments, no admission charge. Tuesday, Aug. 10, 8 p.m.

***

Theatre Designers Needed: Teatron Theatre seeks non-union lighting, sound and set designers for a production of *The Chosen* by **Aaron Posner** and **Chaim Potok**, scheduled for Nov. 27 to Dec. 12. Contact Ari Weisberg, 416-781-5527. E-mail teatron@sympatico.ca, website www.teatrontheatre.com

***

Master Class in Yiddish Drama: Internationally renowned French-Yiddish actor and mime **Rafael Goldwasser** is conducting a master class in Yiddish drama in Toronto this fall. This rare opportunity to participate in an intense workshop on Yiddish drama is jointly sponsored by Ashkenaz Foundation and UJA Federation's Committee for Yiddish.
Two sessions are being offered at the Miles Nadal JCC: Wednesday, Sept. 1, and Thursday, Sept. 2, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. $20 per session or $36 for both. Space is limited, so please reserve immediately. 416-635-2883, ext. 155.

***

Names in the News: Toronto **Rabbi Immanuel Schochet** has drawn much ink in Britain recently for his outspoken criticism of the celebrity-backed Kabbalah Centre of London, which **Madonna** and others have catapulted into the gossip columns. It's "sheer nonsense" for the centre to encourage non-Hebrew readers to scan the text of the Zohar, he told a London gathering, according to the *Jewish Chronicle*. "Superstition is very powerful," he reportedly said. "Because a person is rational and well educated, it doesn't mean they're safe from it." A lawsuit that the centre filed in Canada against Schochet in 1993 is now "dormant," the *Chronicle* reported.

•Congrats and many happy returns to **"Honest" Ed Mirvish**, who celebrated his 90th birthday with 10,000 of his closest friends on Sunday, July 25, outside Honest Ed's in Toronto's Mirvish Village. Among many distinguished attendees was **Mayor David Miller**, who declared July 25 as Ed Mirvish Day.

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Arts & Travel

Al-Jazeera knows where its bread is buttered

Continued from page 30

But as Noujaim – an Arab-American filmmaker – suggests, the editors and managers of Al-Jazeera allow their fixed views to colour their interpretation of events.

One Al-Jazeera reporter claims that Washington's motive for invading Iraq was to seize oil fields and gain hegemony over the Middle East. Still others express shock and embarrassment when Baghdad falls to the American army.

On a personal level, some Al-Jazeera employees display nothing but dripping contempt for U.S. military spokespersons.

It seems clear that Al-Jazeera's management has no real interest in the impartial presentation of the news. In brief but sharp news clips, Donald Rumsfeld, the American secretary of defence, voices outrage over Al-Jazeera's tendency to "play fast and loose" with the truth.

Yet Central Command, which planned and prosecuted the war against Saddam Hussein, also seems to be in the business of "managing" the news, CNN correspondent Tom Mintier claims.

In its defence, Central Command explains that its troops would be put at risk were too much information to be released at once.

Control Room reaches a peak of intensity when Al-Jazeera's helmeted correspondent in Baghdad is killed during a U.S. bombing raid. Al-Jazeera management believes he was deliberately targeted as punishment for its skewed coverage of the war.

An Al-Jazeera anchorperson in a scene from Control Room.

It will come as no surprise that Al-Jazeera reporters are antagonistic to Israel. One speaks about "massacres in Palestine," while another contends that Israel and the United States are trying to reshape the Middle East.

But in a refreshing comment, Hassan Ibrahim, a wizened and seasoned staffer, whose wife works in Jerusalem, takes Arabs to task for blaming Israel instead of Arab regimes for the state of their societies.

One of the most intriguing figures in *Control Room* is Abdallah Schliefer, an American Jewish convert to Islam and an Arab publicist. He complains that Israeli soldiers brutalize Palestinians, and says that Arabs conflate Israelis with Americans.

Khader explains that its mission is to encourage free debate and to "shake up" and "awaken" the Arab world.

In a sense, Al-Jazeera has achieved these objectives since its founding in 1996. But for self-serving reasons, Al-Jazeera has not had the spunk or the courage to broadcast unfavourable stories about Qatar, where it is headquartered.

Love it or hate it, Al-Jazeera knows where its bread is buttered.

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CJN Profile

First-time author copes with sudden literary fame

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

For David Bezmozgis, an up-and-coming Canadian writer who has been compared to the American master Saul Bellow, fame sometimes seems like a tiresome distraction.

"All this attention is distracting for someone who's supposed to sit quietly in a room and write," said Bezmozgis, whose first published book, *Natasha and Other Stories* (Harper-Flamingo), has been universally acclaimed by reviewers in Canada and the United States.

"But it's a welcome distraction. I understand the significance of it," he allowed in a recent interview at the World Class Bakers café on St. Clair Ave. West, a five-minute walk from his mid-town Toronto home, located on a tree-lined street.

Bezmozgis, 31, was a struggling and virtually unknown writer until quite recently. But in 2003, while toiling as a producer for a Toronto-based digital documentary television channel, his prospects suddenly and spectacularly blossomed when his stylistically spare and somewhat autobiographical stories about a fictional Russian Jewish family in Toronto, the Bermans, successively appeared in *The New Yorker* and *Harper's* and in such literary magazines as *Grain*, *Prairie Fire* and *Zoetrope*.

Now they have been published in book form in *Natasha*, which has been translated into Hebrew, German, French, Dutch, Spanish, Italian, Japanese and Latvian.

Bezmozgis, who crafted the tales over an intense two-year period, is naturally pleased with the attention he has received of late.

But the demands of promoting *Natasha* have taken an inevitable toll.

"I've been travelling more and writing less," complained Bezmozgis, a tall, soft-spoken, reticent man whose extremely casual attire and black horn-rimmed glasses give him a decidely intellectual and detached air.

"I haven't been able to get into my new novel the way I would have liked," he said. "In the last few months, there has been an upheaval."

His complaints notwithstanding, Bezmozgis realizes he is on a roll and far luckier than most writers his age.

Natasha's success has finally given him the kind of financial independence he craves. "I can do what I want. I'm my own man."

And best of all, he knows editors are waiting for his first novel – which he is currently writing and declined to discuss – and his next batch of short stories.

Apart from all that, he no longer has to submit work on spec. When he began writing seriously as an undergraduate at McGill University, he never knew whether his submissions would even be acknowledged.

In some cases, his stories disappeared into black holes of indifference. In yet other instances, works such as *An Animal to the Memory*, *Choynski* and *Roman Berman, Massage Therapist*, all of which can be found in the pages of *Natasha*, were returned with encouraging words.

"I was dejected, but I realized there was someone out there who recognized me," he said of those years in the wilderness.

Bezmozgis achieved his first real breakthrough while studying English literature at McGill. His play, *The Last Waltz: An Inheritance*, was produced on campus and subsequently by the Playwrights' Workshop Montreal.

Under the partial influence of his parents, Mendel and Sarah, Soviet immigrants who arrived in Canada in 1980 from the former Soviet Union, and to whom *Natasha* is dedicated, Bezmozgis made an abrupt U-turn.

Concerned that the writer's life offered him less than a secure future, the principal reason his parents emigrated from Riga in the first place, he studied film at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

Bezmozgis finished a master of fine arts degree and churned out three documentaries, including *L.A. Mohel*, a film about ritual circumcisers, in Los Angeles. But his dream of selling a screenplay to an independent producer, or directing a feature, never panned out.

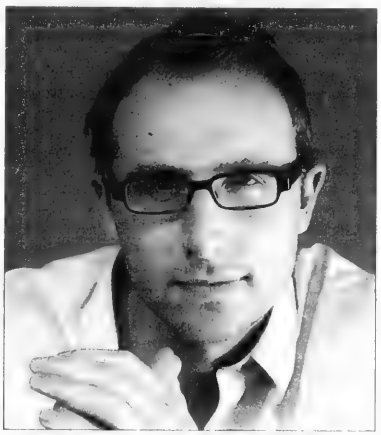
During his sojourn in California, Bezmozgis met two people who had an enormous impact on him – Leonard Michaels, an under-appreciated novelist (*The Men's Club*) who took him under his wing, and Wyatt Mason, a writer, critic and translator who detected promise in Bezmozgis' budding talents.

He learned a lot from Michaels, who died last year.

"He writes very succinctly and combines humour and emotion with great intelligence," said Bezmozgis, who has also been influenced by Philip Roth, Isaac Babel and Mordecai Richler.

In a further reference to Michaels, Bezmozgis added, "Also, he's a Jewish writer who writes about Jews in a secular mode, though his characters are undeniably Jewish."

Mason played an integral role by showing his stories to Lorin Stein, an editor at Farrar, Strauss and Giroux. Stein was impressed and asked for more.



David Bezmozgis

In retrospect, Bezmozgis is not sure whether his stories would have been acceptable to Farrar, Strauss and Giroux without Mason's intervention. However, he is quite confident they were worthy of publication and would have been picked up by a different publisher had Mason not come along.

Typically, Bezmozgis sticks to a rigorous regimen, writing every day and composing his work on a computer.

"It would be hard to write in long hand because I edit as I write. I don't leave anything on the screen I'm uncomfortable with. I essentially finish a story in the first draft."

Bezmozgis, who lives with his girlfriend Hannah Young, has few memories of his childhood in Latvia, where his family has deep roots. Last year, he and his parents visited Riga, the capital, and thought it looked exceedingly western, far more so than in the past.

He is the first to admit that his surname, combining Russian with Latvian and roughly meaning "without a brain," is highly unusual.

"We're not sure how it came about, but we may have had an ancestor who pretended to be insane to avoid military service."

During the Holocaust, his grandparents fled east beyond the reach of the invading German army, only to return with the Soviet reconquest of Latvia.

Now a massage therapist, his father was a trainer and administrator of a soccer club in Riga. His mother was a mechanical engineer.

They decided to leave Latvia because of the burden of anti-Semitism and the desire to improve their lives and live in a free society.

Their original destination was the United States, but on a whim, they chose Canada. The "threat of war" dissuaded them from considering Israel, said Bezmozgis, an only child.

They arrived in Toronto in 1980, when Bezmozgis was six. It took him six months to learn English, and today, he does not consider English his second language. In the company of his parents, he converses in Russian.

Although he adapted to Canada long ago, he said he will always consider himself, in some sense, an immigrant here.

"My culture is not broadly Canadian. I feel a difference in intangible ways, though I don't feel like an outcast."

Ideally, Bezmozgis wants to pursue parallel careers in writing and filmmaking. "There are things in film you can't accomplish in fiction, and vice-versa."

A script he has written, set in Toronto and revolving around a Russian Jewish family like his own, is currently in development. He hastened to add it is not an adaptation of *Natasha*.

Success has not gone to his head. "I don't feel famous, at least in the larger world," he mused. "In the book world, it's a mixed blessing."

His biggest fear is that readers will focus on him, the new kid on the block, rather than on his sparkling collection of short stories. But he takes this in stride.

"That's the Catch-22 situation that's unavoidable."

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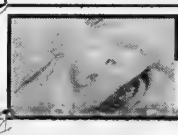

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Family Moments

see Page 21

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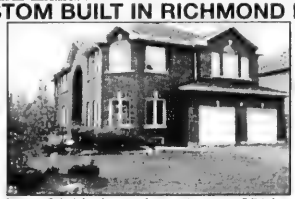

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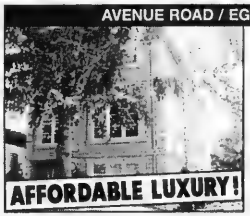

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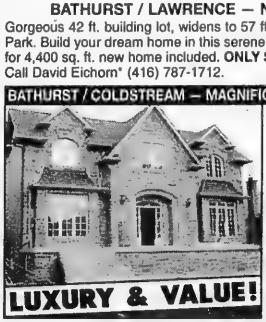

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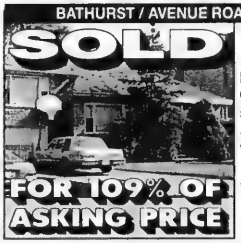

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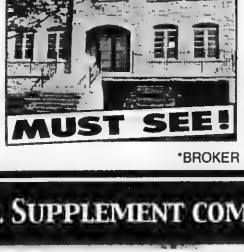

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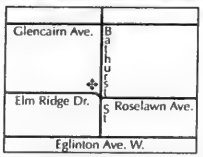

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Books & Authors

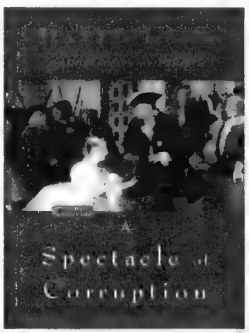
18th century sleuth returns in *A Spectacle of Corruption*

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

Ever since Edgar Allan Poe, the detective has figured as a major archetypal hero in modern fiction. Literary detectives have emerged in so many personas and guises that there are now more than a minyan's worth of Jewish gumshoes in the bookshops, ranging from Howard Engel's Benny Cooperman to Harry Kemelman's Rabbi David Small. (An Internet search turns up several of the female variety as well.)

David Liss, author of the recently published *A Spectacle of Corruption*, offers us a memorable Jewish proto-detective in the character of Benjamin Weaver, a Sephardi Jew who acts as a roguish sleuth in the roughshod London of the 1720s.

A former boxer, Weaver becomes a self-employed "thief-taker," the nearest thing the crime-ridden city had to a municipal police officer.



A Spectacle of Corruption is a sequel to *A Conspiracy of Paper*, Liss's best-selling 2000 literary debut novel in which Weaver was introduced. The first book deals with the origins of the British stock market and events leading up to the infamous South Sea Bubble, the first major stock market collapse.

"This was the moment when stock speculation and investing in government issues moved out of the realm of the obscure and arcane business ventures that only a few people knew about to become part of popular culture," Liss told *The CJN* during a recent visit to Toronto.

A Spectacle of Corruption takes place a few years after the South Sea Bubble burst, when England was still mired in recession and the financial scandal was still casting a deep shadow over a volatile electorate.

It's a politically uneasy time, with the Whigs and Tories battling for supremacy and George I attempting to secure his hold on the throne.

The times were politically tenuous, Liss said, and corruption was rampant.

"There were things like voter clubs, in which hundreds of people would offer their block of votes to the highest bidder," said the American-born author, who lives in San Antonio.

In *A Spectacle of Corruption*, Weaver is convicted of a murder he did not commit, escapes from jail with the aid of some mysterious friends, and attempts to establish his innocence. That task proves difficult because the court system, moved by powerful unseen forces, is determined to find him guilty, no matter what evidence he presents in his defence.

"His first problem was how do you solve a crime when there's no evidence a crime has taken place? This was a time before inductive reasoning and circumstantial evidence were considered legally valid."

Liss had been studying 18th-century English literature at New York's Columbia University when he decided to write the first novel, whose great popularity all but ensured his career as a novelist. (Between the two Benjamin Weaver novels, he wrote *The Coffee Trader*, another immensely popular historical novel set in 17th-century Amsterdam.)

He decided to make Benjamin Weaver Jewish, he said, because he was intrigued by Anglo-Jewish figures from that era.

"I had done a lot of research about Jews in 18th century England and knew a lot about that," he said. "But I'm also very interested in various types of Jewish historical identities and historical periods.

"The 18th century is probably the first time in modern history where something like a Jewish secular identity is even remotely possible. The British were a pretty bigoted people, but the Jews had far more liberties in England than in any other European countries, and could integrate into mainstream British society in various ways."

An innovator of the financial historical thriller, Liss has done a thorough study of the English literary fascination with money and the connection often drawn between money and the Jews in early novels.

"The ways in which Jewish characters manifest in 18th-century novels offer a kind of personification of the changing role of money in consciousness," he said, adding that, as fictional characters, Jewish money handlers were often presented in a malevolent light.

But not always.

"In [Tobias] Smollett's novel *Ferdinand Count Fathom* [1753], there's a character, a Jewish financier, who is kind of a day-saver of the novel. So Jews appear not only as evil embodiments of money but also as benevolent embodiments of money."

A Spectacle of Corruption is published in hardcover by Random House and sells in Canada for $37.95.

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Jewish medal winners highlighted in *Jews and the Olympic Games*

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

There is an old and tiresome stereotype that Jews are unathletic.

It grates on the nerves because some of the greatest athletes in modern times, from baseball and football players to Olympic champions, have been Jewish.

With the Summer Olympic Games in Athens just a week away, now is as good time as any to recall the exploits of Jewish Olympians.

Which is precisely what Paul Yogi Mayer, a sports journalist and former Maccabiah athlete, does in *Jews and the Olympic Games,* published by Vallentine Mitchell.

His timely book, which unfortunately tends to be on the dry side, covers both the Summer and Winter Games since the Olympics' modern resurrection in 1896.

By Mayer's count, Jewish athletes have picked up 416 medals, of which 179 have been gold, since 1896, mainly in fencing, swimming, athletics and gymnastics.

Not a bad haul.

According to Mayer, the youngest athlete at the 1896 games in Athens was 18-year-old Alfred Guttman (Hajos), who blew away the competition at two of the three swimming events.

Myer Prinstein, an American, placed first in the triple jump at the 1900 and 1904 Games in Paris and St. Louis.

And in 1906 in Athens, Jewish competitors, including the British fencer Edgar Seligmann, won a total of 11 medals.

In London, in 1908, Jews won 21 medals. Among them were members of the Hungarian sabre team and Danish footballer Harald Bohr.

At the 1912 Stockholm Games, Abel Kiviat and Alvah Mayer of the United States won silver medals in the 1,500 metre and 100 metres races.

Two Canadians, the boxer Albert Schneider and the wrestler Montgomery Herscovitch, won gold and bronze medals in 1920 in Antwerp.

And in Paris in 1924, the British sprinter, Harold Abrahams, who was immortalized in the Academy Award-winning film *Chariots of Fire*, finished first in the 100 metre race, the first and only Jew to win that event.

Another Canadian, Fanny (Bobby) Rosenfeld, one of the finest all-round athletes Canada has ever produced, won a silver in the 100 metres and a gold in the 400 metre relay race at the 1928 Amsterdam Games.

Irving Jaffee, the U.S. speed skater, won gold medals in the 5,000 and 10,000 metre races at Lake Placid in 1932. And at the summer games in Los Angeles that year, Jewish wrestlers, fencers and water polo players from Hungary walked away with gold medals, while Lilian Copeland of the United States won a gold medal in the discus throw.

Most Jewish athletes boycotted the 1936 Games in Nazi Germany, but Ibolya Csak, a high jumper, and Karoly Karpati, a wrestler, took gold for Hungary. Samuel Balter played for the victorious U.S. basketball team, while discus thrower Jadwiga Wajsowna of Poland was a silver medal winner.

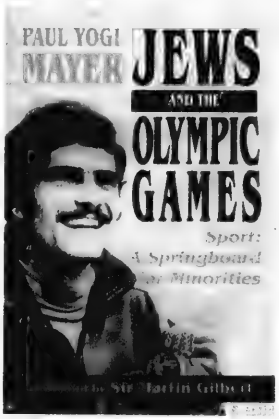
World War II interrupted the Games for 12 years, but in 1948, in London, Americans Frank Spellman and Henry Wittenberg won gold and silver medals in weightlifting and wrestling.

Jewish gymnasts triumphed in the 1952 Helsinki games – Maria Gorokovskaya and Mikhail Perelman of the Soviet Union. With six medals to her credit, Gorokovskaya became the first female to win so many medals in a single game.

The Hungarian gymnast Agnes Keleti, having previously won four medals, won three golds and two silvers in individual and team events in 1956 in Melbourne.

In Rome in 1960, British sprinter David Segal won a bronze medal in the relays, while U.S. weightlifter Isaac Berger took a silver, Brazilian Moyes Blas played on the bronze medal-winning basketball team and the Soviet Union's Irina Press won a gold in the 80-metre hurdle.

Vitaly Davidov was a member of the triumphant Soviet ice hockey team and Alain Calmat of France won the silver medal in figure skating at the 1964 Games in Innsbruck.



At the Tokyo Summer Games in the same year, Irena Kirszenstein (later known under her married name of Szewinska) won the silver medal in the 200 metre sprint, and Tamara Press of the Soviet Union won gold in the shot-put. Altogether, Jews won 29 medals in Tokyo, a record number.

Mark Spitz, the American swimmer, won two gold medals in Mexico City in 1968, and two Jewish athletes from the Soviet Union, Yevhen Lapinski and Valentina Vinogradova, were on its victorious men's and women's volleyball teams. In the 200 metre sprint, Irena Szewinska of Poland established a world record and won the gold medal.

The 1972 Munich Games were marred by the death of 11 Israeli sportsmen, but Mark Spitz won seven gold medals, a record yet to be equalled.

Szewinska, probably the greatest Jewish sprinter in history, won gold in the 400 metres race in Montreal in 1976. Two Soviet weightlifters, David Rigert and Valery Shary, were also gold medal winners.

At the 1980 Games in Moscow and Lake Placid, six Soviet Jews won silvers in shot-putting, yachting, handball and ice hockey.

And in Los Angeles in 1984, Mitch Gaylord of the United States won a gold medal in gymnastics, while Mark Berger of Canada finished third in the heavyweight judo event.

The American sprinter David Berkoff went home with a gold medal as the United States swept to victory in the 200 metre relay race in Seoul in 1988.

Two Israelis, for the first time, won medals when the Games were held in Barcelona in 1992 – Shay Oren Smadga and Yael Arad, both in judo.

In Atlanta in 1996, U.S. swimmers Lenny Krayzelberg and Brad Schumacher won gold medals in the 4x100 metre freestyle relay, while gymnast Kerri Strug of the United States won a gold medal despite an injury.

U.S swimmers Anthony Ervin and Dara Torres won gold and bronze in Sydney in 2000.

Now it remains to be seen how Jews will fare in Athens.

Israel's great wide Olympic hope

By HAIM SHADMI
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Arik Ze'evi's shoulders are as wide as one would expect of a 100-kilogram judoka who carries the Israeli Olympic team's high hopes on his broad frame.

Ze'evi has been European champion in his weight category for three of the past four years, and was a silver medalist at this year's world championships. His colleagues worship him, and the Israel Olympic Committee (IOC) is counting on him for a medal, perhaps even Israel's first gold.

The question is whether Ze'evi's shoulders are wide enough to carry all of these expectations.

Coach Alex Ashkenazi and Ze'evi have been working together since 1997, with the exception of a two-year hiatus. Ashkenazi was Ze'evi's coach at the Sydney Olympics, where Ze'evi finished a disappointing fifth. Ashkenazi is considered tough to work with, but for Ze'evi he is a guru, and the judoka is willing to follow him blindly.

Ashkenazi says one of Ze'evi's problems is that he has short fingers that allow his opponents to shake free from his grip.

"Because Arik doesn't have a strong grip, he needs a lot more moves, since he has to know how to throw his rival from every position. He is now considered one of the best technical fighters in the sport. If Ze'evi wins five bouts, all of them will end with a different move."

Ze'evi's concentration can also be a problem, Ashkenazi says. Ze'evi needs to gain greater self knowledge, and his concentration tends to ebb and flow. At this year's European championships in Paris, however, Ze'evi took himself aside and came onto the mat at a peak level of concentration to take the gold.

Ze'evi used to have a strength problem, but Ashkenazi says he no longer loses bouts because of strength.

"Because he wasn't strong enough, he used to get injured a lot. On paper he is considered the strongest athlete in the sport after Kosie Inoue of Japan, but that's just on paper. Arik will win seven out of 10 bouts against an opponent one strength below him, but that still isn't 10-0, and one of the three bouts could fall in the Olympics," Ashkenazi says.

"Arik doesn't lose fights on strength anymore, but he still doesn't break his rivals the way I want him to."

A picture of Ze'evi hangs on the wall in the office of IOC psychologist Boris Bloomstein, with a personal inscription from the judoka: "Fast, calm, aggressive."

Ze'evi used to have a problem with aggressiveness and would pick up penalty points for passiveness, and that's where Bloomstein comes in.

"In order to solve the problem, we built a program specially for Ze'evi and put in a lot of hard work to deal with it," Bloomstein says.

"People ask how can you be calm and aggressive at the same time. In this instance, it means taking smart decisions."

Ze'evi's affirmations during the bout keep him sharp, confident, concentrated and aggressive.

Bloomstein, together with Prof. Michael Bar-Eli, the head of behavioral sciences and methodology at the Wingate Sports Institute, Israel's national Olympics training centre, has also developed a biofeedback device that Ze'evi is hooked up to while watching videos of his bouts, alternately practising relaxation and aggressiveness while Bloomstein tries to upset his concentration. Bloomstein also meets twice a week with Ze'evi while he is in training.

ספרותנו

יעל זליגר

פריחה פראית מאת: אהרן אפלפלד

במבוא לספרו האוטוביוגרפי סיפור חיים (1999) אפלפלד כתב שהסיפור אינו סיכום חייו אלא "ניסיון, אם תרצו, לחבר את החטיבות השונות של חיי אל שורש צמיחתם." בלשון ישירה גולל אפלפלד פרקים מילדותו, מלחמת העולם, שנות הנדודים ולבסוף ההיאחזות בארץ. נראה לי שלמעט סגנון הפנייה האוטוביוגרפית הישירה של הסופר אל הקוראים בסיפור חיים בעצם לא נבדל "הסיפור ההוא" מעיקר ספרו האחרון, פריחה פראית. יתרה מזו (ואני אומרת זאת בחיל וברעדה של אחת שיודעת בפני מי היא עומדת ואת מי היא מתיימרת לבקר) ניסיון אחרון זה לחמצת את קולו של אפלפלד הוא הניסיון הכנשל ביותר מכול מה שהעלה עד כה בכתב. קשה, קשה לי לומר זאת ובכול זאת – אני אומרת. אם באדנהיים 39 (של אפלפלד) הוא אולי הסיפור הקצר החכם ביותר שנכתב בנושא השואה, פריחה פראית הוא רומן ממש צולע. (קיימת כמובן האפשרות שהרומן פשוט נשגב מביניתי אך אני דווקא חושבת שהבנתי.)

פריחה פראית הוא רומן שמבקש לצרוב את חווייתו האישית של המחבר בנצחיות הוויית וגורלו של הקולקטיב היהודי. יש בסיפור משהו תנ"כי, או אגדה בסגנון תנ"כי. מקום ההתרחשות הוא על פסגת הר בקרפטים וההתמקדות התכנית או המסר הוא: שמירה על קדושת המקום. גיבורי הרומן הם אח ואחות: גד ועמליה. האחים היהודים גרים אי-שם על פסגת הר. לפסגה יצא שם של מקום מרפא מופלא בזכות אמונתם ודבקותם ההיסטורית של קומץ יהודים שנמלטו מפני פורעים להר ולחמו על נפשם בגבורה. על פסגה זו שומרים גד ועמליה לאחר שירשו אותה מדודם, אריה. הסיפור מתרחש כביכול בראשית המאה ה- 19 וכשאנו פוגשים בגיבורים הם כבר שהו על הפסגה שש שנים ארוכות מאוד.

לפני מותו, בשעת הפקדת הנחלה בידי גד ועמליה, מראה להם הדוד את בית העלמין שמכונה "בית העלמין של הי"דים" ושם הוא מצווה עליהם לשמור על "המצודה" כעל בבת עינם: "אם תשמרו באמונה לא יחסר לכם דבר... החורף כאן ארוך וקשה, ומלבד העורבים אין נפש חיה." אכן בדיוותם של גד ועמליה אכזרית. עמליה סוכלת יותר מגד. הוא רואה את ימיהם בפסגה כנפלאים, "ימים של זריחות מרהיבות, שקיעות מלאות הוד ופריחה ספונית באביב." ואולם יש ימים שגם לגד קשה לקבל את הגזירה "שמלמעלה לא יורדים." כאשר חשכת הבדידות מעיקה יותר מדי מעסיקים עצמם האח והאחות בעבודות שונות, בשיח אינטנסיבי וגם בשתיית שיכר מופרזת.

לעמליה זיכרונות כאובים מן העבר כאשר חיו עדיין בשפלה. היא מאמינה שהאם שהייתה רודה ומכה בה, שנאה את בתה "וביקשה לעקור אותי מן השורש". לא תמיד משוכנעת עמליה בקדושת המשימה; על מה בעצם הם לוחמים?

נדמה שלגד ברורה יותר המשימה אלא שהוא יודע שמעל לכל הוא דבק באחותו; "בלעדייך לא הייתי יכול להחזיק מעמד". גד תמיד אהב את אחותו אהבה אדירה. היה מתבונן בה תמיד והיא אהבה לחרש בקרבתו. שם, על פסגת ההר הדבקות זו בזו והבדידות המוחלטת מקרבת אותם עוד יותר עד אשר הזוגיות הופכת גם למינית. האחים הם עתה גם מאהבים. הם מדעים לחטא אך "האהבה" מצהירה עמליה "קודמת לאיסורים". כך, בשנה האחרונה לשהותם על ההר (ומסתבר לחייהם) הלילות היו גדושים סליבוביץ', מילים ואהבה. "אושרם היה מלא, אך הייתה זו מלאות שעמדה לפקוע."

ביום שבו עמליה מגלה שהיא בהריון היא מבינה שיהיה עליהם לרדת מההר. גד מנסה לעכב את גזר הדין אך עתה עמליה לא רק בהריון אלא חולה אנושות. בשערי הסוף, כאשר הירידה לשפלה בלתי נמנעת והמוות מחכה לשניהם, גד אינו רואה יותר זוגיות חייהם הנסתרים כחטא אלא ככוח איתנים, כוח אלוהי. תם ונשלם.

אמיליה פרוני, פסיכולוגית קלינית כתבה ביקורת נלהבת לספר בעיתון "הארץ". לדבריה, פריחה פראית הוא רומן בעל עוצמה אדירה, סיפור עשיר ורב-רובדי.

אני לא בדעתה אבל שיהיה. שיהיה כי אחרי הכול מדובר באהרן אפלפלד, סופר גדול ונערץ ומי אני שאחשוב אחרת.

GRILLED PINEAPPLE SUNDAE

1 pineapple, peeled, cored and cut into 1" slices
1/2 cup brown sugar
2 tblsps. melted butter
2 tblsps. lemon juice
1 tsp. cinnamon
1/2 gallon vanilla ice cream

Combine brown sugar, butter, lemon juice and cinnamon and mix until even. Brush mixture over pineapple slices. Place pineapple slice on preheated BBQ over a high heat and grill for about 1 minute per side or until browned. Remove from BBQ and immediately top with a scoop of ice cream and serve. These are best if the pineapple is warm when you eat it.

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Money Matters

For the love of money

Rabbi Jay Kelman, C.A.

Judaism has never looked askance at acquiring wealth. Without money, there can be no Torah, our sages declare, recognizing the absolute necessity of material comfort as a prerequisite for spiritual growth. As well, Jewish law insists that both our political and spiritual leaders (the king and kohen gadol) be wealthy, as impoverished leadership is undignified leadership, and, for better or worse, people tend to have much greater respect for those who possess wealth. We also daven three times a day for material blessings, and the Torah abounds with promises of material wealth if we follow the Torah's laws.

We all know that money, more than anything else, has the potential to, and so often does, create friction and discord. We have recently observed the most tragic holiday, Tisha b'Av. We continue to mourn and fast, seemingly oblivious to the fact that we have, despite its many difficulties, a thriving Jewish state – one that is strong, proud and affording every religious opportunity.

However, our Rabbis understood that *sinnat chinam* – benign indifference to the plight of other Jews – was the root cause of our exile, a feature that is all too common in Jewish life today. Interestingly, the Palestinian Talmud adds a nuance to this famous teaching, namely that "they loved money and hated one another in causeless hatred." The cause of friction between people was, and is, love of money. Money is crucial and is a wonderful blessing, but only as a means to an end: to enable us to focus on the more spiritual side of life and the creation of a just society based on Torah values.

We are bidden to love our neighbours, converts, our spouse and, above all, God. When one loves an object such as money, it, by definition, must replace love of people. The Babylonian Talmud, in a parallel statement, posits that Jerusalem was destroyed because people insisted on strict justice – too many disputes ended up in court and people were not willing to act beyond the letter of the law. This despite the fact our monetary policy was done strictly within the framework of Torah law.

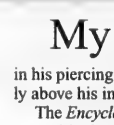
Society can not endure unless people are willing to relent on money that may be due them. While money may be the root of all evil, its proper use is the harbinger of redemption.

Send comments to Rabbi@byad.org.

My friend Max, creature of God

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

URBAN WRITER



Israel and the world are at war with terrorism. We are witnesses to genocide in Sudan and the maniacal murder of millions. And my dog, Max, is dying.

As I write this, I feel somewhat like a boy who slips into his war-ravaged home to rescue his fire truck. I am cognizant of the increasing anguish that afflicts humankind, and therefore question the intensity of suffering I should allow myself for an animal, not to mention the timeliness of this article. But my feelings for Max are as deep as a yawning well and my pain is very real. In short, life is a head-scratching series of uncertain choices. I hope mine are mostly reasonable.

Max is a majestic looking German Shepherd with a broadly protracted tail that lingers elegantly behind him. His right ear droops, contributing a certain dopiness to his demeanour. This is in contrast to the brilliance in his piercing brown eyes that sit confidently above his intimidating snout.

The *Encyclopedia Judaica* says Jews have an ambivalent relationship with dogs. We embrace them because, out of kindness, they "refrained from barking during the Exodus from Egypt," thereby preventing Pharaoh's soldiers from finding us in the darkness. Yet, we often abstain from having them as pets, because the sources say they are mean and should be chained up.

Max exhibits both characteristics.

He is kind to me, never barking upon my arrival home, always standing guard when his perceived enemies – the external noises of commerce or our well-intentioned landlord – come our way.

He is also a one-man dog who snarls at my visitors with a daunting canine inhospitality.

For those of you who have never had a pet, it might be difficult to appreciate the bond between us, and the sorrow animal lovers feel when a pet gets sick. Consider, however, the midrash that says Moses was chosen, in part, to save the Jewish people because of the considerable care he showed for his animal flock. The person-animal relationship is potent and has a noteworthy position in our investigation of truth.

I love Max because he is a brilliant creation of God, and because he is my friend.

As a creation of God, Max is perfect. His ability to smell is 60 times stronger than mine. He can sniff out sickness, warming his body against mine to help heal me. He hears sounds in the distant night, lifting his head and growling valiantly to fend off our foes.

As a friend, Max makes me laugh, like when he hides my keys or blocks my view of the TV to get my attention.

He would also keep an eye on me when we used to stroll along the cliffs behind the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, and he comforted me with the deliberate physical warmth of his quiet presence when David Rosenzweig, my brother-in-law, was killed.

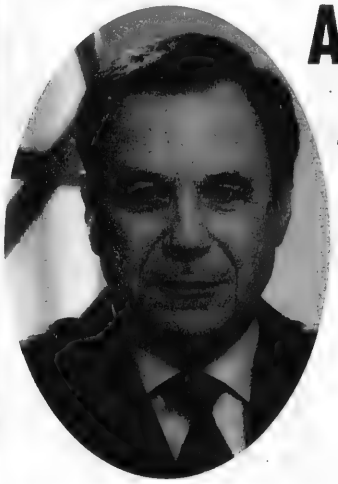
I once heard that the etymology of the Hebrew word dog – *kelev* – is *kol lev*, all heart. Indeed. Max is 100 pounds of it. But soon I will likely have to make a decision for my aging *kelev* to go home.

When this moment arrives, like the natives who whisper thanks in the ear of their downed hunt, I will say to Max: "Goodbye, my friend. Thank you for your partnership and our beautiful companionship; for my silent self-importance knowing you were my loyal dog; for an education into animals – special enough creations to have their own floor on Noah's Ark, and the inimitable spirit you shared so unconditionally. One day we will walk together again where shalom is as high as the will can soar."

Today I pray for the well being of Israel, Sudan and the rest of the world. I then pray for the comfort of my dog, Max – a splendid creation of God.

Defending Israel at the UN

Featuring



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Still waiting for the cat to come back. *Page 4*

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Jewish population growing...older

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

As baby boomers age and people live longer, the number of Jewish seniors in Canada is expected to "explode" by nearly 40 per cent over the next 18 years, challenging virtually every aspect of community planning, warns a new report by UIA Federations Canada.

The number of Jewish elderly – those over 65 years old – is projected to climb to nearly 91,000 by 2021, a "dramatic" increase from the 61,875 Jewish seniors tallied by the 2001 census, says the report, part three of a series of demographic studies of the Jewish community based on the last national census.

91,000 seniors expected by 2021

The sharp rise in the projected number of Jewish seniors "points to a fundamental change in the demographic structure of the Jewish population in this country and has important ramifications for service planning and resource allocation for Jewish communities across Canada," writes the 52-page report's author and the study's research co-ordinator, Charles Shahar of Montreal.

While the report cautions that the projections are a "best guess," based on assumptions that seniors are living longer thanks to advancements in medical technologies and improved home care, it nevertheless sounds a warning to community planners that "new and innovative programs must continue to be established" to deal with the coming boom, despite current financial strains.

Continued on page 20

NEW ZEALAND CEMETERY VANDALIZED: New Zealand's Jewish community experienced its second serious anti-Semitic incident in less than a month when more than 90 gravestones were knocked over and a small chapel was destroyed by arson at Wellington's Makara Jewish cemetery last week. As well, swastikas were spray-painted on the walls of the destroyed building and etched on the grass between the graves. Three weeks ago, 16 graves were desecrated at another Jewish cemetery in Wellington. *Please see news brief on page 2.* *[Mike Regan/Isranet photo]*

Greek Jews heirs to a long tradition

By JEAN COHEN
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

ATHENS — Although the largest Jewish community in Greece resides in Athens, Jews from Salonika – remnants of a once-thriving community – are still active and cohesive.

In Salonika, known in Greek as Thessaloniki, where 1,000 of the country's 5,000 Jews live today, the synagogue has a regular minyan and younger Jews gather at the local Jewish community centre.

5,000 reside in land of Olympics

But even these activities are a far cry from what Jews have meant to the city – and what the city has meant to Jews during the approximately 2,400 years of Jewish life in Greece.

The first Greek Jew whose name is known was "Moschos, son of Moschion the Jew," a slave identified in an inscription dated to approximately 300-250 BCE. The inscription was unearthed in Oropos, a small coastal town between Athens and Boeotia.

The Jewish community is believed to have grown further after the Hasmonean uprising, when many Jews were sold into slavery in Greece.

During the Hellenistic period, a Jewish community formed mainly in Thessaloniki, where Jews concentrated in an area near the city port. The centre of their social and religious lives was the synagogue.

Later, the Romans granted autonomy to the Jewish community, which was largely made up of traders, craftspeople, farmers and silk growers.

This ancient community came to be known as the Romaniotes, some of whose descendants still live in Greece today.

During the 15th and 16th centuries, many Jews expelled from Spain, Portugal, Italy, Sicily and France, as well as refugees from North Africa, settled in Salonika. Once there, the Romaniote and Sephardi communities founded separate synagogues.

Continued on page 27

Shabbat: Re'eh
Candlelighting: 8:05
Havdallah: 9:10

Greater Toronto Area

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Likud committee to debate Labor joining government — please see page 27

Greater Toronto Area

Canada

Mandel Runs for Mayor

EDMONTON — Stephen Mandel, a city councillor and former head of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton, has announced he's running to become mayor of Alberta's capital. If elected Oct. 18, he would become the city's first Jewish mayor, and only the second ever in Western Canada, after Sam Katz, the new mayor of Winnipeg. Before entering politics, Mandel, 58, was involved in real estate development and construction, as well as running hotels and sports enterprises. His main opponents are three-term incumbent Bill Smith and lawyer Robert Noce.

Fund Halfway to Goal

TORONTO — UJA Federation of Greater Toronto has raised almost $22,000 – about half its $45,000 goal – to send 500 Israeli kids from Sderot, a target of frequent Palestinian rocket attacks, to summer camp. The Jewish Agency is making up the shortfall for now. The Afik Memorial Fund is named for Afik Ohayon-Zehavi, a three-year-old boy killed in a June attack. To donate, call 416-631-5816 or visit www.jewishtoronto.com.

World

Spielberg Delays Film

NEW YORK — Director Steven Spielberg has postponed his movie about the hunt for 17 Palestinian terrorists who killed 11 members of Israel's Olympic team at the 1972 Munich Games. The *New York Post* reported last week that Spielberg is concerned *Vengeance* will inflame Muslim terrorists and turn the set into a target, particularly since one of the Palestinians is thought to still be at large.

Security for Israelis

ATHENS — A security fence has been constructed around the compound that will house Israeli athletes at the Athens Olympic Games. The barrier supplements security precautions already taken by Greece for the rest of the athletes and Olympic officials. The Games begin Aug. 13.

Reparations Extended

PARIS — France is extending reparation payments to people who lost parents as a result of Nazi crimes, the government announced. Payments have already been given to children of Holocaust victims, but survivors' groups in France have long backed restitution demands from former resistance movement members and for children whose parents in the resistance were killed or tortured during World War II. The payments are to be the same as those for children of French Holocaust victims. Recipients can choose either a lump sum of $33,000 or monthly payments of $550 (US).

Arrest in Book Thefts

PARIS — The head of the Hebrew section of France's national library was arrested on suspicion of stealing hundreds of historic books and documents. Michel Garel, 56, who has headed the department for 20 years, initially denied all charges, but later told an investigating judge he sold one of the works for $300,000 at a public auction at Christie's after forging authentification papers. Garel's wife is being investigated as an accomplice, since the couple allegedly bought an apartment with the money. The library's collection contains hundreds of works, including ancient Bibles, Talmuds and Torah fragments. It was initially commissioned by France's King Charles V in the 14th century and is regarded as one of the world's most important collections of Jewish writings. Police believe the thefts began in 1991.

N.Z. Cemetery Attacked

WELLINGTON — Assailants burned down a cemetery chapel and smashed more than 90 gravestones last Friday in New Zealand's worst-ever act of anti-Semitic desecration. The attack on a Wellington Jewish cemetery was the second since July 16, when authorities jailed two Israelis for trying to fraudulently obtain New Zealand passports. New Zealand says the men are Mossad agents. Jewish leaders said the attacks were spurred by diplomatic sanctions against Israel.

Argentine State Governor Faces Anti-Semitism

José Alperovich

BUENOS AIRES — The Jewish governor of an Argentine province was the target of anti-Semitic songs and graffiti.

The insults hurled at José Alperovich, the governor of Tucuman, were made during a July 30 protest by public employees battling for better salaries.

The DAIA political umbrella group for the Argentine Jewish community expressed anger over the incident.

"I believe the union protest for a salary increment is legitimate," said Jorge Kirszenbaum, a DAIA official. "But I guess the social protest loses value if it becomes a discriminatory and xenophobic expression."

Alperovich was travelling, but Tucuman's vice-governor, Fernando Juri, denounced the comments.

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Peterborough shul appeals for funds after flood

Damage estimated at up to $60,000

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

Peterborough's tiny Jewish community is asking the Jewish population at large for help following flood damage to the town's sole synagogue, estimated at up to $60,000.

To make matters worse, the Beth Israel Synagogue's insurance will cover only $15,000 in damages, because its coverage was capped after a flood two years ago.

The shul did not escape the widespread flooding that hit Peterborough last month. A record-breaking storm dumped some 200 millimetres of rain on the town, causing raw sewage and rainwater to flood dozens of homes and businesses. Current estimates assess the total damage at some $55 million.

A weary-sounding Larry Gillman, president of the 35-family congregation, told *The CJN* that the flood dealt the synagogue "a heavy blow."

Sewage and rainwater flooded the lower level, which houses a kosher kitchen, a meeting hall and storage space containing documents and other property, Gillman said.

The water also damaged all flooring, woodwork and drywall. Water resistant carpeting that was installed for $25,000 after a flood two years ago had to be ripped up and thrown away because it was contaminated by sewage.

Gillman said the health risks presented by the sewage have necessitated immediate clean-up.

No religious artifacts were damaged, he said, and there appears to be no structural damage to the 40-year-old building.

Meanwhile, no services are being held at Beth Israel because of the flooding and members are scrambling to make the building functional in time for the High Holy Days.

"Right now, we can't even use the washrooms because of drainage problems," Gillman said.

He said the community will have to take out a bank loan to begin paying for the clean-up.

"For such a small community, it will be a challenge to raise these costs. But at least the shul is still standing. A lot of our members were hit. Some of them lost their businesses and were forced out of their homes. They'll have to look after that first."

The lower level of a downtown building owned by a synagogue member was flooded to the ceiling, he noted.

Continued on page 4

Damaged goods from Peterborough's flood litter Beth Israel Synagogue's property.

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Greater Toronto Area

Lost Israeli cat prowling Pearson

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

It's been well over a month, but Laura Elliott's cat has still not come back.

Somewhere on the grounds of Pearson International Airport, her three-year-old tortoise shell feline friend, Lily, is prowling around, hiding from airport ground crews and reverting to the life of a stray that Elliott rescued her from in Israel.

It was back in June that Lily made her bid for freedom, bolting from her cat cage in the cargo hold of an El Al jetliner as a ground crew opened the door to remove luggage from a flight arriving from Tel Aviv.

Lily had somehow managed to escape the confines of her cage while in the belly of the aircraft and made her dash to freedom when the first opportunity arose.

Elliott, meanwhile, is distraught, saying she is suffering mental anguish and is angry at El Al for failing to deliver her cat as she expected. She's also upset that El Al is denying responsibility for the incident and is instead shifting the blame for Lily's escape to her and to what it claims was a faulty cage.

Elliott, who returned to Toronto after five years living in the Jewish state, wants El Al to apologize, to compensate her for costs she incurred to transport Lily and costs she incurred after her escape, and to acknowledge its responsibility in the cat caper.

For its part, El Al believes it has done nothing wrong, that it has done all it contracted to do – transport Elliott's cat from Israel to Canada in an airplane cargo hold. It is no more El Al's fault that the cage was faulty than it would be if someone's luggage tore en route, said Stanley Morais, the airline's Canadian manager.

Meanwhile the case of the absconding kitty has made it onto local TV news shows and, Elliott believes, has given El Al a black eye. Elliott, a loyal El Al passenger for 25 years, wants the airline's customers to know how she was treated when she brought the incident to the airline's attention.

Morais counters by saying El Al has fulfilled its responsibilities and is not authorized to search for the cat in the airport.

For its part, the Greater Toronto Airports Authority, which runs Pearson, has set traps in an area under construction where the cat is believed to have been seen, Elliott said.

For Elliott, the incident brings her five-year stint in Israel to an unsatisfying conclusion. An ardent Zionist, Elliott first moved to Israel in 1996 and acquired citizenship. She moved there full-time in 1999, taking a job in the venture capital field in Tel Aviv. At the same time, she indulged her passion for stray animals, working as a volunteer with an animal rescue group and later rescuing animals on her own time and at her own expense.

There are thousands of street cats in Israel, she said, and while she helped many, she grew attached to two in particular. When she decided to return to Canada, she arranged to bring them back with her.

El Al charged here more than $200 (US) per cat to bring them as cargo – a price Elliott said she was more than willing to pay. At the check-in counter in Tel Aviv, she was told Lily's cage appeared adequate. At any rate, she had no choice, as there is only one kind of cat cage available in Israel, she said.

When only one of the cats showed up at the luggage carousel in Toronto, she raised her concerns about the missing animal.

"El Al should have secured the cage," she said.

Although it's unclear how the cat escaped, "It looks like the cage was not a great cage," Morais said.

"Miss Elliott is looking for an answer from El Al that we can't provide," he added.

As to responsibility for the missing cat, Morais said El Al's head office has confirmed the airline "has no liability, as it arrived at the destination."

"We are not responsible for a faulty cage or for the type of suitcase someone packs in."

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Classes held on Sundays and Tuesdays

Kosher kitchen flooded

Continued from page 3

"We really don't know how we will bounce back."

The synagogue's insurance coverage is only $25,000, with a $10,000 deductible.

The flooding presented a sudden setback for the congregation, which rode a crest of optimism for several weeks after a June announcement that it had reached a partnership deal with a local Unitarian church.

Years of talks with the Peterborough Unitarian Fellowship led to an agreement under which the church would use the synagogue as a Sunday and holiday worship space, as well as share costs.

Gillman said the income from the Unitarians will be welcome.

Dalia Margalit, director of development at Ve'ahavta, the Canadian Jewish Humanitarian and Relief Committee, recently visited the synagogue with Peterborough-based Ve'ahavta volunteers.

"From the outside front of the shul, things looked relatively normal, but inside there were huge fans blowing down the stairs to dry out the social hall and kitchen," she reported. "One wall of drywall had to be removed, and the kosher kitchen had been flooded by backed-up sewage. A huge swatch of land was washed away from just beside the shul patio.

"It is heartbreaking to know that a Jewish community that is finding creative ways to survive has now been hit with a huge setback."

Anyone interested in helping with the clean-up can send donations to Larry Gillman, c/o Beth Israel Synagogue, 777 Weller St., Peterborough, Ont. K9J 6Y5.

From the editor's desk

Will Return

Japanese scholar Hirose is a Yiddishist

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Yoshiji Hirose, a professor of English literature and an authority on novelist Isaac Bashevis Singer, is that rarity of rarities – a Japanese person who reads, writes and speaks Yiddish.

Hirose, a professor of English literature at Notre Dame Seishin University in Okayama, was in Toronto last week to deliver a lecture in Yiddish at the Workman's Circle on Singer's enduring legacy.

He was accompanied by his 21-year-old daughter, a medical student. It was their first visit to Canada.

His host was Vivien Felsen, whose grandfather, Israel Medres, was a reporter, columnist and editor on the staff of the now-defunct Montreal Yiddish daily, *Keneder Adler*, for decades.

She was dumbfounded by Hirose's fluency in Yiddish.

"He was amazing. You could hear a pin drop," said Felsen, a Toronto translator and visual artist, referring to the audience's reaction.

A slight man in his late 40s, Hirose began learning Yiddish less than a decade ago. On a friend's recommendation, he took a Yiddish language course at Oxford University's Centre for Jewish Studies.

He was the only Asian and non-Jew in his class.

Although his English is more fluent than his Yiddish, Hirose's command of Yiddish is such that he has translated some of Singer's novels and short stories into Japanese.

Hirose, the president of the Jewish Literary Society of Japan, which promotes the study of American Jewish literature, is a member of an elite club of about 10 Japanese academics who are conversant in Yiddish.

Yoshiji Hirose

Having learned German before Yiddish, he had no problem picking up the pronunciation, but he is still working on it.

Acquiring a grasp of the Yiddish alphabet, which was totally alien to him, was quite another matter.

"It was challenging," said Hirose, who has twice visited Israel in the past 13 years and met colleagues at Hebrew University and Bar-Ilan University.

To his regret, he can only use his conversational Yiddish when he travels abroad and runs into Yiddishists like himself.

"All languages need practice," he said. "That's the hardest part for me."

Hirose, who has also translated the stories of Shalom Aleichem and Singer's older brother I.J. Singer into Japanese from English, has written several books on Yiddish literature.

The first, *The World of Isaac Bashevis Singer*, was published in 1985, and was followed a year later by *Jewish American Literature*.

In 1999, he translated *Journey To My Father* by Israel Zamir, Singer's son. Hirose met Zamir, an Israeli, in Japan and they became fast friends.

Later, he visited Zamir at his home on Kibbutz Aleph. Zamir neither speaks nor reads Yiddish, which Hirose finds ironic. But in a curious twist, Zamir's son married a Japanese woman.

Hirose's latest book, published in 2001, is *The Symbolic Meaning of Yiddish*, an analysis of the Singer brothers and American novelists Bernard Malamud and Cynthia Ozick.

Hirose stumbled on Yiddish fiction 30 years ago while studying comparative literature at the University of Washington in the United States.

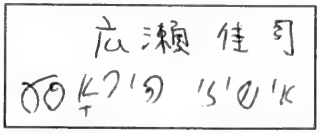
One of his teachers advised him to read *Shosha*, a Singer novel, and he was hooked.

"I felt some similarities between Japanese and Jewish culture," he explained. "The respect for parents. The strong sense of tradition and religiosity."

Strangely enough, Hirose never met Singer prior to his death in 1991. "I was afraid I would be disappointed," he said.

But after Singer's passing, he "met" Singer in a vivid dream in which the pair animatedly discussed the writer's prodigious body of work.

In 1993, he visited Poland, Singer's birthplace. To his surprise and disappointment, the trip did not enlarge his understanding of Singer. Before delving into *Shosha* – which he translated into Japanese from English in 1978, the year Singer won the Nobel Prize – Hirose's knowledge of Singer and of Jews was nil.



Yoshiji Hirose's name in Japanese and Yiddish, as rendered by Hirose

"We're quite ignorant of Jewish culture and history," Hirose said, referring to the Japanese.

And stereotypes about Jews abound in Japan. "Our image of Jews is that they're very smart and rich. That's it."

Anti-Semitism, however, is virtually nonexistent in Japan.

"It's not a problem. I don't think so. Ordinary people in Japan don't know anything about Jews. We did not have a historical relationship, or interactions, with Jews."

Japanese people, though, are acquainted with the Holocaust, partly because there are three Holocaust museums in Japan, he noted.

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Greater Toronto Area

Reform Jews work up a sweat with Habitat

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Cheryl Englander, social action co-ordinator of the Canadian Council for Reform Judaism (CCRJ), has a new respect for construction workers.

After taking part in a recent Habitat for Humanity Toronto build in Toronto, Englander, also assistant director of the Association of Reform Zionists of Canada, says that she can now appreciate how physically demanding the work is.

She was part of a group of about 45 volunteers, including participants from the Central Conference of American Rabbis and representatives from the CCRJ that spent one day helping out on the build. This was the first time a Jewish group has partnered with Habitat Toronto.

Habitat for Humanity, a worldwide organization dedicated to eliminating poverty and homelessness, addresses a segment of the population that is not well served by either the subsidized or private housing markets, by helping them become homeowners.

The organization builds and sells houses to families who, in turn, contribute hundreds of hours of volunteer work, known as sweat equity, to the construction of their homes. The owners then repay an interest-free mortgage.

Mortgage costs are kept low by the use of volunteer labour, including skilled construction workers, and the donation of funds and building materials.

For this particular project, the largest ever in Canadian history, 40 townhomes will be built on one site, near Neilson Road and Highway 401.

Englander said that volunteers, many of whom are members of Holy Blossom Temple, Temple Sinai and Solel Congregation – her husband is Rabbi Larry Englander from Solel – ranged in age from 17 to seniors, including one pregnant woman.

"There was a job for everyone. They cut drywall, sawed wood, and if people were not comfortable climbing, there were jobs for them, as well. Everything was checked by professionals. These were people who had never stepped onto a building site. They accomplished a tremendous amount.

"We all came away from the day with a great feeling that we did something that will benefit others. It was backbreaking work, but it was a mitzvah to give people a leg up in society."

Shiri Yehoshua, CCRJ's regional director of youth and informal education, whose 17-year-old brother helped out, said some kids received social service hours needed to graduate high school by volunteering on the build.

Sharon Polansky, chair of CCRJ's national social action committee, said she would like to see the Reform community get together and participate in another build. "The community is committed to fighting powerlessness and homelessness across the country. There are builds going on in every city, and this is an exciting way to unify our work.

"There are different ways to help out. Groups can also get involved by providing lunches for the workers or raising money."

She said, "It is very moving when the houses are complete and people are handed the keys to their own home."

Cheryl Englander and her husband, Rabbi Larry Englander of Solel Congregation, spent a day working at a Habitat Toronto construction site, along with a group of volunteers from the Reform community.

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New Conservative shul forms in Halton-Peel

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Mississauga resident Sandra Rabin is eager to return to her Conservative Jewish roots, and more than a dozen local families are joining her in forming a new Conservative egalitarian congregation, B'Nai Shalom Congregation of Halton-Peel.

The fledgling shul will serve Jews in Mississauga, Oakville and Burlington, said Rabin, a native of Montreal who with her husband Ivan Ross has been affiliated with Oakville's Shaarei Beth El, a Reform temple, for more than a decade.

There are no Conservative congregations in the Mississauga or Oakville areas west of Toronto, although Shaarei Beth El used to be affiliated with both the Conservative and Reform movements.

Hamilton's Beth Jacob Congregation, which is Conservative, is a 30- to 35-minute drive from Mississauga, and about 20 minutes from Oakville.

After an initial meeting at the Oakville Recreation Centre in May, the group has been meeting in people's homes and has decided to hold religious services in their homes as well. They hope to have the first of their monthly Saturday services within the month, once they obtain a Torah.

Loretta Tanenbaum, executive director of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, Canadian region, is facilitating a long-term Torah loan from the Conservative umbrella organization. Tanenbaum, who became involved after a call from Rabin, has met with the group twice and also facilitated donations of prayer books.

Beth Tzedec Congregation in Toronto has provided chumashim, and Congregation Or Shalom in London, Ont., where Ross' late parents were members, donated siddurim.

"It's a small group, but very keen. They're really ready to go, and it's exciting to be part of this," Tanenbaum said.

So far, the group includes a range of ages, from 30-something with children to septuagenarians. And already, it seems, the group has started to gel. At a recent meeting, people stayed after 11 p.m., even though speaker Rabbi David Seed had already left to return to Toronto, Rabin said. "You feel that sense of community, a warm, wonderful feeling."

She stressed that although she was the spokesperson for this article, "we do things as a group together. We decide everything together.

"We'd love to have new people join us for the High Holiday services," she added.

Rabin is looking forward to the more traditional type of services she has enjoyed in other Conservative congregations. The egalitarian aspect, while less traditional, offers "special meaning and you feel part of it," said Rabin.

In addition to religious services, plans include a separate monthly study session.

Tanenbaum is seeking a lay leader to run the services, but Rabin said that, if necessary, "we'll do it as best we can ourselves."

The group's next meeting is scheduled for this week, Thursday, Aug. 12, in Oakville. For more information, e-mail bnaishalom2004@yahoo.ca or call Loretta Tanenbaum at 416-667-1717.

Kosher food bank struggles to provide for Jewish poor

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

A package of farfel, one packaged soup mix, a can of light tuna, a can of chick peas, another of sweet peas and one of stewed tomatoes; sardines packed in tomato sauce, a box of macaroni and cheese, and a bag of bread, rolls and/or bagels, along with a few small danishes.

Volunteers at the Pride of Israel Synagogue's kosher food bank (one of two in Toronto) handed out 65 plastic shopping bags, one per family, containing those items or similar ones on a recent Wednesday morning. The number is typical, although it has been as high as 80 or 85 in the winter, said volunteer Katy Brass. A few parents with young children received boxes of cereal as well. Sometimes, there is peanut butter, pasta, and/or frozen chicken or turkey, but not this day.

"They say there aren't poor people in the Jewish community. I guess you have to do things like this to find out what's going on," said synagogue member Helen Bondar, a retiree who was filling in for another volunteer, checking the identification of recipients – who must be on government assistance to qualify – and handing out bags.

Most of the recipients are seniors. Many – because of the demographics in the Bathurst-Finch area – speak only Russian.

The food bank, which is open to recipients only on Wednesday morning – as is its counterpart farther south at Beth Sholom Congregation – closed down for more than a month this spring after a slowdown in donations of both food and money used to purchase food.

"We never have enough food. Never," said Helen Winer, a real estate agent who packs food bags once a week before her workday begins.

Katy Brass, left, and Helen Winer volunteer at the Kosher Food Bank. [Frances Kraft photo]

Susan Akler, the Pride's office manager who also serves as food bank co-ordinator, organizes the purchases every other week. Each order costs between $1,200 and $1,500, she said. "I have to restrict what I order."

Gefilte fish, for example, is too costly, noted Winer. Sometimes, however, it is donated during food drives, and they substitute it for less expensive tuna.

"During the winter, we were getting a lot of simchah baskets, but I haven't seen any in a while," said Brass, a retiree whose father, Mike Englishman, co-chairs the food bank with Alan Marks.

Their main sources of food and money are synagogue members, twice-yearly food drives at Beth Tikvah Congregation and Beit Rayim Synagogue, and donations from Grodzinski Bakery as well as Chai Kosher Poultry.

Any money that is donated is used only for purchasing food, not for operating costs, said Marks.

At 9:45 a.m., there is a lineup outside the door to the synagogue. "The last few times, we've given out 40 bags in 10 to 15 minutes," said Brass.

She opens the door at 9:57 a.m., allowing only a few people to enter at a time.

Akler, who has been involved with the food bank since its inception about a decade ago under the leadership of Rabbi Aaron Flanzraich and who has come to know the regular users, requests that a visiting reporter not interview them, in order to spare them undue attention. "This is a cause near to my heart," she said.

Englishman, a concentration camp survivor originally from the Netherlands, is pleased that the food bank has resumed operation and hopeful that it can continue. "I think I'm one of the few [here] who knows what real hunger means, and what malnutrition means," he said.

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Dry Bones

JEWISH GRAVE DESECRATIONS IN NEW ZEALAND?!!
THAT DOES IT!
THIS YEAR WE ARE NOT VISITING NEW ZEALAND!!
BUT WE'VE NEVER EVEN THOUGHT OF GOING TO NEW ZEALAND!
TRUE.
BUT THIS YEAR WE HAVE A REASON!

Wrong decision

The Presbyterian Church (USA), with almost three million members, did not cover itself in glory recently when it became the first Christian denomination in the United States to join the divestment movement against Israel. At its annual general assembly in Richmond, Va., last month, the church, by a wide margin, rationalized its unfair motion by equating Israel with the old and justifiably hated apartheid system in South Africa.

The motion, though mainly applicable to companies whose profits from investments in Israel exceed $1 million (US) annually, is a worrisome development on two counts. Firstly, the church has an estimated $7 billion (US) in assets, no piddling sum by any stretch of the imagination. Secondly, the imposition of economic sanctions creates a precedent that others may yet emulate, and this is the real danger.

The church's decision to single out Israel was in keeping with its generally critical view of Israeli policies in the territories, some of which, admittedly, are open to debate. But in choosing divestment to signal its displeasure with Israel, the church has gone much too far and made a mistake of egregious proportions. As church elders should have realized, the path to peace between Israel and the Palestinians lies through bilateral negotiations and not through sanctions. Talks, broken off by the eruption of the second intifadah nearly four years ago, will resume when Israel concludes that a reliable and trustworthy Palestinian leadership, untainted by terrorism, has come to the fore. The Israeli government is unlikely to be swayed by foreign institutions seeking to weaken and isolate Israel at a time when its relationship with the Palestinians, and the Arab world at large, has reached a new nadir.

The motion is also objectionable because it is implicitly hypocritical. Is Israel is the only country in the Middle East whose policies are not above reproach? Where was the church's indignation over the atrocities being perpetrated by rampaging Arab militias in Sudan's Darfur region? The United Nations' Security Council has passed a resolution threatening Sudan with punitive measures if it fails to disarm and prosecute members of these genocidal militias. But has the church launched a divestment campaign in Sudan? Or has it pulled out investments in Arab countries, such as Syria and Saudi Arabia, that flout the principles of democracy, demean human rights and promote the wholesale and unmitigated hatred of the West and of Jews?

There is one last factor to consider. The attempt by the church to link Israel with the horrors of apartheid is a travesty of justice and, in terms of historical accuracy, an ineradicable falsehood. Apartheid, or institutional segregation based on race, does not exist in Israel, nor has it ever. Israel's desire to distance itself from the Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip stems from insecurity rather than racism.

We take solace from the fact that the Presbyterian Church of Canada has not followed the lead of its sister church in the United States.

– S.K.

Editorial Advisory Board: Irving Abella, Michael Brown, Sandra Brown, Donald Carr, Paul Cooper, Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, Zac Kaye, Igor Korenzvit, Lou Ronson, Jacques Sayegh, Mike Shriqui, Ron Somogyi, Pamela Medjuck Stein, Rabbi Reuven Tradburks

Caen, not Cannes

I wish to point out an error in the letter to the editor, "Canadian Jews helped defeat enemy" (*CJN*, June 24).

In the letter, the writer refers to "a battle with the Nazis in Cannes-Falaise," and then to "Normandy's Cannes-Falaise Gap."

Cannes is a town in the south of France. The town the letter-writer refers to is Caen, which is in Normandy, in the north of the country.

My late husband was wounded in Falaise in August 1944, and Falaise is situated three or four miles from Caen.

Rebecca Hoch
Toronto

* * *

International movement honoured

Recently I had what I can only describe as the immense privilege of attending a ceremony in Ottawa at the home of the Swedish ambassador to Canada, Lennart Alvin. Two strong individuals, Vera Parnes, founder and president of the Raoul Wallenberg International Movement for Humanity (RWIMH), and Vera Gara, representative of the RWIMH in Ottawa, were appointed as members first class of the Royal Order of the Polar Star, a high honour bestowed by King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden.

In choosing to honour these women, the king is recognizing the work of the RWIMH. His Majesty is implying that the work of this organization is imperative and timely. What this really means is that contemplating, striving for and sharing humanistic principles are effective and formidable in combating hatred and collective madness.

The RWIMH engages in active and responsible remembrance. It reveres the past, which is linked through its members to the possibilities inherent in the future. The event celebrated the movement's many achievements, including its exhibitions, conferences, bulletins and advocacy work. However, it was clear in the remarks of the recipients that there is much yet to be done and that the work itself has always been their primary reward.

I was very touched to be present at this ceremony, which increased my already high regard for Sweden and any country that holds aloft such a model as Wallenberg and celebrates those whose lives have been shaped and informed by his.

Rebecca Clare Dolgoy
Montreal

* * *

Be careful not to blame the victim

I am writing in response to Avrum Rosensweig's article "Is Jewish suffering inevitable?" (*CJN*, June 17).

Mr. Rosensweig, do you really believe that Jews can ward off or temper their suffering from anti-Semitism by making a gargantuan effort to discover and develop friendships and alliances with non-Jews around us?

Do you really believe that all or most Jews around the world are passively waiting hopefully and helplessly for the next calamity to overtake us?

Do you really believe that most of us Jews are entrenched in the role of victim as a consequence of our constant persecution down through the ages?

Do you really believe that any amount of "soul work" will strengthen our character in the face of anti-Semitism?

If these are your beliefs, then you shock and dismay me!

Nowhere in your article do you emphasize that anti-Semitism is evil – another of the countless manifestations of how evil presents itself in this world! The evil of anti-Semitism would exist even if there were no Jews. Anti-Semitism can never be routed until all human beings everywhere are taught to love and not to hate.

Through the ages, all over the world, there have been evil people. It is no different today. Right at this moment, in every country in the world, there are countless numbers of evil people who would enthusiastically volunteer for guard duty in concentration camps and to torture whomever they are "ordered" to torture. The evil mind is not limited to any particular race, creed or colour, nor to any particular social or economic class. The evil mind can be found among professionals, white and blue collar workers, skilled and unskilled workers, rich and poor, religious and secular.

Anti-Semitism is not a Jewish problem. There is nothing any Jews can do, individually or collectively, with or without "soul work," that will help them cope with it! Jews don't need anti-Semitism to help them develop strength of character! There are many more life experiences, other than pure evil, that test the mettle of men.

I don't pretend to have any answers as to how we can ever eradicate evil. But perhaps we must begin by never, ever, under any circumstances, suggesting that the victims of the evil of anti-Semitism might be able to prevent the unleashing of this scourge were they only to take "this" or "that" action, were they only to adopt "this" or "that" attitude!"

By suggesting this, Mr. Rosensweig, you are victimizing the victim.

When you do this, you are empowering the anti-Semites. All they need to initiate their unspeakable crimes on humanity is the formal or tacit consent of a community or a country. Evil eternally lies in wait to hear and to receive that consent.

Your article, Mr. Rosensweig, appears to me to be giving that consent!

Norman Gulko
Toronto

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

MIAs: Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz.

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Perspectives

Jewish theology and the Gaza withdrawal

By MARTIN LOCKSHIN

One of the most hotly debated subjects in Israel today is the proposed Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and the presumed concomitant evacuation of thousands of Israeli citizens, many of whom have been living in Gaza for more than one generation.

The conundrum that Israel finds itself in is truly vexing. Governing Gaza and its population of more than a million Arabs has proved to be nearly impossible. Removing 7,000 Jews from their homes – many were actually encouraged by previous Israeli governments to move to Gaza because of the ostensible security benefit involved in such settlements – is a drastic and difficult thing for any Israeli government to ponder, let alone to carry out.

The debate about the proper course of action has involved many factors. Recently a new consideration has been introduced into the discussion: theology.

Generally, in religious circles in Israel today, the dominant theology is that of Rabbi Zvi Yehudah Kook (1891-1982), the only son of the first chief rabbi of Israel, Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook. Rabbi Kook the younger was the spiritual force behind the Gush Emunim movement. He opposed, on theological grounds, any Israeli withdrawal from territories captured by the Israel Defence Forces (even the withdrawal from Sinai 25 years ago). The process of God's redemption of the Jewish people was, according to Rabbi Zvi Yehudah, being revealed before our very eyes in the military successes of the IDF. Refusing to accept the gifts God has given to us would be a form of sacrilege. There is a mitzvah, a religious duty, to capture the land and not to abandon it to the hands of others, he believed.

But an interesting new religious voice has now been heard on the issue of withdrawal. Rabbi Amnon Bazak would seem to have all the credentials of a Gush Emunim spokesperson. He teaches at the Har Etzion (Hesder) Yeshivah and has lived in the West Bank, in Alon Shvut, for most of his life.

Rabbi Bazak presents his new thesis in a publication from his yeshivah directed to yeshivah boys now serving in the army (his article can be found on the Web in Hebrew at www.etzion.org.il/dk/5764/967mamar2.htm). Rabbi Bazak comments on the Torah portion Shlach, which tells the story of the 10 unbelieving spies sent by Moses to scout out the land (Numbers 13:1-14:38). Often, Rabbi Bazak argues, the contemporary spin that is given to the story in religious circles is that the spiritual descendants of the ten unbelieving spies and their followers are those contemporary Israelis who are committed to the idea of settling the land only if it can be done with ease, not if it involves sacrifices and taking chances. The minority who have the ostensibly proper attitude to settlement today are understood to be the spiritual followers of Moses and Caleb and Joshua, whose belief in God allowed them to pursue the settlement of Canaan even against great odds, since they trusted in God's promise to the Israelites.

Rabbi Bazak, however, argues that this popular homily is based on a very selective reading of the Bible. Immediately after the biblical story of the unbelieving spies, we find the narrative about the *ma'apilim*, those overly confident Jews who attempted to settle the land at an inappropriate time (Numbers 14:39-45). Their zeal to capture the land at a time when God did not want them to do so led to disaster.

The only reasonable conclusion from the biblical texts, according to Rabbi Bazak, is that there are times when conquest and settlement are appropriate and times when they are not. Then, Rabbi Bazak develops the more controversial part of his thesis. How, he asks, are we to divine whether we ought or ought not to be pursuing settlement and conquest, even at great risk?

According to Rabbi Bazak, when we do not have direct communication from God to tell us whether fighting for our settlements is what is called for right now, it is best to study what the Bible tells us about other periods in Jewish history.

He notes that the prophets Jeremiah and Ezekiel both lived (around 2,600 years ago) in a period when large numbers of Jews felt that their rights to the land were granted by God and, accordingly, were certain that they should be fighting against the extremely powerful Babylonians to protect their territories. They were equally certain that God would surely grant them victory. Most of their religious leaders encouraged them to think that way. Jeremiah, a minority voice crying out in the wilderness, told them not to fight for their God-given right to the land. Ezekiel explained further that their right to the land was not inalienable. It was contingent on moral uprightness. He chastised the people sarcastically, "You eat with blood, you raise your eyes to your fetishes, and you shed blood – yet you expect to possess the land! You have relied on your sword, you have committed abominations, you have all defiled other men's wives – yet you expect to possess the land!" (Ezekiel 33:25-26)

Rabbi Bazak poses the following poignant question: can we be so confident of our own moral uprightness that we can state with certainty that God is guaranteeing our success in settling Gaza? Lacking such certainty, should we not leave decisions about withdrawals to military and political experts and not to the people's spiritual guides? Rabbi Bazak heaps scorn on those Israeli rabbis who were so certain of what it was that Judaism demanded that they composed a prayer for the success of the "No" vote in the recent Likud referendum on the withdrawal. He raises his eyebrows at the statement of the chief rabbi of Gush Katif that the successful "No" campaign was a manifestation of "a great and sublime revelation from God of the grace that He has shown us before the entire world."

Rabbi Bazak passionately presents his own view that contemporary rabbis in the State of Israel have generally chosen to get involved in public discourse on the wrong issues. He castigates his colleagues (the leaders of the religious Zionist community) who, he argues, never go to the ramparts to fight for any cause other than the retention of territory. "Religious Zionism has not gone out to the streets on any other issue – not to fight against public desecration of the Sabbath; not against the abysmal depravities of the media; not against the severing of Israeli society from Jewish and ethical values; not against economic distress and social stratification; not against the [negative] attitudes to immigrants and foreign workers." The pride of place given to the fight over retention of the land is, Rabbi Bazak writes, "a distortion of religion and of halachah."

Not surprisingly, Rabbi Bazak's thesis has hardly won over the entire religious community. One of his colleagues in Alon Shvut, Rabbi Yaacov Meidan, wrote a strong rebuttal in the same publication (Rabbi Meidan's article can also be found on the Web in Hebrew, at www.etzion.org.il/dk/5764/968mamar2.htm). Among his other arguments, Rabbi Meidan cannot tolerate the idea that decisions about the future of Eretz Yisrael should be left in the hands of people who, according to him, lack sufficient respect for, and belief in, the Jewish connection to the Land of Israel. "To my mind there would be nothing just, nothing righteous and nothing truthful about assigning responsibility about decision-making [about withdrawing from territories] to people who are moved to tears by the destruction of a few dozen [Arab] houses in Rafiah – most of which were slapped together in a few days with hardly any work – but who are willing to destroy the childhood landscape and the dreams of thousands of dedicated [Jewish] settlers."

It is unclear how much significance should be read into Rabbi Bazak's position, as Rabbi Meidan's is still the dominant approach of the religious Zionist community. But the recent redefinition of the debate within religious Zionism is certainly a salutary development. It is hardly useful to portray the question of withdrawal simplistically as a disagreement between those who believe in the Bible and those who do not. Voices such as those of Rabbi Bazak – a man who has dedicated his life to settlement, Torah and religious Zionism, and yet wonders aloud whether settlement is the way to continue right now – have encouraged Israeli society to think about the connection between theology and territory in new and unexpected ways.

Martin Lockshin is director of the Centre for Jewish Studies at York University.

Anti-withdrawal protesters show their displeasure at a recent demonstration.

Supporters rally to back the government's plan.

Opinions

The redemptive art of mourning

Tragedies don't have silver linings. They are black holes of sadness filled with pure pain. There is nothing good about death and destruction. Considering this, it would make sense for us to push tragedies out of our minds. So why do we Jews focus on catastrophes?

Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz in Montreal

We have days of mourning for the various traumas of our history: exile, the destruction of the Temples, internecine strife and the Holocaust. Even on the holidays, we say Yizkor, a memorial prayer for family members who have died. We continually pick away at old wounds, repeatedly recalling our saddest moments.

Why not forget? Some selective amnesia could make our lives, and our history, a lot more palatable. We could "move on," and stop paying attention to dead relatives. We could consider the Holocaust, the Inquisition, the Crusades, and all the exiles and expulsions to be part of the irrelevant past, events that could only interest historians. In so doing, the uncomfortable burden of Jewish history would finally be lifted off our shoulders. Perhaps we might even be happier.

Yet we make a point of revisiting our national and personal traumas. We do so because mourning is not merely a form of suffering – it can be also be a supremely creative act. There is a Jewish art to mourning. It is actually a form of alchemy, allowing us to take the emptiness of suffering and transform it into redemption.

How does this happen? Firstly, we must realize that discomfort is not so bad. Who will change the world? The complacent, with their suburban homes and RRSP's? Serious change always begins with righteous anger. We revisit dark moments to remind us that in the presence of evil, complacency is the same as complicity.

Even sadness can spur a positive response. Excess sadness can be extremely dangerous and lead to debilitating depression. Yet the art of mourning can also find a positive use for sadness. This is best expressed by the verse, "And you shall love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt." The newly freed slave may not become a master. He must become an abolitionist. The Torah is teaching us that the response to tragedy may not be depression or cynicism or hatred; the only correct response is compassion. Rather than feeding an endless cycle of violence, the suffering stranger is commanded to transform his anguish into love.

Tragedy and suffering in and of themselves are empty and meaningless. But it is still possible to offer a meaningful response to suffering. The art of mourning is to use tragic memories as a road map for fixing the world. In this way, the art of mourning becomes the first step on the road to redemption.

Fence abstention betrays Canadian values

What does Canada have in common with Cameroon, El Salvador, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Uganda, Uruguay and Vanuatu? These cowardly countries abstained when the UN General Assembly condemned Israel's security fence last month. Canada, apparently, has no opinion on the compelling moral issue of a country's right to construct passive defences against suicide bombers. Facing the scourge of terrorism, the Canadian moose again resembled a mouse. Canadians should be ashamed. Canadian Jews, who just voted overwhelmingly for the Liberal party, should feel betrayed.

Gil Troy in Montreal

Insiders insist the abstention represents great progress – at least Canada resisted joining Europe's diplomatic lynching of Israel. Yet such Bontsha-Shveigism is demeaning. Bontsha the Silent was a fictional eastern European Jew who only asked God for bread, nothing else. That approach characterized European Jewry before Zionism taught the virtues of self-respect, and before the Holocaust taught the need for self-defence. We North Americans are too proud, too free, to accept morsels. All of us opposed to terror – Jewish and non-Jewish – and infuriated by the UN's anti-Israel obsession need to roar.

We need to chide the government for this farcical non-vote. We need to challenge everyone in the Liberal party who vowed that Prime Minister Paul Martin would be more muscular and moral in repudiating Arafatism than Jean Chrétien. We need to encourage Liberal bagmen to put future party contributions in escrow until Martin spearheads the anti-terror fight.

I understand that anger is passé in Canada, that nervous nellies oversimplifying certain pricey polls insist anger is counter-productive when defending Israel to Canadians. But what movement against injustice ever triumphed without anger, especially when justified and strategically deployed? How would Martin Luther King Jr. and the civil rights movement have succeeded, and how would Anatoly Sharansky and other Soviet dissidents survived, without righteous indignation? Without consulting pollsters, the great humanitarian Elie Wiesel teaches that amid renewed anti-Semitism and the world's acceptance of Palestinian terror, anger is a logical response.

The pollsters caution us to "speak Canadian" when defending Israel. I agree. Let's talk Canadian. How about Canadians' commitment to justice? Shouldn't Canadians complain that the International Court of "Justice" (ICJ) degenerated into a politicized kangaroo court of anti-Israel dictatorships judging Israel? And how about Canadians' commitment to balance? Shouldn't Canadians object that the ICJ downplayed the motivation for the fence – systematic Palestinian terrorism?

How about Canadian proportionality? Shouldn't Canadians resent that in picking on Israel, the UN human rights mechanism ignores the slaughter of thousands in Sudan, the death of millions in Congo, the oppression of tens of millions by the Palestinian Authority and many other Arab countries? And how about Canadian fair play? Why can Americans pulverize terrorists from the air, England can chase IRA terrorists willy-nilly and former prime minister Pierre Trudeau can mobilize the military against FLQ kidnappers, but Israel can't build a security barrier – which is 93 per cent fence – to stop attacks on buses, bat mitzvahs, schools, seders and synagogues?

How about Canadians' commitment to peace and the often overlooked detail that the Palestinians rejected land for peace at Camp David in 2000, choosing violence instead of negotiations, as they have since 1947. How about Canadians' devotion to international mechanisms of justice and how demonizing Israel and rationalizing Palestinian terrorism, corruption and gangsterism have undermined the legitimacy of the ICJ, the UN General Assembly, the UN, and other international organizations? Finally, how about the Canadian commitment to human rights, which must acknowledge Israel's rights to defend Israeli citizens while rebuking the Palestinian Authority for oppressing women, gays, Christian and dissidents.

I write from Jerusalem, where my family and I are enjoying the summer. For the first time in years, thanks to the security fence, the streets of Jerusalem are clogged with people. In Tulkarm, Jenin and other Palestinian cities, nightlife is returning and the economy is improving, thanks again to the security fence.

The UN can spin its wheels. The Palestinians can continue seeking paper victories in kangaroo courts while destroying their own society through a political culture addicted to hate and chaos. And Canada can join Tonga in dodging today's compelling issues. Meanwhile, Israelis understand that living well – and safely – is the best revenge.

Film fest offers window on Israeli life

Last month's Jerusalem Film Festival offered a snapshot of contemporary Israel: The matsav – the fear of violence and the concomitant downtrend in tourism – has minified such festive Jerusalem events as the annual crafts fair, moved from its usual location in the Sultan's Pool to the downtown pedestrian triangle, in much-diminished form. The film festival, in contrast, took place at its traditional venues: the two screening rooms of the picturesque Cinematheque, overlooking the walls of the Old City, and several nearby satellite theatres. There were fewer foreign tourists in attendance, and Israelis from elsewhere hesitate to visit Jerusalem, but the festival remained undiminished as large numbers of local film buffs attended multiple screenings.

Sara R. Horowitz in Toronto

The event draw a wide and varied audience: women with sheitels, 20-something men with multiple piercings, hip Shenkin girls in low slung jeans, Muslim women in traditional head-covering, men with white beards and kippot, and Birkenstock-wearing students.

The films give claustrophobic and turmoil-weary Israelis the opportunity to indulge in cinematic tourism. Works from France, Germany, the Czech Republic, Belarus, Thailand, Japan, North Africa and even Canada offer intimate contact with other cultures, if only briefly in a darkened theatre. Audiences can luxuriate in the exotica of Cuban music, thwarted love in Sri Lanka and coming of age in Iran. Indeed, a packed theatre applauded the watery clime of eastern Quebec in the award-winning *La Grande Seduction*. For a modest investment of time and money, this virtual tourism refreshes the spirit.

Films also offer immigrants traces of a lost home, a familiarity of language and culture missing in their new country. Obscure literary and political references and incomprehensible subtitling were no barrier to the largely Russian immigrant audience that gathered to watch *Reprise*, a Russian documentary about the last days of Stalin and his unfulfilled plan to murder the Jews of Russia.

At other screenings, Israelis looked to understand their neighbours, such as in *Control Room*, a slyly seductive film about the Al-Jazeera Arabic-language news channel, and in films about refugee camps in Gaza and the construction of the barrier between Israel and the West Bank. As it has for years, the flourishing Israeli film industry offers possibilities for introspection, social critique and political analysis, with feature films providing intimate glimpses of haredi, mizrachi, Israeli Arab and Palestinian life.

Notable was the intense interest in two new documentaries, each about an Israeli writer known for literary representations of the Holocaust. *Appelfeld's Table*, about the Hebrew writer Aharon Appelfeld (*Badenheim 1939, Iron Tracks*), and *Ida Fink: Traces*, about the writer whose stories (*A Scrap of Time, The Journey, Traces*) have been translated from Polish into Hebrew, played to sold-out crowds.

Both films drew on extensive interviews with the writers by a young admirer. *Appelfeld's Table*, awarded the prize for best film on the Jewish experience, grew out of a series of conversations between the writer and the film's producer at the café of the Anna Ticho Museum (Beit Anna Ticho) in downtown Jerusalem, where Appelfeld writes on a daily basis at his regular table.

Traces emerged from Fink's vacation trip to the Galilee, accompanied by a young Israeli literature student and writer. Fink's admirer makes the case that her writing be considered part of Israeli literature – indeed, Hebrew literature – despite the fact Fink, who lives in Israel, writes in Polish and deals exclusively with the European past.

In Appelfeld's case, the filmmaker invites the writer to speak not only about his personal history and the European catastrophe that underlies all of his oeuvre, she also draws him into a conversation about the development of personal and national identity.

Most unexpected was the relatively young age of the audiences for both films, and the large numbers of people seeking tickets to see them.

Both writers initially had difficulty finding publishers, partly because of their focus on the everyday aspects of atrocity and trauma. Until recently, Israelis distanced themselves from such reflections, preferring heroic stories of partisans and ghetto fighters. The contents and the popularity of these two films about writers of the Shoah capture the growing engagement of young Israelis with the Holocaust and the Diaspora past, more generally – a sign of the rethinking of Israeli identity in the present.

The Kirshner File

A cornucopia of books...

Here, for your summer reading pleasure, is a cornucopia of eclectic books, published in the last little while...

Israel Medres, a Russian Jew born in 1894, immigrated to Canada in 1910. After stints as a stevedore and tailor, he turned to journalism, joining the staff of Montreal's Yiddish daily, *Keneder Adler*, in 1922. For the next 40 odd years, Medres was a reporter, columnist and editor. In *Between the Wars: Canadian Jews in Transition* (Vehicule Press), originally published in 1964 and now translated from the Yiddish by Vivian Felsen, Medres uses his considerable talents as an essayist to comment on events from the 1920s to the 1940s. A companion volume, *Through the Eyes of the Eagle: The Early Montreal Yiddish Press 1907-1916* (Vehicule Press), translated by the late David Rome, deals deftly with a wide variety of topics.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Leo Kolber, the Montreal-born financial wizard and politician, has had an eventful life. He has managed the Bronfman family trust, served in the Canadian Senate and met a plethora of fascinating personalities. In *Leo, a Life* (McGill-Queen's University Press), an engaging book co-written with L. Ian MacDonald, Kolber recounts his relationship with the Bronfmans and other business tycoons and his association with Canada's Liberal party.

Yaacov Zipper, the principal of Montreal's Jewish Peretz School from the 1920s until his retirement in 1972, kept a diary. Its contents, distilled in *The Journals of Yaacov Zipper, 1950-1982* (McGill-Queen's University Press), have been translated from Yiddish and edited by Mervin Butovsky and Ode Garfinkle. It's a refreshingly frank retrospective look at a Jewish community that has never stopped evolving. Miriam Bassin Chinsky's *The Tailor's Daughter* (Multimedia Nova Corporation) is a delightful reminiscence of Toronto in the 1930s and 1940s.

In *A Jew in America* (HarperCollins), an intellectually bracing book, Arthur Herzberg, the distinguished American rabbi and historian, recalls his boyhood, delineates the formation of his Jewish identity and his initiation into the rabbinate, comments on Jewish politics in the United States and gives his impressions of developments in Israel. In a similarly rigorous work, *American Judaism* (Yale University Press), Jonathan Sarna explores how Judaism has adapted to a new land and how American culture has affected Jewish religious practice. Jane Kaplan, in *Interfaith Families: Personal Stories of Jewish-Christian Intermarriage* (Praeger), looks closely and empathetically at couples who have entered into mixed marriages.

Shalom Goldman, in *God's Sacred Tongue: Hebrew & the American Imagination* (University of North Carolina Press), skillfully examines how a procession of Christian scholars and intellectuals interpreted Hebrew texts from the colonial period to the 20th century.

Diane Wolkstein's *Treasures of the Heart* (Random House Canada) renders oral legends into ancient biblical texts and thereby creates new stories within the framework of Jewish holidays. In a similar vein, Elie Wiesel, in *Wise Men and their Tales* (Random House Canada), gives us his particular take on the lives of chassidic rabbis, talmudic scholars and biblical figures. In *Jewish Passages: Cycles of Jewish Life* (University of California Press), Harvey Goldberg explains how Jews balance the past and present in the observance of customs and rituals. *Five Cities of Refuge* (Random House Canada), by Lawrence Kushner and David Mamet, offers readers original glimpses into key verses in the Torah. P.S. Berg, dean of the Kabbalah Centre, decodes the Kabbalah's intricate teachings in *The Essential Zohar* (Random House Canada). Douglas Rushkoff, in a hard-hitting and provocative polemic, *Nothing Sacred: The Truth About Judaism* (Random House Canada), claims that Judaism teeters on the abyss of irrelevancy. The subtext of Yaakov Malkin's challenging *Secular Judaism: Faith, Values and Spirituality* (Vallentine Mitchell) is that Jewish religious tradition does not recognize any "obligatory credo." Rabbi Chaim Rapoport, in *Judaism and Homosexuality* (Vallentine Mitchell), articulates an Orthodox view of this issue, balancing a commitment to Jewish law with an "understanding perspective."

The Ultimate Bar/Bat Mitzvah Celebration (Random House Canada), by Jayne Cohen, should be mandatory reading for parents.

Herold Weiss' *A Day of Gladness* (University of South Carolina Press) eruditely compares how Jews and Christians of antiquity viewed the Sabbath. Michele Murray, in *Playing a Jewish Game* (Wilfrid Laurier University Press), claims that significant strands of early Christian anti-Judaism were in fact directed against Gentile Christians. Benjamin Isaac, in *The Invention of Racism in Classical Antiquity* (Princeton University Press), refutes the common belief that the ancient Greeks and Romans were immune to racial prejudice.

The conventional view is that the Jewish experience in Spain in the century before the expulsion of the Jews in 1492 was one of persecution and despair. In *A Jewish Renaissance in Fifteenth-Century Spain* (Princeton University Press) Mark Meyerson revises this orthodoxy by focusing on the town of Morvedre.

The behind-the- scenes story of Operation Solomon, the 1991 airlift of Ethiopian Jews to Israel, is told compellingly by Asher Naim, Israel's ambassador in Ethiopia during that period, in *Saving the Lost Tribe* (Random House Canada). Judging by his sympathetic portrayal of Jewish faces and his penchant for Jewish themes, Rembrandt, the great Dutch painter, had friendly relations with Jews. Steven Nadler, in *Rembrandt's Jews* (University of Chicago Press), elegantly explores this topic.

The Holocaust and its aftermath: Through a carefully calculated plan turning on a blend of ethnic pride and racial fear, Nazi Germany prepared the ground for genocide. Claudia Koonz, in *The Nazi Conscience* (Harvard University Press), elaborates on this theme in this thoroughly researched book. And in *Architects of Annihilation* (Princeton University Press), Gotz Aly and Susanne Heim explain how the Nazis used young careerists to build the Holocaust's ideological and material infrastructure.

The three Bielski brothers of what is now Belarus defied the Nazis by building a thriving makeshift community in the forest and by courageously fighting back. Their oft-told story is related by Peter Duffy in *The Bielski Brothers* (HarperCollins). When Bela Zsolt published his remembrances of the Holocaust shortly after 1945, the phrase "Holocaust literature" had yet to be devised. In *Nine Suitcases* (Jonathan Cape), a taut chronicle of cruelty and betrayal, he relates his travails as a forced labourer in Ukraine. Miriam Akavia's *An End to Childhood* (Vallentine Mitchell), written as fiction but based on fact, is a harrowing tale of survival in Lvov. *Holocaust City* (Routledge), by Tim Cole, describes the making of the Budapest ghetto. In *The Gold Train* (HarperCollins) and *The Twentieth Train* (Grove Press), Ronald Zweig and Marion Schreiber, respectively, write about a special train that enabled a select group of Hungarian Jews to leave the Holocaust behind them and the first and only attack on a death train heading toward the Auschwitz concentration camp. Originally published in German, *People in Auschwitz* (University of North Carolina Press) is by Hermann Langbein, a half-Jewish Austrian Communist who was interned there in 1942, and who meticulously describes its brutal routines and inhuman degradations. Pamela Shatzkes' *Holocaust and Rescue* (Valletine Mitchell) details the lengths to which Britain's Jewish community went to try to save and provide humanitarian relief for European Jews caught up in Hitler's vise.

The end of the war found thousands of non-German Jews in Germany, where they rebuilt their pre-war social and cultural networks. Hagit Lavsky investigates this facet in *New Beginnings: Holocaust Survivors in Bergen-Belsen and the British Occupation Zone in Germany, 1945-1950* (Wayne State University Press). The attempt by Germans to come to terms with the Holocaust and to repudiate anti-Semitism are the interlocking themes of Anthony Kauders' never less than interesting *Democratization and the Jews: Munich, 1945-1965* (University of Nebraska Press).

In *The Terrorist Next Door* (Thomas Dunne Books), Daniel Levitas, an expert on white supremacist and neo-Nazi groups in the United States, studies a dangerous phenomenon all too often ignored since Sept. 11, 2001 – the radical right and the militia movement.

In general: *The Oxford History of Western Art* (Oxford University Press), by Martin Kemp, is a beautifully crafted compendium. Rosemary Lord's *Hollywood Then and Now* (Thunder Bay Press) is a handsomely illustrated history of California's movie industry. *New York City* (HarperCollins) is a photographic tribute to the Big Apple. *The Canadian Landscape* (Firefly) celebrates the diversity of this country through J.A. Kraulis' sharp and evocative photographs. In *Algonquin Seasons* (Firefly), Michael Runtz, in vivid words and photos, explores an iconic Ontario provincial park. *Canada's Classic Fishing Lodges* (Boston Mills Press) is a photographic tour-de-force from Mark Krupa and Donald Standfield. Lonely Planet's travel guides, *Montreal*, *Toronto* and *Hidden Los Angeles*, are terrific. In light of Lance Armstrong's sixth consecutive Tour de France victory, read Gilbert King's *The Bicycle* (Firefly), an entertaining history of this ingenious contraption. Movie fans will enjoy Bill Stern's *You Don't Have to be Jewish* (Lugus), a compilation of reviews about films with Jewish content.

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FURNISHINGS FROM ITALY

Consultancy promotes ethics, social responsibility

By CARA EDELL
CJN Intern

A tool for investors, consumers, government agencies and businesses, EthicScan is Canada's oldest and largest full-service ethics consultancy.

Founded in 1988 by David Nitkin, who at the time felt corporate ethics would be a significant issue in the future, EthicScan has given organizations and individuals the opportunity to act according to their highest principles and values.

The company was established as a fee-for-service practice and, from its inception, has empowered clients with the information needed to benchmark their performance, Nitkin said.

"If you're a consumer, this would be information on the performance of companies behind the product. If you're an investor, this would be information of a sensitive nature about the practices of a company, including its participation in the Arab anti-Israel boycott or its involvement in human rights abuses. If you're a company, it's a chance to look at how other companies are responding to good governance, human relations, human resources and other kinds of challenges in the workplace. And if you're a crown corporation, a government department or an integrity commission, it's a chance to be as reputable in public services as possible," he said.

Today, EthicScan has grown to a team of nine consultant associates, four contract researchers and one editor, with operations in Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Edmonton, Sudbury, Kitchener and Truro, N.S. It is a synthesis of three different services, including Canada's first corporate social responsibility research house, a resource centre for consumer and corporate ethics and an ethics consultancy.

EthicScan conducts original and independent research in order to maintain files on 1500 corporations, both Canadian and transnational. These files give access to 300 measures of performance across a broad range of corporate social responsibility and corporate governance topics, said Nitkin.

"If you're an environmental group, you want to make sure that you know something about the production practices of a company. That's largely because if information comes out that indicates the company is a bad actor and you're regarded as taking money from them, that could be a serious concern. It could adversely affect your ability to collect donations and may result in serious problems at the board level.

"The obvious message here is we're not telling people how to think. The data is there and there is a grading and a rating that reflects the values of some 60 experts. But the actual criteria that you choose are your own."

In the area of education, EthicScan offers courses, workshops and bestseller guide books that impart ethics information in a user-friendly format. Individuals assessing who they want to work for, partner with or approach as a source of funding can also refer to the company's extensive library of ethics codes, dilemmas and profiles, said Nitkin.

The consulting side of EthicScan is its largest revenue stream, he said. Associates in the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada are responsible for developing codes, training and social or ethics audits, as well as helping companies assess the strength of their governance practices.

Promoting ethics throughout the corporate, management and governmental world varies for each client, he said.

One example of EthicScan's work involves the integrity commission of Trinidad and Tobago, a government agency in which all judges and parliamentarians have to declare their annual income.

"We're working to provide a full range of legal and forensic accounting, ethics, human resources and communications support to the development of the commission," said Nitkin.

While Nitkin will name a few of his company's clients, he said the majority choose to remain unidentified to the public. One such client is a a major Canadian financial institution, for which his team is currently preparing an ethics audit.

Nitkin said ethics should be introduced into businesses for reasons that are green, brown and grey.

Companies such as Mountain Equipment Co-op and the Body Shop, that have reputations as environmentally and socially responsible leaders, fall in the green category, he said.

"But are they really responsible?" Nitkin asked. "They need us to demonstrate that indeed they are the cat's meow."

Companies taking part in illegal or inappropriate activity, or those that are made to look bad (what Nitkin called "the Martha Stewarts"), compose the brown stream. Such businesses "need us to provide necessary and constructive help to enhance their practices," he said.

And then there are the grey companies — those who want to differentiate themselves from the competition. "They're not good or bad, they simply want to distinguish themselves. Ethics gives them that chance."

Nitkin said ethics companies specializing in individual services have surfaced over the years, but EthicScan remains the only one to offer research, education, consultant work and auditing. He said competing companies use his database to obtain information from 300 different records on the social responsibility of a single company. Each report is 20 to 25 pages long and is a review of all aspects of a company's performance.

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Coast to Coast

The Bossin family at their annual picnic in 1999. Below: Leib Yehuda and Surah Leah Bossin taken in the mid 19th century.

Bossin family celebrates 100 years in Canada

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

More than 225 descendants of Leib Yehuda and Surah Leah Bossin will come together from across North America, Germany and Israel to celebrate the family's 100th anniversary in Canada.

Descendants ranging in age from eight months to 90 years old will gather on the weekend of Aug. 20 at the Nottawasaga Inn in Alliston, Ont., with the youngest offspring representing the family's fifth generation.

The first members of the Bossin clan arrived in Canada a century ago, with Zussman Bozzun (later changed to Bossin) as the leader of the pack.

Born in 1866 to Leib Yehuda and Surah Leah Bossin, Zussman left his roots in Brusilov, Ukraine, which was then part of the Russian Empire, and moved to Canada in 1904. At the time of Zussman's departure, Brusilov was a town of 6,500 people, with Jews making up almost half of its population.

Jews have lived in Brusilov, which is located near Kiev, as far back as 1622. Although they were almost wiped out in the Chmielnicki massacres of 1648 and 1649, the Russian Jews re-established themselves in the town within 75 years.

When Russia went to war with Japan in 1904, further uprisings against the Russian Jews occurred as a response to the population's unrest. This threat, along with a desire to avoid conscription, led the Bossin family to search for refuge in a safer country.

Shortly after Zussman settled in Canada, his brother, Mottel, born in 1875, and Mottel's wife, Malka, followed. Their parents, sisters Chaya Gitel and Dvora Freidel, spouses, children and other family members came as well.

"What a wonderful group we are," says Gloria Wetzler, chair of the reunion. "Think of the many immigrant families who arrived in this great country at that time and have since disappeared from the face of the earth. Not us. We are still together and still a close family."

The Bossin family ties were woven over the last century through friendships, Passover seders, Chanukah parties, picnics and other occasions. A family club was formed in the early 1930s where members met monthly and created a loan group for each other.

To commemorate the family's 100 years in Canada, Allen Bossin has created a 46-page historical booklet to be distributed at the reunion. Dating back to the mid 19th century, it depicts the experiences of the Bossins in the shtetl and portrays Russia under a succession of rulers.

Allen's history reflects the trials, tribulations and successes of the far-reaching branches of his family tree. Credited for initial interviews and research are Bob Bossin, who interviewed the eldest generation of the Bossins in the mid-1970s, and Aubie Bossin, the only surviving son of Mottel, who presented his memories and research at the family's 80th anniversary.

Allen's manuscript tracks the Bossins to the present day and lists family members, their parents, place of residence and connection to the children of Leib Yehuda and Surah Leah Bossin.

Reunion committee member Shayndel Tallan, a grandmother of nine, noted that Leib Yehuda and his son Mottel were founders of the Kiever Synagogue, one of the oldest landmarks in Toronto's Jewish community.

"There are still family members at the Kiever," said Tallan. "Looking back, I realize how lucky we are to have kept so close for such a long time."

Shirley Grossman, a grandmother of four who also sits on the committee, spoke of the closeness between the relatives throughout the year. "There were many children and we had a wonderful and very close-knit family. My children and grandchildren will be at the reunion."

Grossman said the Bossin grandchildren visited their grandparents' house every weekend. "Malka Bossin was a special grandmother who held our family together. And it has continued."

She said the Bossins even have a family website, www.geocities.com/bossincousins, from which they send out news and announcements.

The reunion will include Saturday morning services, a picnic, banquet, golf game and other special events. Bob Bossin of British Columbia, lead musician of his group Stringband, will also headline a performance.

Reena

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YIDDISH CORNER
Edited by: ALEK SILVER

ייִדיש־ווינקל
רעדאַגירט פֿון: אַלעק סילווער

מען טאָר זיי נישט פֿאַרגעסן!

פֿון אַלעק סילווער

אויגוסט איז געווײַנלעך אַ ײַנער פֿון די שוועסטע חדשים אין יאָר. דאָס וועטער איז שיין, הייס; דער הימל איז בלוי; די לופֿט — שמעקנדיק. מענטשן פֿאָרן אַרויף וואַקאַציע; געשעפֿטן אין פֿאַבריקן פֿאַרמאַכן זיך, כּדי צו געבן דעם אַרבעטער אַ געלעגנהײט זיך אָפּצורוען עט-לעכע וואָכן און געניסן פֿון דער נאַטור. די קינדער גייַען אין די קעמפּס און די עלטערן פֿאָרן אויף דאָטשע. אין אַלגעמיין איז עס אַ פֿריילעכער חודש.

טאָרן מיר יידן אָבער נישט פֿאַרגעסן, אַז אין מיטן פֿון חודש איז פֿאָראַן אַ דאַטע, וואָס מוז דערמאָנט ווערן אין־אייך אין־אויס. דאָס איז די דאַטע פֿון 12טן אויגוסט — דער יאָרטאָג פֿון דעם שרעקלעכן מאָרד פֿון די יידי-שע שרײַבער און קולטור־טוערס אין סטאַלינס־טשן סאָוועט־פֿאַרבאַנד. מיר מוזן ווידער און ווידער אַמאָל באַטאָנען די וויכטיקײט פֿון דער דאָזיקער דאַטע.

עס זײַנען שוין אַריבער עפּעס מער ווי אַ האַלבער יאָרהונדערט זינט עס איז געקומען צום אַרײַנרופֿאַך די שוידערלעכע טראַגעדיע פֿאָרן דײַ־מילאָניק יידנטום אונטערן סאָוויס־טשן סטאַלין־רעזשים. מיט זײַן דעספּא-טשן אַנטיסעמיטיזם האָט סטאַלין, צוזאַמען מיט זײַן געהילף בעריאַ, אַרויסגעריסן די שענסטע יידישע קולטור שמידער און גיסטיקע שפּעטער, די יידישע שרײַבער און אַרטיסטן און זיי אַרײַנגעוואָרפֿן אין די סאָוועטישע גהינום־טורמעס און אוממענטשלעכע סיבירער טייַגעס, ווו זיי זײַנען אײַנציקווײַז אומגעבראַכט געוואָרן.

זײַלן פֿון דער יידישער ליטעראַטור ווי איציק פֿעפֿער, דוד בערגעלסאָן, דער נסתר, פֿרץ מאַרקיש און אַנדערע זײַנען באַשולדיקט געוואָרן אין אויסגעטראַכטע זינד און זײַנען געשטאָרבן, נאָר ווײַל זיי זײַנען געווען יידן. דאָרפֿן מיר טאָקע אין דעם יאָרטאָג דערמאָנען די אַלע, וואָס זײַנען אומגעקומען אין יענער שרעקלעכער תקופֿה. מיר דאַרפֿן און מוזן ערן זײַער אַנדענק, פּונקט ווי מיר ערן קידוש השם און על קידוש השם.

די דאַטע פֿון 12טן אויגוסט מוז אַרײַנגענומען ווערן אין דעם צעטל פֿון טרויער־טעג, וואָס דאָס יידישע פֿאָלק האָט אַנגעזאַמלט אויף זיך לאַנגן גלות־וועג. מען דאַרף אַנהײבן מיטן גרעסטן חורבן פֿון 20סטן יאָרהונדערט אין די 6 מילי̈אָן קדושים — כ׳ו ניסן. דאָס צעטל נעמט אַרײַן דעם קעלצער פֿאַגראָם אין 1946; גידוש שפּאַניע; גזירת ת״ח ות״ט; דער דרײַפֿוס בילבול; דער קישענעווער פֿא-גראָם; דער פּשיטק פֿאַגראָם; דער בילים פֿראָצעס; דעמ אַראָבישער פֿאַגראָם אין ארץ־ישׂראל; סתּם פֿאַגראָמען אין צאַרישן רוסלאַנד און אין אַנטיסעמיטישן פּוילן; און נאָך און נאָך און נאָך . . .

אין יעדער פֿון די דאָזיקע דאָטעס מוזן מיר אָפּגעבן דעם געהעריקן יראת הכבוד די קדושים, צי עס איז אין איינציקער יידי אָדער 6 מילי̈אָן. צוזאַמען זײַנען זיי אַלע באַאַמגען בלוּט אין ,,זיבל״ — זיי זײַנען געווען יידן. מיר מוזן דאָס אויך אַרויסבאַמגען פֿאַר דער וועלט און אויפֿ-קלערן, אַז מיר יידן זוכן געראַנטיקייט פּונקט ווי אַלע אַנדערע פֿעלקער און מיר זײַנען באַראַנטיקט צו דעם.

אונדזער איינציקע טרייסט איז דאָזיקן יאָרטאָג איז דער פֿאַקט, אַז עס איז געלונגן דעם סאָוועטישן יידנטום צו באַפֿרײַען זיך פֿון די סטאַלי̈ניסטישע אַדער קאַמוניסטישע קייטן און זוכן זײַער אייגענעם גורל. אין דער הינזיכט איז מדינת ישׂראל געקומען צוהילף מיט אידע אָפּענע גרענעצן און אהבת ישׂראל.

אָבער דאָך מוזן מיר דערמאָנען די דאַטע פֿון 12טן אויגוסט, דערמאָנען די אומשולדיקע קדושים־מאַרטידער אין פֿאַדערן פֿון דער וועלט, אַז אזעלכעס זאָל און טאָר מער נישט פֿאַסירן. מיר האָפֿן, אַז די מענטשהייט וועט שטיין בײַ אונדזער זײַט.

On Campus

A connection with Israel

By KYLE GORDON
Special to The CJN

May 30, 2004, marked the beginning of an emotional and spiritual journey. I embarked on an experience that thousands of other young Jewish adults had experienced before, but I was anxious to see what Taglit/Birthright Israel would specifically provide for me.

Guest Voice

Growing up in Toronto, as a Reform Jew, I have always valued my religion, but I desired a stronger appreciation of my culture and for Israel. I applied for Birthright with this goal in mind – a desire to find a greater connection with Israel.

Since Israel is still so young – it only became a state in 1948 – I felt an obligation to embrace this opportunity and support Israel in its time of need. Despite the concern for safety, I was confident that the Birthright organization would take every precaution in order to guarantee my safety and the safety of the hundreds of young Jews I was about to meet.

Kyle Gordon, right, and fellow Birthright Israel participant Andrea Cohen get a taste of desert life.

My 10-day trip to Israel was exactly what I had always desired, a taste of Jewish history. Walking the streets of the old city in Jerusalem and letting my fingers drag behind me, brushing against the ancient architecture, it was impossible to hold back my tears.

In a land rich with history and beauty, it is hard to believe there is so much anger and hatred. I felt myself engulfed by rage and sadness for a culture forced to live with constant uncertainties.

I asked one man how many children he had. He replied that he had five; he told me he had desired two but knew that there was the possibility that three would be killed.

A million questions rushed through my mind; in a country like Canada war is not inevitable. People do not plan their families around the inevitability of war and the imminent death of some children. The man said to me, "This is reality and this is what we live with every day of our lives."

Should I be sad for him or should I applaud him for his family's courage to fight for Israel, so I could come and experience it? I am thankful to these men and women who risk their lives every day. I was able to visit Israel, and for a brief moment in time, I was welcomed into the homeland of the Jewish people.

Many people have asked me what the highlight of my trip was. After much thought, I would have to say it was the Israelis.

Halfway through my trip, we were joined by eight Israeli soldiers, men and women who shared their stories with us. Although Birthright is designed for participants to feel safe and secure, the soldiers didn't sugarcoat the risks and uncertainty they face every day.

For me, the hardest thing to get used to was seeing them carry their guns the way we carry our knapsacks. Being the same age and having a totally different lifestyle made me more appreciative of the security I have in Canada.

The soldiers' presence was the most valuable gift because, unconsciously, they supplied me with the most relevant and valuable information, their truth. The best way to understand a certain way of life is to immerse yourself in it, open your heart to new adventures and embrace uncertainty. Doing so, for me, means that Israel has captured a special place in my heart.

While I am back in Toronto and unsure of when I will return to Israel, I am confident that the memory of my experiences and the warmth of the bonds that I made will remain with me forever. There is a certain magic that radiates from Israel, and it is only while you are immersed in this magic that you truly feel at home.

Kyle Gordon is majoring in English at the University of Western Ontario.

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Torah is framed with love

By RACHAEL TURKIENICZ

The month of Elul immediately precedes the start of the High Holy Days. It is a time of preparation for the complexities that await us as we approach Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

The rabbis noticed that the name of the month, "Elul," can be understood as the initials of a well-known Hebrew phrase: "Ani ledodi vedodi li." In Hebrew, the first letters of each word in this phrase are the same as the letters in the name Elul. The phrase means "I am for my beloved and my beloved is for me." It is a quote from the *Song of Songs*, a dialogue of love, a book in our Bible.

The *Song of Songs* speaks of intimacies between lovers. Rabbi Akiva added the insight that the book also speaks of the relationship between God and Israel. It is a relationship of love and intimacy and longing. The Talmud states: "You shall make the Lord beloved." The statement does not speak of emotion but rather of action. It does not describe how you must feel but rather how you must act upon those feelings. How you should actively "make" God your beloved.

The Zohar comments: "How does one love the Lord? By encompassing oneself with benevolence on every side, by doing benevolence to all without sparing your strength or your property."

It is clear that the love of God must be actively expressed and not simply felt. We make God our beloved by dealing positively with the world around us. The emotion that we feel for God must translate into actions in the world that God created. It is not enough to feel love, one must show love.

As with all of our behaviour, we try to model ourselves upon God. The rabbis in the midrash tell us that the entire Torah is framed with deeds of chesed, lovingkindness. An act of chesed appears at the beginning of the Torah when God clothes the first man and woman. Similarly, an act of chesed appears at the end of the Torah when God buries Moses. The Torah is thus framed with lovingkindness which becomes the overarching lesson to be read throughout its contents.

In fact, the midrash tells us that the power of acts of lovingkindness can comfort us for the loss of our Temples. Rabbi Joshua was comforted by Rabbi Yochanan after seeing the ruins of Jerusalem. Rabbi Yochanan stated that there is a means of atonement more effective than sacrifice: deeds of lovingkindness.

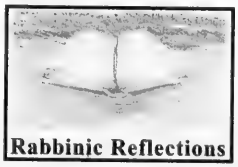
In the *Song of Songs*, the woman says to her beloved: "I am asleep but my heart is awake." The midrash comments that Israel says to God: "I sleep" in neglect of ritual practice, but "my heart is awake" for the practice of lovingkindness.

We may connect with religious ritual, in varying degrees, with various interpretations and intentions. However, we can always connect with deeds of lovingkindness. We can always extend a greeting and build from there.

The month of Elul invites us to examine how we have made God our beloved. The midrash offers all of us a practical and meaningful solution.

Seeking God's presence

By RABBI MICHAEL SKOBAC



For modern Jews, wrestling with issues of faith is not unusual. Our very name "Israel" means to struggle with God. Many of us seek clarity amidst a confusing world of uncertainty. Woody Allen once said, "If only God would give me a clear sign – like making a large deposit in my name at a Swiss bank."

This week's Torah portion offers a simple yet vital insight for those desiring a closer relationship with God: "… You shall seek out His presence and come there" (Deuteronomy 12:5).

Rabbi Moshe Sofer of Pressburg spun this as an encouragement that if you will seek God's presence, you will attain the nearness you desire.

Rabbi Menachem Mendel of Kotzk took the idea even further. Based on a similar verse (4:29), "And you shall seek God from there and you shall find Him," the Kotzker asserted that the seeking itself is the finding.

This concept was used by Rabbi Noach Weinberg, founder of Aish HaTorah, to explain a difficult verse in the book of Genesis.

After emerging victorious from a dangerous war against four great kings, God told Abraham not to be afraid and that his reward would be very great (15:1). It's hard to understand why Abraham would be apprehensive after his victory, and where the idea of being rewarded fits into the passage.

Rabbi Weinberg suggested that Abraham's fear was a persistent one that plagued him for years. He was worried that he'd be punished for all the years of his life that he didn't fully believe in God. Although Abraham began to think about God when he was three, he didn't come to full faith until he was 48 years old. God tells Abraham that, on the contrary, for all those years he searched and struggled, he'd be greatly rewarded.

The key factor in the spiritual quest is sincere desire. King David wrote in the book of Psalms, "God is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him with sincerity" (145:18).

Realizing that our forefathers were paragons of this characteristic can help explain a puzzling comment by the famous commentator Rashi to a verse in the book of Exodus. God declared, "I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob… " (6:3), and Rashi notes that God appeared to the forefathers.

Since we already know that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are the forefathers, we wonder why Rashi felt the need to inform us of this. Rabbi Moshe Sofer noted that the Hebrew word for forefathers, *avot*, is related etymologically to the Hebrew word for "desire" or "crave." Rashi, therefore, is providing us with an insight into why the Almighty appeared to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – because they desired Him. They sought after Him.

The children of Rabbi Baruch of Mezhibuzh, grandson of the Baal Shem Tov, were playing hide-and-seek with friends. One of his children came running home terribly upset and bitterly crying. When Rabbi Baruch asked what happened, the child sobbed and said that when it was his turn to hide, his friends lost interest in the game and didn't bother trying to find him. Rabbi Baruch sighed and said that God, too, is hiding (the Hebrew word for world "olam" means "hidden," because God is not manifest in His world) and that it's sad that many people don't bother trying to find Him.

The great Babylonian sage Rav Saadiah Gaon composed a special personal prayer that he would say each morning. "Oh, God, who is concealed from the eyes of all living things, who is sublime and wonderful beyond the sight of all His creatures, the many heavens cannot contain You. But all those who seek You can find You in their hearts, and all who meditate upon you can find you in their thoughts."

Ultimately, it's up to us. The Kotzker Rebbe said it best. When asked, "Where is God?" he responded by observing that "God is wherever you let Him in."

Rabbi Skobac is the director of education of Jews for Judaism in Toronto.

Jewish Life

Israeli hopefuls & the Olympics

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Today, we conclude our look at the Olympics with a look at Israel's medalists, a preview of the country's team in Athens and a fascinating – but wild – dream for the future.

This year's delegation from Israel is far different from the one the country sent when it first competed in Helsinki in 1952. Then, the most notable achievement was by Yoav Ra'anan, who took ninth place in springboard diving. Over the next four decades, participating was Israel's main objective. **[http://tinyurl.com/6wcfv]**

In Barcelona in 1992, *Hatikvah* was played for the first time when Israeli athletes were presented their medals. Half-middleweight Yael Arad won silver and lightweight Oren Smadga won bronze for judo. At the Atlanta Olympics in 1996, Gal Friedman won bronze in windsurfing. And in Sydney in 2000, Michael Kolganov won bronze for K-1 500-metre single kayak. For more on Israel's Olympic record, check out Ellis Shuman's excellent overview. **[http://tinyurl.com/ys27p]**

The International Olympic Committee's Olympic website doesn't shed much light on the Israeli team – or the teams from other countries, for that matter. However, its page about Israel's Olympic Committee is worth a visit because of a footnote that reads, "Please visit the official United Nations website for further information regarding the capital of Israel." **[http://tinyurl.com/292wl]**

You'll learn much more about Israel's team at the Olympic Committee of Israel's official site. There are several pages in English that give an overview of the committee's work and highlights from the Olympics movement in Israel. But the site really excels in Hebrew. There's a summary of how Israel has fared at the Olympics over the years, a list of every athlete who has competed, and this year's hopefuls. There's even a page acknowledging this year's official sponsors of the Israeli Olympic team, including Speedo, Samsung cellphones and Solgar Vitamins. **[http://olympic.tapuz.co.il/]**

So who are the Israeli stars to keep an eye out for this year? A bit predictably, the president of the Olympic Committee of Israel has proclaimed that "this is the best Olympic team we've ever had." But there does seem to be excitement about the fact that almost half the members of the team are immigrants. They're athletes mostly from the former Soviet Union, but also from Italy, Uruguay and, for the first time, Ethiopia. But the names that seem to be coming up most belong to athletes from the former Soviet Union: pole-vaulter Alex Averbukh, wrestler Gocha Tsitsiashvili and canoeist and kayaker Michael Kolganov. **[http://tinyurl.com/2d8x8]** If one of them does succeed in bringing home Israel's first gold medal, he or she will pocket a bonus of 500,000 shekals, thanks to the Israeli Olympic Committee and Israel's education ministry. **[www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/448218.html]**

As for athletes from this side of the Atlantic, many eyes will be on swimmer Lenny Krayzelburg, who will be back at the Olympics this month. At the Sydney Games in 2000, the American won gold in the 100-metre backstroke, the 200-metre backstroke and the 400-metre medley, setting two Olympic records along the way. Krayzelburg made more fans a year later when he decided to forego the World Championships in Japan in order to attend Israel's Maccabi Games. He told reporters that "being Jewish is part of me; it's part of my culture." **[http://tinyurl.com/5r5ha]**

For daily progress reports on Israel's Olympic team, check out the *Jerusalem Post* **[http://jpost.com]** and the English-language edition of *Ha'aretz*. **[www.haaretzdaily.com]**

A few years ago, three architecture students from Tel Aviv University suggested what seemed like then – and now – a preposterous idea: that their city consider hosting the Olympic Games. Their proposal was championed by Tel Aviv Mayor Ron Huldai and was ridiculed by practically everyone else. But an article in *Ha'aretz* said that although there are many good reasons to write off Israel's chances, there are even better ones to give it a second look. **[http://tinyurl.com/3dko3]**

"It is easy to respond with cynicism or derision to this ambitious proposal… In the 50 years of its existence, Israel has proved that it is capable of grappling with huge and complex projects in a short time. So it would be advisable to seriously examine the feasibility of holding an Olympiad in Israel." Maybe one day.

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway.com.

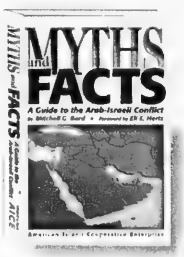
Palestinian claims recognized

MYTH

Anyone who defends settlements is supporting the perpetual occupation of the Palestinian people and their land.

FACT

While making a strong case for its own right to live in the territories, the Israeli government also acknowledges that Palestinians have legitimate claims to the area and feels that a compromise can be reached through negotiations.



Politically, the West Bank and Gaza Strip are best regarded as territory over which there are competing claims that should be resolved in peace process negotiations. Israel has valid claims to title in this territory, based not only on its historic and religious connection to the land and its recognized security needs, but also on the fact that the territory was not under the sovereignty of any state and came under Israeli control in a war of self-defence that was imposed upon the country.

At the same time, Israel recognizes that the Palestinians also entertain legitimate claims to the area. Indeed, the very fact that the parties have agreed to conduct negotiations on settlements indicated that they know a compromise is needed on this issue.

In fact, in the negotiations at Camp David and the White House in 2000, then-prime minister Ehud Barak reportedly offered to dismantle at least 63 settlements. The Palestinians rejected the proposal.

This year, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon proposed a plan under which Israel would disengage from the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank. The proposal would have led to the closing of a number of settlements.

At the same time, however, Sharon also made clear that large settlement blocs will remain intact.

An estimated 80 per cent of settlers live in what are, in effect, suburbs of major Israeli cities such as Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. Virtually the entire Jewish population believes Israel must retain these areas to ensure its security, and that they could be brought within Israel's borders with minor modifications of the 1967 border.

Sharon singled out four specific settlement blocs that, by consensus, will ultimately be incorporated into Israel: Ariel (population 16,000 in 2001 and now closer to 30,000 when surrounding communities are included), Maale Adumim (25,800 in 2001 and now almost 40,000), Givat Zeev (10,500 in 2001) and the Etzion Bloc (15 communities with an approximate population of 20,000). These four blocs include more than 40 per cent of the total Jewish population of the West Bank.

Sharon has said that clearly, in the permanent agreement, Israel will have to give up some of the Jewish settlements.

But it is inconceivable that Israel would evacuate such large cities, even after a peace agreement with the Palestinians, and at Camp David, Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat grudgingly accepted the idea that the large settlement blocs would remain part of Israel.

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Coast to Coast

Ottawa looking into new passport revelations

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Canada's embassies in Israel and New Zealand have joined federal authorities to investigate whether Israelis used a stolen Canadian passport for covert operations abroad, despite an an Israeli pledge seven years ago to stop doing so.

"We're looking into the case," Department of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Reynald Doiron told *The CJN* last week.

"We don't know where the investigation will lead," he added. "We're trying to get to the bottom of this. We already have some answers."

Doiron said Ottawa is checking into allegations that Zev William Barkan, an Israeli suspected of trying to fraudulently obtain a New Zealand passport, is travelling in Asia on a Canadian passport issued under the name of Kevin William Hunter. The document was reportedly stolen in Guangzhou, China, last spring.

Barkan, who has served in Israeli missions in Belgium and Austria, was seen recently in Pyongyang, North Korea, where he had flown from Beijing using the passport, Canadian Press reported.

He is thought to have fled New Zealand after two other Israelis, Uriel Zoshe Kelman – a 31-year-old dual Canadian and Israeli citizen – and his associate, Eli Cara, 50, were arrested in the case.

Asked what impact the Barkan revelation may have on Canada's relations with Israel, Doiron replied, "It's anyone's guess." He said he does not know when the investigation will be completed.

Since the investigation into the New Zealand case is still in its formative stages, Israel's outgoing ambassador to Canada, Haim Divon, has not been asked for an official explanation, Doiron said.

Efforts to reach the Israeli embassy in Ottawa for comment were unsuccessful.

The burgeoning case recalls the 1997 Mashal affair, when two Mossad operatives posing as Canadians and carrying fake Canadian passports tried to kill Khalid Mashal, a top-ranking Hamas official, in Amman, Jordan.

The Israelis were caught by Jordan and released, but only after Hamas' exiled spiritual leader Sheik Ahmed Yassin was allowed to return to his home in the Gaza Strip. Yassin was killed earlier this year by an Israeli missile strike.

In the wake of the Mashal affair, Israel promised Canada it would not use Canadian passports in intelligence operations ever again.

Canada is concerned that the safety of Canadian travellers in the Middle East could be jeopardized if they are suspected of being Israeli spies.

Last month, Kelman and Cara were each sentenced by a New Zealand court to six months in jail, and New Zealand's prime minister, Helen Clark, accused the men of being Mossad spies and imposed diplomatic sanctions on Israel.

Clark said she had "strong reasons" to believe they were Mossad operatives, while her foreign minister, Phil Goff, said he suspected the men tried to obtain the passport for an assassination operation in a third country.

Doiron has said the fact Kelman used a Canadian passport to enter and leave New Zealand would not affect Canada-Israel ties.

Kelman and Cara are appealing their convictions.

It was also reported last month that New Zealand police are looking for Anthony David Reznik, a New Zealander whom they suspect helped Kelman, Cara and Barkan.

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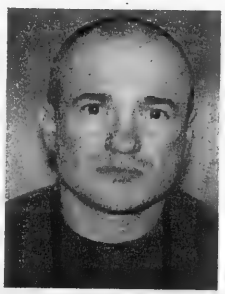
Desalination researcher wins annual BGU Toronto Prize

For the 2004-2005 academic year, the Toronto Prize for Excellence in Research at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev has been awarded to Prof. Boris Zaltzman of the department of solar energy and environmental physics at BGU's Blaustein Institute for Desert Research.

The Toronto Prize for Excellence in Research at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev was established in 1999 by the Toronto chapter of the Canadian Associates of Ben-Gurion University to mark Israel's 50th anniversary and to recognize outstanding achievement for the betterment of humanity by BGU researchers in science and technology, medicine or the humanities.



Professor Boris Zaltzman

Zaltzman is a distinguished scholar whose research explores innovative desalination technologies by using theoretical modelling to study underlying chemical phenomena.

One of his theories has led to an experimental program by the desalination group of the Institute for Water Science and Technology at the Blaustein Institute that could lead to novel desalination techniques and the alleviation of water scarcity problems in Israel and around the world.

"I am working on the fundamentals of membrane desalination processes, such as reverse osmosis and electrodialysis, and am particularly interested in the salt transport in solution layers near the membranes," Zaltzman said.

"I think my approach to research represents a good example of what applied mathematics is all about: modelling a physical phenomenon in a search for its mathematical counterpart, and analyzing the latter in a search for understanding of the physical phenomenon.

"In my future studies I propose to carry on this type of research, to explore in detail the issue of electroconvective instability, in a hope that it will help to improve existing electric water desalination techniques."

For more information on Zaltzman or other research activities at BGU, contact Sheila Krone, executive director of Canadian Associates of Ben-Gurion University's Ontario region, at 416-665-8054 or cdnbgu@on.aibn.com.

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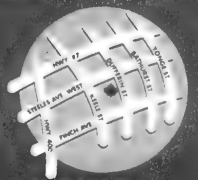

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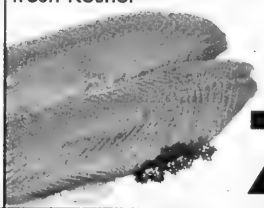

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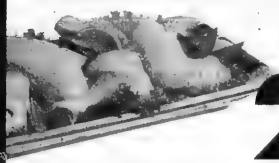

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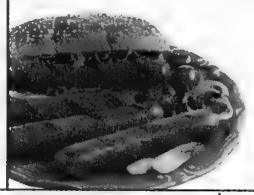

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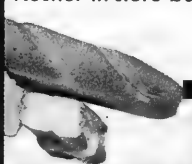

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Report predicts rise in number of Jewish seniors

Continued from page 1

The study breaks down the elderly population into three age groupings, with growth projected for each.

There were 28,555 "younger seniors" (65-74 years) in 2001. By 2011, this group is expected to rise "significantly" to nearly 35,000, followed by "a very strong burst" to 56,000 by 2021.

This group represents baby boomers, now aged 45-64. "As this bulge ages, the baby boomers will skew the distribution significantly toward the older [categories] simply by virtue of their sheer numbers," the study states.

The middle grouping, aged 75-84, had 25,360 members in 2001, a number that's expected to shrink to just over 21,000 by 2011, but then rebound to 25,828 by 2021. The study says this age group will then likely increase again as baby boomers replenish it after 2021.

Finally, there were 7,950 "older seniors" (85 years and up) in 2001. Their numbers are expected to rise to 9,757 individuals by 2011. The total is expected to decrease slightly to just over 9,000 people by 2021, although "improved health care and ancillary services may make survival rates for such elders larger than we predict."

"It is clear," the study says emphatically, "that by 2021, the number of Jewish elderly will increase significantly in almost every region of the country."

The most dramatic rise is projected for Ontario, where the Jewish elderly are expected to jump from 31,895 in 2001 to 36,457 in 2011 and 54,535 a decade after that – a startling 70 per cent increase over 20 years.

In Toronto, the Jewish seniors population is expected to climb from 27,495 in 2001, to 30,852 by 2011, to 45,517 by 2021. "This latter increase is staggering," the study says, "and has profound implications for the demographic makeup of the Toronto Jewish community and for the demographic challenges it represents [for] community-based resources and services."

In Quebec, the number of Jewish seniors has been dropping since peaking at nearly 23,000 in 1991. It's predicted to decrease to 18,067 in 2011, but then projected to rebound to 19,251 by 2021.

The number of Jewish seniors in British Columbia is also expected to climb, from 3,790 in 2001 to 11,265 by 2021, with the study again warning of "important implications" for planning in B.C.

Increases in the number of Jewish seniors are also predicted for Alberta and Nova Scotia, with the latter almost tripling in size.

If Jewish seniors are to continue to enjoy a high quality of life well into their elder years, "communities have a responsibility to provide opportunities for physical activity, proper nutrition and social involvement," the study says.

As well, communities must prepare for linguistic and cultural differences within the their own ranks: For example, in Montreal, many Sephardim who immigrated in the 1960s and '70s are reaching their senior years, as are Russian emigres in Toronto and Vancouver who "may be isolated by their lack of English skills and will need special outreach."

Despite the alarming tone sounded by the numbers, there are positive aspects to future scenarios when it comes to the Jewish elderly. For example, the report notes that seniors are becoming more active and informed, "and are increasingly in better positions to decide their futures and to advocate effectively for their own interests."

Among the study's other findings:

- The 61,875 elderly Jews in Canada as of 2001 represent 16.7 percent of the total Jewish population of 370,515.
- There are just over 28,000 elderly Jewish males in Canada, compared to 33,550 females.
- The percentage of Jewish elderly (16.7 percent) is higher than the proportion of seniors in the general population (12.2 percent) but the gap between the two figures has diminished in the last decade.
- Almost half, or 27,495 elderly Jewish Canadians, live in the Greater Toronto Area. The number of Jewish elderly in Montreal is 20,110; in Winnipeg, 3,175; Vancouver, 2,960; Ottawa with 1,575; and Hamilton, 875.
- A total of 12,105 Jewish seniors live below the poverty line, or nearly one-fifth of the elderly Jewish population in Canada. Female seniors are about twice as likely to fall below the poverty line as males.
- Almost half (43.4 percent) of elderly Jewish women in Canada live alone, and of these, almost half are poor. There are 5,705 elderly Jewish widows in Canada who are poor.
- The average income of Jewish seniors in Canada is $24,381, compared to just over $17,000 for the entire senior population. The lowest median income in a city was Calgary, at $21,215.
- Nearly 80 per cent of elderly Jewish men in Canada are married or have a partner, compared to 47.5 percent for elderly women.
- There were 23,660 Holocaust survivors in Canada as of 2001. About one-quarter of them, or 6,145 people, lived below the poverty line. Moreover, 3,395 lived alone and were poor, "representing a particularly vulnerable segment of the elder population."
- Over 10,000 Holocaust survivors had one or more disabilities.
- The report says it is "interesting" that 2,205 Jewish seniors have never married.

Toronto woman killed in diving accident

Aviva Barth, 30, a Toronto woman originally from Guelph, was killed last weekend when she was hit by a boat during diving training on Lake Simcoe.

Barth was diving about 30 metres off a government dock near Innisfil when she was hit by a boat that passed between the end of the dock and the dive marker that lets boaters know divers are swimming beneath them.

She later died from head injuries at Royal Victoria Hospital in Barrie.

Barth is survived by her parents Goldie (Greenspoon) and Saul Barth, sister Jennifer, brother Aaron and grandmother Genya Barth of Israel.

She was co-founder of HavinganAffair.ca, an Internet party planning service.

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Coast to Coast

CBC should expose PA's intimidation of news media

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

Last week's column looked at the disparity between the open and often unfavourable news coverage that emanates from Israel and the mostly guarded and uncritical reporting coming from areas under the control of the Palestinian Authority, where journalists face persistent intimidation from officials.

Underscoring this disparity was Nahlah Ayed's CBC Radio report on July 26 about the Israeli Supreme Court's decision to uphold the one-year travel and communication restrictions on Mordechai Vanunu, who was recently released after spending 18 years in prison for revealing details of Israel's nuclear program.

Ayed only presented Vanunu's case: "Vanunu says part of his motivation [in his court challenge] is that he no longer wants to live in a country that put him in jail for 18 years and does not practise what he considers to be democracy."

No one pointed out the irony that Vanunu took his case to the highest court in a country that he believes does not uphold democratic values.

Ayed said that since his release, Vanunu, a convert to Christianity, has "lived in an east Jerusalem church, saying he's more comfortable living among Palestinians and foreigners than in Israel itself." That most Israelis consider eastern Jerusalem to be part of Israel was another point totally omitted from the report.

The same day that Ayed reported on Vanunu's case, Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat gave a speech in Arabic from his Ramallah compound. He called for "one million martyrs to march on Jerusalem" – in other words, for continued suicide bombing. The CBC did not report on this speech, although, as noted last week, Matthew Kalman covered it for CTV.

Still, in late July and early August, Ayed reported from the West Bank and Gaza on the factional disputes among the Palestinians. For example, in an Aug. 2 report, she said, "The call for change among Palestinians has grown recently in light of the lack of security and apparent chaos and corruption in the government itself."

Ayed also reported that Mohammed Dahlan, Arafat's former security chief, has threatened large-scale protests in Gaza if Arafat had not implemented reforms by Aug 10.

Said Ayed: "Arafat has promised to make changes, including giving Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia some control over security forces and looking into accusations of corruption within the government… Palestinians hope that unlike earlier promises, the pressure on Arafat this time will bring some real change."

Nonetheless, as of this writing, neither Ayed nor any other CBC correspondent has reported on the subject of widespread intimidation of the media in the territories. By contrast, the BBC's James Reynolds tackled it on Aug. 3.

Reporting about the internecine conflict in Nablus, Reynolds interviewed the local Palestinian radio station manager, Amer Abed-Alahdi, who admitted: "Covering the Palestinian-Palestinian conflict [possibly the first time this term has been heard or seen in the Western news media] does expose us not to blackmail but to violence and retaliation. Beyond the analysis, we cannot really touch the subject, because it is very dangerous."

Reynolds: "Dangerous for you?"

Abed-Alahdi: "Dangerous for us, dangerous for the station, dangerous for the people who work for the station."

But when questioned about criticism of Arafat, Abed-Alahdi gave the safe and standard reply: Arafat is, and always will be, the symbol of Palestinian resistance.

The challenge for the CBC is to expose not only the grave absence of democracy in PA-controlled areas, but also the repressive atmosphere that surrounds and impairs journalists trying to get the full, accurate story out to the world.

This would also provide some balance to Ayed's report about Vanunu and his take on Israeli democracy.

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

FAMILY FUN DAY: Stuart Kaufman recently organized a family fun day for the community, in memory of his mother Cecile Kaufman, who died of breast cancer. Here Kaufman and his daughter, Maya, welcome some 200 people who attended the KitchenAid Cook for the Cure Family Fun Day at the Kortright Centre for Conservation. The event raised more than $7,000 for the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation.

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Coast to Coast

Rose Schwartz Park opens in New Waterford

By MATT HUNT GARDNER
Special to The CJN

NEW WATERFORD, N.S. — "This is the Rose Schwartz Park," said Bram Schwartz, pointing with his cane.

The 72-year-old Schwartz was standing on a piece of plywood – to protect the newly laid sod in front of the green and purple band shell built in his mother's name – at the park's opening in mid-July.

Rose Schwartz's great-granddaughters – Ella Rose Feiner, 4, Rose Schwartz Rubinoff, 4, and Rose Lucy Noskwith, 2 – cut the ribbon to officially open the park.

On the site of the former Schwartz family clothing store, the park is one of the clean, grassy areas in downtown New Waterford.

"She would have been really happy today," Bram Schwartz said, between handshakes with those who knew or knew of Rose.

He said that some time ago Carl Getto of the New Waterford and District Economic Renewal Association asked him if he would donate land for a park.

"I said, 'I won't give you a little piece of land – I'll give you it all, all ten lots of it, if you make it a memorial to my mother.'

He added that his mother "never forgot how her family was received and allowed to prosper. She loved this town, and to do something for this town would have been what she wanted."

His mother, born Rose Claener in Russia in 1900, immigrated to Canada with her parents and four siblings in 1913.

Addressing the nearly 300 people who attended the park's opening, Bram Schwartz's daughter, Heidi, said that her grandmother wasn't allowed to attend high school in Russia because she was Jewish, despite scoring top marks on the school's entrance exam.

At age 21, Rose Claener married Abraham Schwartz and they opened the first of several Schwartz family stores in New Waterford.

The Schwartzes soon earned a reputation for being kind-hearted, because they allowed striking or out-of-work miners and their families to buy groceries on credit at their store.

In August 1932, during the Depression, Abraham Schwartz died, leaving his wife pregnant with their sixth child, Bram.

With no business experience, Rose Schwartz took over her husband's clothing store. It prospered, with people coming from all over Nova Scotia to shop there. She worked in the store until she was well into her 90s.

Rose Lacy Noskwith, 2, middle, cuts the ribbon to open the Rose Schwartz Park in New Waterford, N.S. With her are Ella Rose Feiner, 4, left, Rose Schwartz Rubinoff, 4, Heidi Schwartz and Bram Schwartz. The park is on the site of the clothing store Rose Schwartz owned and worked in well into her 90s.

She managed to send all of her children to university and was the first inductee into the Maritime Women's Hall of Fame.

"This is much more emotional than I ever thought it would be," said Rose Schwartz's daughter, Ruth Goldbloom, a speaker at the park's opening.

"She loved the town of New Waterford above any other place. The way she talked about it, you'd think it was a combination of Paris, London and the Rivera."

She said her mother refused to convert her home from coal to oil in the '70s, "because she knew coal was the lifeblood of this community."

Goldbloom gives her mother credit for her own drive and determination. Goldbloom is recognized across Canada as a fundraiser, volunteer and philanthropist and has worked extensively with Halifax's Pier 21 Society. (From 1928 to 1971, almost 70,000 Jewish immigrants are known to have arrived in Halifax at Pier 21. Since 1999, it has been a national historic site.)

Goldbloom's three surviving brothers operated the Schwartz family businesses.

Bram ran the clothing store in New Waterford with his mother, while his older brother Harold took charge of several family clothing stores in Sydney. Irving Schwartz, who has been inducted into the Order of Canada, operated the Schwartz furniture stores and started an organization that trains dogs to find landmines.

"New Waterford welcomed her (Rose Schwartz) when she wasn't welcome in Russia. She never forgot that," said Bram Schwartz. "I know that because of this park, New Waterford, and her family and her great-grandchildren, will never forget her, either."

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Mazel Tov to...

There are now four generations of Cornfields with the birth of Noah Brandon to Sari & David Cornfield, in April.

Happy first birthday to Jonathan Ryan Altman. Love, Mom and Dad. Wishing you health and joy in the coming years.

Mazel tov Jason Mervin on your graduation from high school, from parents Allen & Jan, sister Lisa, grandparents Gert & Al Spiegel. He will study in Jerusalem.

Marla (nee Fruitman) and Ronald Struminger proudly announce the birth of their son **Jarod Ryan** at 6:54 am on Thursday, March 4th in New Jersey. Jarod was 6 lbs 11oz and 20" long. Thrilled Grandparents are Betsy and Lou Fruitman and Leny Struminger. Excited Great-Grandparents are Mary and David Dale. **Jarod Ryan** is lovingly named after his Grandfather, the late Jay Struminger. **Jarod** is truly our dream come true!

Sylvia & Lou Kirshner announce the engagement of their daughter Lauren to Brian, son of Adele & Melvyn Lewis. Mazel tov from your families, and grandparents Ruth Kirshner and Esther & John Blumenow.

Jack & Tolsa Greenberg, Aaron & Carol Bleiwas announce the engagement of Lesley & Dan. Excited are Zaydie Albert Bleiwas, Cheryl & Saul Colt, Steven & Nicole Bleiwas, David & Julie Bleiwas.

Merle Garbe & Alby Garbe and grandmother Shirley Simmons announce the forthcoming marriage of Josh Garbe to Sarah Jane Glyn of Manchester, England. The wedding will be in Jerusalem on Sept. 1.

Henry Gordon & Zita Kalb were married in Montreal on July 20, 1941, when Henry was serving in the Royal Canadian Air Force during World War II.

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By REBECCA NADLER

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What's New Deadlines: Monday, Aug. 16, is the deadline for the Aug. 26 issue and Monday, Aug. 23, is the deadline for the Sept. 2 issue. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

This week's column was prepared by Carolyn Blackman.

Thursday, Aug. 12

MEMORIAL EVENING

The community is invited to a memorial evening for the murdered Soviet writers, 7:30 p.m., Beth Tzedec Synagogue. Features guest performers from Israel. Program is in English, Yiddish and Russian. Call 416-667-1910.

Tuesday, Aug. 17

SINGLES DINNER

Jewish singles 39+ are having a dinner at a North York restaurant. Call 24-hour hotline, 416-631-3664.

Thursday, Aug. 19

IMMIGRATION POLICY

Shaarei Shomayim Brotherhood presents immigration lawyer **Joel Etienne** speaking on Immigration Policy, Helpful or Harmful to Canada, 8 p.m., Shaarei Shomayim. Members no charge, guests $2.

Other news

WOMEN'S WEEKEND

All women are invited to attend a women's weekend, Oct. 22-24, in Niagara Falls, featuring talks on domestic violence, women's human rights and issues, tours, and a visit to the casino. Call Jewish Women International, 416-630-9313.

LEARN HEBREW

Hebrew-language studies with **Chanah Sargon**. Fall session begins week of Sept. 20. Day and evening classes available at all levels. Call Canadian Zionist Federation, 416-633-3988, or e-mail czf@bellnet.ca.

MIZRACHI SHABBATON

Mizrachi and Congregation Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem Montreal present a summer shabbaton, Aug. 27-29, at TBDJ, The Baily Shul. Hospitality will be provided in the community. Programming for children age 6 and up, compliments of Bnei Akiva Montreal. $100/adult and children over 12. $75 for children 5-12. $36 for children under 5. Discounts available for large families. Transportation arrangements from Toronto. For reservations, call 416-630-9266 or 514-483-3660 or contact mizrachi@rogers.com.

MINI SCHOOL

Registration is now taking place for fall classes at Florence Melton Mini-school. Don't miss out. Call 416-789-7400 for details.

KOSHER CRUISE

Beth Jacob Synagogue is holding its 2nd annual Kosher cruise, Sept. 6, 6 p.m., $45. For information, call Sunday-Thursday, 9-11 a.m., 416-638-5955.

HIGH HOLY DAY TICKETS

Buy one, get three High Holy Day services. Pray, reflect, connect with Kolel at the BJCC. 416-485-7007 ext. 0

Bernard Betel Centre is offering High Holy Day tickets.-Members $75, non-members $85, children under 12, $35. Tickets available Monday to Thursday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. 416-225-2112.

INTRO TO JUDAISM

Three trimesters on the basics of Jewish belief and religious practice. Open to all those considering the possibility of conversion to Judaism. Begins Aug. 16. Call 416-781-3514, ext. 46, Rabbinical Assembly - Ontario region (Conservative).

NEW YEAR'S CARDS

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Continued on page 25

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What's New

Continued from page 24

CONVERSATIONAL YIDDISH

Learn Yiddish the easy way at Adath Israel Congregation. Special rates for seniors. Ten-week session begins Aug. 31. Call **Louis Gula** 416-495-0919.

SHABBAT WITH NELSON

After receiving overwhelming accolades for his performance in Toronto in May, **Joshua Nelson**, singer, songwriter and entertainer, returns Friday, Oct. 22 and Saturday, Oct. 23 to perform with **Rabbi Elyse Goldstein** and **Bais Groove**. "Halleluyah It's Shabbas" will be a weekend to "rock the soul." For reservations, call Kolel at 416-485-7007 ext. 0.

FOR SENIORS

Association of Jewish Seniors' general meeting, Thurs. Aug. 19, 9:30 a.m., at Shaarei Shomayim. **Jack Pinkus** speaks on How to Use Your Medication Safely. Call **Tammy**, 416-635-2860.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Dances every Saturday night through August; Beginner Hebrew classes, Tuesday mornings 10 a.m.-noon, $25/month. Now booking for Casino Niagara and Casino Rama in the fall. Call 416-395-7881 Mondays to Thursdays 9 a.m-1 p.m.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the boardroom at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Call 416-630-9444.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. Aug. 12, Israeli movie; Aug. 18, *Oklahoma*. Call to reserve. Contact **Menachem Wallach**, 905-731-7748, or **Malka Colla**, 416-630-5771.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

"Who Watches Too Much Television: The Impact of Mass Media" with **Prof. Hugh Innis**. Tuesdays, Aug. 17, 24 and 31, 10-11:30 a.m. Members $1.50, non-members $3.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew-speaking seniors meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Aug. 10, picnic at Earl Bales at 11 a.m.; Aug. 17, lecture; Aug. 24, sing-a-long. Call **Galit Osadtsuk** at ext. 115.

Sunday movies, 2 p.m., Aug. 15, *Chicago*. Members $1, non-members $3.

Folk dancing with **Marco Ben-Shimon**, Mondays and Wednesdays for four weeks beginning Aug. 16, 1-2 p.m. Members $7, non-members $14. Call **Shivanee**, ext. 124.

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

The next fitness session begins on Monday, Aug. 16 and continues into December.

Bereavement Group meetings are open to all Wagman members and people living in the community. This group is for those aged 55 and older and offers understanding about the issues of loss, loneliness, pain and healing. No charge. Call for information.

The Wagman Annual Barbecue takes place on Tuesday, Aug. 24, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Tickets must be purchased in advance at the service desk.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

Limited tickets available for Cirque du Soleil's *Alegria*. Win a weekend in Las Vegas. Call ext. 271.

Volunteers needed in all areas. Call ext. 296.

Koffler School of Music registration for fall classes open for babies & toddlers music, preschool music, piano, guitar, violin, flute, saxophone, ensembles, Suzuki piano and violin, Nashir Children's Choir, opera master classes, opera appreciation and Resa's Pieces Band. Call ext. 228.

BJCC school and day care has toddler day-care spaces available, a new extended Tic Tac Two morning program, 9-11:30 a.m., and new preschool morning options 9-11:30 a.m. or 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Call ext. 248.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or wwwmilesnadaljcc.ca.

Registration for fall programs has begun at the Miles Nadal JCC. Program book now available or check the website. Exciting programs for adults and children, including fitness, recreation, cultural arts, adult education and community celebrations.

Summer Yiddish Seminar 2004, Aug. 29-Sept. 3. This program includes an intensive study of Yiddish language for beginners and advanced students and a cultural component, which includes guest lecturers, music workshops and films. There is also a special one-day Yiddish Marathon for absolute beginners. Advanced program, members $550, non-members $600. Beginner's program, members $200, non-members $250. One Day Yiddish Marathon, members $75, non-members $89. Cost includes materials. Call for information and registration.

Volunteers Wanted

SHUK IN THE PARK

Volunteers are needed to help plan, organize and staff Shuk in the Park 2004, an Israeli marketplace Sunday, Aug. 29. To get more information, contact 416-485-7007, ext. 200, or visit www.shukinthepark.com.

BAYCREST CENTRE

Volunteers are needed for the Palliative care Unit. Training and supervision are provided. Good English skills are necessary. Other languages needed are Hungarian, Italian, Portuguese, Mandarin or Spanish. Training begins Sept. 4. The Health Centre is also looking for volunteers who are well organized and like working with people. Good English skills and the ability to speak other languages are also helpful. Flexible times available. For information, call 416-785-2500, ext. 2575.

THE CONCERNED KIDS

Learn to be a professional puppeteer and educate young people about bereavement, drug awareness, HIV/AIDS, substance abuse, violence and more. The Concerned Kids needs energetic volunteers with dramatic flair to help present interactive puppet programs to young people ages 4-14. Must be willing to travel and commit one day per week from September 2004 to June 2005. Call 416-636-1656 or visit www.theconcernedkids.com. Training begins Sept. 1.

REENA BINGO

Bingo volunteers needed Sundays 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Markham Road and Ellesmere Road. No heavy lifting or running, just thinking. Call 905-763-8254 ext. 3030.

TRIBUTE TO DONORS: Na'amat Toronto held its annual Tribute to Donors dinner recently at Beth David Synagogue. This year's honoree was broadcaster and columnist Michael Coren. Shown from left are Judy Ross, chair of Na'amat Rebuilding Lives; Frayda Rotenberg, chair of Growing Up with Na'amat; Coren; and Malca Weisblum, president, Na'amat Toronto. [Mollie Rothman photo]

ADATH ISRAEL EXECUTIVE: The 2004-06 executive of Adath Israel Congregation from left are Howard Goldstein, past president; Mark Alter, immediate past president; Avrom Brown, first vice-president; Eric Gossin, president; Michael Lipton, second vice-president; Stuart Gordner, secretary; and Paul Feldman, treasurer.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 18

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To place an unveiling notice, please call at least 15 DAYS prior to the date of the unveiling

OBITUARIES and Related Notices

To place any other family related notice, please call at least 10 DAYS prior to the issue date

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Jack Levenson	Jul 22/04	595 The West Mall
Nathan Abramowitz	Jul 23/04	3181 Bayview Ave
Joe Krupski	Jul 24/04	179 Honiton St
Ada Glatter	Jul 22/04	1121 Steeles Ave W
Celia Smith	Jul 23/04	3636 Bathurst St
Ralph Castor	Jul 24/04	7 Townsgate Blvd
Patricia Abramovitch	Jul 26/04	60 Inverlochy Blvd
Lloyd Lipson	Jul 25/04	745 Centre St
Alvin Baker	Jul 26/04	2 Buchan Ct
Marcia Klamer	Jul 27/04	15 Wilket Rd
Patricia Litner	Jul 27/04	23 Hashbury Place
Charles T. King	Jul 27/04	33 Cavotti Crescent
Jean Wagman	Jul 28/04	3560 Bathurst St (Apotex)
Renee Diane Sussman	Jul 29/04	94 Old Forest Hill Rd
Allen Clavir	Jul 30/04	429 Walmer Rd
Lily Gellman	Jul 31/04	40 Ridge Hill Dr
Gertrude Isaacman	Aug 1/04	6200 Bathurst St
Susan Hershfield	Aug 1/04	47 St. Clair Ave W
Jean Bach	Aug 1/04	3560 Bathurst St

HEDREW DASIC MEMORIAL

Margarita Reinsburg	Jul 11/04	429 Walmer Rd
Joan Ceresne	Jul 13/04	17 Farmstead Rd
Sol Segal	Jul 30/04	1463 Eglinton Ave W

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SIMONE CRAMER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Aug. 22nd, 10:00 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
986 Wilson Avenue
Shaarei Tefillah Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
HARRY FROMSTEIN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Aug. 15th, 1:00 p.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Mozirer Society Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SARA GREENER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Aug. 15th, 12:00 noon
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Shomrei Shabboth Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
MANIA BIELAK ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Aug. 15th, 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Bathurst, south of Steeles
Keilcer Society Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SYDNEY RIFKIN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Aug. 15th, 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Community Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
HYMIE SAMELSON ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Aug. 22nd, 10:15 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Tiotrkov Tomashov Belchatov Society - Section #19
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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
Chana Lederman ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 22nd at 11:15 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Zaglembier Society Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
Morris Woznica ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 15th at 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Bathurst St. south of Steeles
Zaglembier Society Section #47
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
Lottie Lerman ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 15th at 12:00 noon
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
(986 Wilson Ave. @ Keele)
Pride of Israel Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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Likud committee to debate Labor joining gov't

By MAZAL MUALEM
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

The Likud party's internal court accepted an appeal on Monday filed by Minister Uzi Landau and 11 other Likud MKs calling for a convening of the Likud committee on Aug. 18 to discuss the Labor Party joining the government.

The Likud court's acceptance of the appeal means that, until the committee makes a ruling during its meeting, the Labor Party cannot join the coalition.

According to many observers, most Likud committee members oppose Labor joining the coalition. Senior Likud sources said colleagues of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon had been working to reject the appeal filed by Landau.

Meanwhile, Labor party members attacked chairman Shimon Peres on Monday, saying he did not hold firm on the party's position during a Sunday meeting with Sharon over the possibility of Labor joining the government.

During the meeting, Sharon rejected Labor's demand to delay voting on the 2005 budget, but Peres nevertheless decided to continue talks. Labor wants to propose changes to the new budget.

Labor MK Ophir Pines-Paz said: "I don't understand why negotiations are continuing after Sharon refused to delay the vote on the budget. None of our demands have been met." Pines-Paz called on Labor bodies to meet this week to discuss this issue.

Labor MK Ephraim Sneh also demanded that the party meet to hear a report on the progress of coalition talks from Labor's negotiation team.

Peres wants concessions on economic, social policy

Labor and Likud renewed talks on forming a unity government Monday in Kfar Maccabiah in Ramat Gan, despite the lack of progress in Sunday's meeting between Peres and Sharon.

The two leaders failed to end the crisis in the coalition negotiations, as Sharon backed his negotiating team's refusal to delay a cabinet vote on the 2005 budget until the parties reach an agreement on economic issues.

Peres told Sharon that while Labor's main reason for entering the government is the Gaza disengagement plan, it can't join without some concessions on economic and social issues, particularly given his party's harsh reaction to the budget proposals presented to the cabinet Sunday.

Earlier Sunday, Peres confirmed media reports that negotiators from Labor and Likud have reached agreement on terms of the Gaza pullback and general policy toward the Palestinians.

Peres said his main demands were adopted, including introducing a more detailed timetable for a withdrawal.

He added that Sharon was also willing to consider co-ordination with the Palestinians. "They [Sharon's negotiators] agreed to see if they can find an effective Palestinian partner," Peres told the Italian newspaper *Il Secolo*.

MK Amram Mitzna, the former Labor leader, said his party shouldn't demand any ministerial portfolios if it joins the coalition. Labor must emphasize that if it joins the coalition, it will be to push forward the disengagement process, Mitzna told Israel Radio.

Sources in Sharon's office said the prime minister's first preference is for a coalition consisting of Likud, Labor, the Shinui party and the United Torah Judaism party.

Shinui MK Eliezer Sandberg on Sunday dismissed the possibility that his party would sit in a coalition with Shas, telling Israel Radio the haredi party is definitely "not on our menu."

Shimon Peres, left, with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. Coalition talks continue.
[RNS/Reuters photo]

Greek Jews heirs to a long tradition

Olympic Games set to start this week

Continued from page 1

By the mid-16th century, Salonika – once known as the "Jerusalem of the Balkans" – had become a Jewish center of Europe, as persecuted Jews poured in.

In 1900, there were approximately 80,000 Jews in Salonika out of a population of 173,000.

In the early 20th century, the city was under Turkish rule, and after the Turkish sultan was overthrown by republicans known as the "Young Turks," Jews in the city entered a "golden era," during which they could be found in most professions. They were traders, tobacco and port workers, lawyers, physicians and teachers.

The first Zionist organizations in Greece – Agudat Bnei Zion and Maccabee – appeared in Thessaloniki. By the eve of World War II, there were more than 20 Zionist organizations in the city.

But at the same time, increasing competition in the job market during the first decades of the 20th century, particularly among craftsmen and tradespeople, motivated thousands of Jews to emigrate, mostly to the United States.

The war was a disaster for the community. The Nazi army occupied the city on April 9, 1941. In early 1943, all of the city's Jews were herded into ghettos; later that year they were deported.

All told, 43,850 Jews, 95 per cent of the Salonikan Jewish population, were deported from Salonika. Out of 77,377 Jews in Greece, only 10,000 survived the Holocaust.

Today, there are nine active Jewish communities in Greece: Athens; Thessaloniki, or Salonika; Larissa; Chalkis; Volos; Corfu; Trikala; Ioannina; and Rhodes.

In Athens, Thessaloniki and Larissa, synagogues hold services regularly – and in Athens and Salonika there are Jewish schools.

The umbrella organization of Greek Jewry is the Central Board of Jewish Communities, known by its Greek abbreviation, "KIS."

Other Jewish organizations include the Women's International Zionist Organization, the Bat-El Union of Zionists for young women and the Union of Second Generation of Holocaust Survivors.

The Jewish Museum of Greece, founded in Athens in 1977, preserves the heritage of the community.

As it is elsewhere in the world, intermarriage is common among Greek Jews, who are generally assimilated and well-off, and work in business or in white-collar professions.

Many observers say that anti-Semitism in Greece today is on the rise. Most instances of anti-Semitism have appeared in fringe papers and electronic media of the extreme right.

One or two mainstream papers, such as *Elefterotypia* and *Ta Nea*, do occasionally carry anti-Semitic cartoons, mainly when they are criticizing Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon or Israeli policies.

International Jewish groups have been quick to criticize the Greek government for not reacting to increased anti-Semitism, and the Simon Wiesenthal Center issued a travel advisory urging Jewish travelers to avoid visiting Greece for the upcoming Olympic Games, which get under way on Aug. 13.

Perhaps in reaction to the criticism, Greece recently announced that it would establish a national day of remembrance for Greek Jews who died in the Holocaust.

Greece's Interior Ministry said it will submit legislation to Parliament that would make Jan. 27 – the day prisoners were liberated from Auschwitz – a "Day of Remembrance of Greek Jewish Holocaust Victims."

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Border crossing reopens

Some 1,500 Palestinians crossed from Egypt into Gaza after Israel ended a three-week shutdown of the Rafah border crossing meant to uncover tunnels being used for arms smuggling. The United States pressured Israel to open the border after reports of privations suffered by up to 4,500 Palestinians stranded on the Egyptian side. The army didn't say if it uncovered any tunnels. The Palestinian Authority and Egypt declined an Israeli offer to allow Palestinians to cross elsewhere during the search, saying an additional crossing would require reworking delicate agreements.

Temple model moving

The model of the Second Temple that has stood on the grounds of Jerusalem's Holyland Hotel for more than 40 years is being moved to the Israel Museum to make way for an apartment complex. The hotel's owners will pay for the move and will continue to receive admission revenues at the model's new site near the Shrine of the Book.

Druze to head Border Police

A Druze man was named chief of Israel's paramilitary Border Police last week. Hussein Fares is the first Druze to head the border police. The Druze, a secretive Islamic sect, are seen as Israel's most loyal religious minority. Another Druze heads Israel's Home Front Command. Fares replaces David Tsur, who left to become Tel Aviv's police chief.

Crusader-era find in Jaffa

Crusader-era graves were found in Jaffa last week. The four adult male skeletons unearthed outside the walls of Jaffa's Old City were the latest evidence linking the port city to European shipping traffic in the Byzantine and medieval eras, archeologists said. The remains are believed to be of ordinary people, due to the lack of jewelry or ritual items nearby – a factor that makes their ethnicity unclear .

Galilee Arab arrested

An Israeli Arab student was linked to a Hamas plot to bomb a Jerusalem café. Zahar Ali, a Galilee Arab pursuing a master's degree at Hebrew University, was arrested last month for aiding a Hamas terror cell in Hebron, the Shin Bet said last week. He is accused of helping to plot a triple suicide bombing that was foiled after Shin Bet received intelligence and posted extra security in the area. He is also believed to have done reconnaissance of a major defence firm and sites frequented by Israeli troops in the Galilee.

EU fraud squad eyes Arafat

The European Union wants to interrogate Palestinian terrorists about funding abuses by Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat. The EU fraud squad, which is probing the extent to which the PA has funnelled European aid money into terrorism, recently asked Israel for permission to question imprisoned members of Arafat's Fatah movement. Israel is expected to grant it.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

Ten Canadians among latest batch of olim

Arrive on special El Al flight chartered by Nefesh B'Nefesh

By JENNY HAZAN
Staff Reporter

JERUSALEM — Ever since she can remember, 18-year-old Michal Faust from Montreal has wanted to live in Israel.

"Israel is our homeland," said the recent Hebrew Academy graduate. "I think every Jew should be in Israel."

But it wasn't until Nefesh B'Nefesh came along that moving to Israel became a viable option for Faust.

"Without Nefesh B'Nefesh, I don't know if I would have been able to officially make aliyah right now," said Faust, one of 10 Canadians among a group of 250 new immigrants from North America who arrived in Israel last Wednesday on a special El Al flight chartered by Nefesh B'Nefesh. "They made everything so much easier."

Faust was on the second of three special flights – being organized co-operatively by the Jewish Agency for Israel and Nefesh B'Nefesh – that will bring 1,500 North American Jews to Israel by the end of the summer, including 80 Canadians hailing from Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba and British Columbia.

The first flight of 500 Jews arrived last month and the third one is expected this week.

Since bringing its first flight to Israel in July 2002, the nonprofit agency has flown more than 3,000 new immigrants to Israel from North America.

Founded by an American, Rabbi Yehoshua Fass, in 2001, Nefesh B'Nefesh's mission "is to revitalize North American aliyah and to expand it for generations to come by removing the financial, professional and logistical obstacles that prevent many would-be olim from fulfilling their dream."

According to Charley Levine, a spokesperson for Nefesh B'Nefesh in Israel, the organization not only provides up to $25,000 (US) per family – and $8,000 to $10,000 for single people – to help new immigrants adjust to their new lives in Israel, it also helps them avoid the bureaucratic hassles of making aliyah by bringing Israeli government representatives onto flights and assisting new olim in finding housing, education and employment.

"The unemployment rate among our olim is better than the national average," boasts Levine, who said 93 per cent of those who have made aliyah with Nefesh B'Nefesh have found jobs in Israel through the organization's employment outreach program.

Although 28-year-old Rabbi Ari Enkin from Winnipeg is still looking for work after making aliyah with his wife and two small children on Nefesh B'Nefesh's July 14 flight, he said the organization has been a big help.

"Nefesh B'Nefesh has assisted us in so many different ways," Rabbi Enkin said. "They really give olim a boost through the most difficult times."

So far, Rabbi Enkin said, the highlight of his aliyah experience has been his arrival at Ben Gurion International Airport, where Prime Minister Ariel Sharon greeted the new immigrants.

"It was very special for us to be greeted by the democratically elected leader of the Jewish state," recalls Enkin. "Sharon is keeping his word about the importance to him of aliyah from North America."

Faust was also thrilled at the reception her group of olim received last week, when Deputy Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Minister of Education, Culture and Sport Limor Livnat and Labor MK Colette Avital showed up to greet the new arrivals.

"It sent us all a clear message that we are appreciated and that we are being recognized for coming," said Faust, who will begin Sherut Leumi, Israel's alternative national service program for religiously observant girls, at the end of August.

"Their presence at the welcoming ceremony should encourage more people from North America to immigrate to Israel."

Levine explained why North American aliyah is so important.

"From the point of view of the North American Jews, it's a question of realizing one's destiny. Every Jewish individual needs to explore the very important question of where they stand when it comes to Israel," he said.

"From Israel's point of view, North American Jews represent a very high quality of aliyah. We want Jews from everywhere. But North Americans are a fairly problem-free contingent for absorption into the State of Israel."

Rabbi Enkin said making aliyah is the best way for North American Jews to help Israel.

"Every time I would see a terror attack in Israel on the news I would say, 'I want to do something to help.' But, no matter how many cheques you sign and no matter how many letters you write to your politicians, the best thing remains coming here and being here. That's the reason why I made aliyah.

"I believe that Jews who remain in the Diaspora are spectators to Jewish history. Jews who live in Israel make Jewish history and a Jew who wants to be part of Jewish history and Jewish destiny has to live here," he said. "Israel provides the best environment for every Jewish family to grow and there is a lot of room here for every Jew in Canada to come along."

Rabbi Fass, Nefesh B'Nefesh's founder said the group is "firmly on course to bringing 100,000 North American Jews to live here," ideally over the the next five to 10 years.

In the meantime, Levine said the organization's immediate goal is to make every single Jew in Canada and the United States consider aliyah as an option. "There are millions of North American Jews who have never thought about it as an option, and we want to challenge them to think about it."

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U.K. Jews want rules against anti-Semitic content on Al-Jazeera

By AMIRAM BARKAT
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

LONDON — The British Board of Deputies, the umbrella group for U.K. Jewry, wrote to Britain's Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, Tessa Jowell, last week to express concern over offensive content on the Arabic Al-Jazeera satellite news channel, which is available on cable in the United Kingdom.

The board requested that stringent rules be imposed to ensure that anti-Semitic or other abusive comments are not broadcast in Britain.

Al-Jazeera broadcasts material from the Arab world, some of which has been overtly anti-Semitic and has been accused of inciting hatred against Jews.

In a ruling last month, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission allowed cable companies to carry Al-Jazeera, providing they monitor and edit its programs for offensive content.

Neville Nagler, the Board or Deputies' director general, commented: "We are not requesting that Al-Jazeera should be banned in this country. But we are greatly concerned at the potential for importing into the U.K. the language of incitement and hatred against Jews, which is so prevalent in the Arab media."

Israel & the Jewish World

German slave labour fund makes final payments to survivors

By URIEL HEILMAN
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

NEW YORK — Gisela Schlanger had tears running down her face as she described her plans for the payment she was to receive this week from Germany for her Holocaust-era slave labour.

"My aim after the Holocaust was to raise my children frum-Yiddish," she said, explaining that she strived to bring up a religious family committed to Jewish tradition.

"My children are talmidei chachamim" – Torah scholars, she said. "I have a very special grandson, a tzaddik. The money I get, I give him to buy sforim," or books of Judaica.

Each book will carry a memorial inscription for family members murdered by the Nazis, Schlanger said.

Schlanger spoke Aug. 2 at a Claims Conference news conference in New York called to announce new payments to Jewish slave labourers.

A survivor from Slovakia, Schlanger was one of 130,681 survivors from 62 countries who were sent payments of about $3,000 (all figures US) last week by the Claims Conference. The payout, totalling some $401 million, represented the second and final installment of payments from a $1.1-billion slave labour agreement with Germany.

It was the largest-ever single Holocaust payout in history, according to officials at the Claims Conference, which administers the Jewish portion of compensation payments from Germany to Nazi-era slave labourers.

The money comes from a $5-billion fund paid for by the German government and 6,000 German businesses, only some of which benefited from Jewish slave labour. Most recipients are non-Jews.

"The payment carries a value that cannot be measured in dollars," said Aron Krell, 76, a Polish-born survivor.

"This money can never compensate me for the loss of my family, my childhood or even for all the work that I performed. No amount ever could," he said. "But I do feel some satisfaction from receiving payment, however symbolic, as a recognition by the German government and companies of the terrible wrongs they inflicted on us. We have waited a very long time for this acknowledgment, this apology."

As a volunteer for the Claims Conference, Krell has worked the phones helping Polish- and Yiddish-speaking survivors understand what they need to do to get their claims processed and assuaging their anxieties about when they will get paid.

Combined with the first payment, which was made as soon as a claim of having been a forced labourer was verified and processed, ex-slave labourers have received a total of about $7,500 each.

The Claims Conference's news conference brought to a close one of the conference's central tasks: finding survivors and verifying their accounts of forced labour by the Nazis.

Since the agreement to establish the slave labour fund was signed in 2000, researchers have been combing through more than 150 archives in 30 countries, looking for data to verify survivors' claims.

With the final payout made from the fund, the job is over for many of the 200 or so historians, data processors, technology experts and claims processors who worked at the Claims Conference in New York collecting data, processing claims and administering payments. Conference officials said that even as the organization is letting many employees go, it is hiring legal and financial experts for the group's next big task: finding the rightful owners and heirs of Holocaust-era Swiss bank accounts.

Palestinian police to receive guns

By DAN BARON
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — The rallying cry of Israeli opponents to the Oslo accords – "Don't give the Palestinians guns!" – is being sounded again, this time against Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

Responding to a request by the Palestinian Authority (PA), which hopes to put down a revolt by reformist vigilantes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the Sharon government last week agreed in principle to allow Palestinian police to have armed patrols.

Sharon said Sunday that the decision was subject to cabinet approval, but few among Israel's top brass expected a veto.

"Had the Israel Defence Forces not met the Palestinian demand, we ourselves would be blamed for the anarchy in the [Palestinian] Authority," Israel's chief of staff, Lt.-Gen. Moshe Ya'alon, told reporters Sunday.

According to security sources, Palestinian police who have been cleared of any connection to terrorism would be allowed to carry pistols and batons in specified areas of the West Bank and Gaza.

Palestinian officials said preliminary deployment of armed police could begin this week in Ramallah, Tulkarm and Jericho.

Israeli security sources said the Palestinian patrols would co-ordinate all movements with Jerusalem to prevent their coming under fire should Israeli forces need to launch a sweep for terrorists.

The Defence Ministry decision was criticized by right wingers who recalled the creation, under the 1993 Oslo accord, of armed Palestinian security forces. Many of the armed officers later turned their guns on Israeli soldiers and settlers. The decision to encourage self-policing by the Palestinian Authority flowed from a declaration by Israel's military intelligence chief, Maj.-Gen. Aharon Ze'evi-Farkash, last week that terror in the West Bank and Gaza was a "bottomless barrel." Ze'evi-Farkash's comments were intended to push home his belief that Palestinian terrorism cannot completely be quashed by Israel's military.

Ya'alon said the decision was "reversible" should it be abused by the Palestinians, but security sources admitted that the prospect of mounting military raids into the West Bank and Gaza to disarm the police would be tactically and politically rash.

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Books & Authors

Anthology of Canadian Jewish writing published in Nebraska

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

"To be a Jew and a Canadian is to emerge from the ghetto twice."

When Mordecai Richler made that insightful observation in 1971, Canada was still a literary backwater and postwar Canlit was just beginning to explode onto the international scene.

Today, as Michael Greenstein demonstrates in a newly published anthology of Canadian Jewish writing, even our Jewish writers are no longer confined to a parochial ghetto. Many, including the late Richler, are fully part of mainstream culture.

We are blessed with a cornucopia of significant Jewish Canadian writers

A Toronto-based littérateur who is an adjunct professor of Jewish studies at McGill University, Greenstein is the editor of *Contemporary Jewish Writing in Canada: An Anthology*, a book that was recently published in hardcover by the University of Nebraska Press.

Through a lively cross-section of 17 stories and novel excerpts, the anthology reminds us that we are blessed with a cornucopia of thoughtful, engaging and significant Jewish Canadian writers, the best of whom break all parochial bonds that tie them to the proverbial ghetto.

In a relatively modest number of pages (232), the book manages to highlight our humble Yiddish beginnings, focus on our three main regional centres of Jewish literary production (Montreal, Winnipeg, Toronto), explore our national French-English dichotomy and emphasize the wide diversity of Jewish writers presently writing in Canada.

Countless American undergrads who find this book on their course lists, especially those who have never encountered Leonard Cohen or Mordecai Richler, are in for a special treat. The book opens with excerpts from *The Favourite Game*, Cohen's unique 1963 novel, and continues with a segment of *Barney's Version* from Richler's mature period.

No previous anthology of this kind has included selections translated from French

It also offers excerpts from the relatively recent mainstream novels *Fugitive Pieces* by Anne Michaels, which became a celebrated international best-seller, and *Martin Sloane* by Michael Redhill, which established his literary reputation in Canada.

These works, which are partly set in Greece and Ireland respectively, underline a central theme of Greenstein's symphonic introduction – that Canadian Jewish writers transcend local geography to "find mythologies outside of national boundaries."

The anthology is spiced with the Yiddish flavouring of *Mrs. Maza's Salon*, Miriam Waddington's memoir of her childhood rendezvous with one of Montreal's leading Yiddish literary lights. Chava Rosenfarb's story, *A Friday in the Life of Sarah Zonabend*, offers another Yiddish "tam."

To my knowledge, no previous anthology of this kind has included selections translated from French, but here we're offered significant items by Monique Bosco, Naim Kattan and Regine Robin. The book also weighs in with excerpts from two novels by Robert Majzels, an essay by David Solway about Irving Layton, and short stories by Robyn Sarah, Judith Kalman, Norman Levine, Matt Cohen, Gabriella Goliger and Aryeh Lev Stollman.

Can such a book get to press without a selection by A.M. Klein? Greenstein thinks so; he more than compensates by paying due homage to Klein and other excluded worthies in his erudite opening essay.

By putting such a pre-eminent focus on what he calls "the drift of new voices" (even including a section from a Majzels novel not yet in print), Greenstein makes an important point. For all the riches of the Canadian-Jewish literary past, this is a genre that seems to be exploding into a new and multifaceted glory, just as Canlit did a few decades back.

For ordering and other information, please visit www.nebraskapress.unl.edu or e-mail pressmail@unl.edu.

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Arts & Travel

Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

NIGHT OF THE SILENCED WRITERS AT BETH TZEDEC

"Night of the Silenced Writers" is a memorial evening to mark the 52nd anniversary of the murder of Soviet Jewish writers and intellectuals.

Chaired by **David Abramowitz**, the evening features two guest performers from Israel – **Etl Kovenska**, the renowned artist of Yiddish and Hebrew stage and screen, accompanied by acclaimed pianist **Lev Kogan**. The program is in English, Yiddish and Russian and includes material written by some of the martyred writers.

Presented by the Yiddish Culture Council of Toronto with the committee for Yiddish, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and Beth Tzedec Congregation, the event is free of charge and everyone is invited. Beth Tzedec Synagogue, 1700 Bathurst St. (enter from parking lot). Thursday, Aug. 12, 7:30 p.m.

* * *

Names in the News: Toronto artist **Sarah Troper** was chosen as best artist of about 600 whose works were displayed at this year's Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition in Nathan Phillips Square outside City Hall. Troper, 26, who earned a bachelor of fine arts degree from an art college in Halifax, is a trained jeweller who uses humour, irony and pop icons in her work. An example is a wedding band resembling a tiny picket fence.

An artist-in-residence at Harbourfront Centre, Troper was previously recognized as best jeweller in the city-wide show for the past two years. She is the daughter of Ontario Institute for Studies in Education historian **Hesh Troper** and **Eydie Troper**. An exhibition of her work is on view at Ottawa's Lafreniere & Pai gallery through to early September.

* * *

Learn Yiddish This Summer: Learn or improve your Yiddish with these specialized summer courses in Toronto.

A three-week advanced Yiddish seminar with **Prof. Avrohom Lichtenbaum**, head of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in Buenos Aires, runs Aug. 16 to Sept. 3; a one-week beginner's Yiddish seminar with acclaimed Yiddish teacher **Gloria Brumer** runs Aug. 30 to Sept. 3; and a one-day Yiddish marathon for absolute beginners is Sunday, Aug. 29.

Miles Nadal JCC, 750 Spadina Ave. at Bloor. Information and registration, 416-924-6211.

* * *

Names in the News II: Harris Eisenstadt, a 28-year-old Los Angeles-based percussionist-composer who was born and raised in Toronto, has scheduled a month-long concert tour of Europe for September with bassoonist **Sarah Schoenbeck** and various European musicians.

Eisenstadt, who plays drums as well as vibraphone, marimba and xylophone, does a fair bit of film and studio work, and also teaches. "It's inevitable in this city that you end up working on film scores," he says, citing *The Wedding Crashers* and *The Hebrew Hammer* as films he's worked on. He left Toronto 10 years ago and lives in the Highland Park area of L.A. His father is Toronto-based communications specialist **David Eisenstadt.**

* * *

Jewish Tarot Wisdom: Discover the secret tradition of Jewish tarot wisdom, learn about the Breslove wisdom cards, and hear the chassidic story "Master of Prayer," retold by one of Israel's leading figures of Hebrew cultural renewal, **Rabbi Ohad Ezrachi**. Miles Nadal JCC, $10 in advance, $12 at the door. Sunday, Aug. 22, 3 to 5 p.m. 416-924-6211.

Rabbi Ezrahi speaks on "Neo-Zionism, Creativity and Eco-Spirituality: Next Steps for Zionism" at Beth Tzedec Congregation, Aug. 23, 7:30 p.m.

* * *

Names in the News III: Jerome Saibil and **Eli Batalion,** creators of *Job: The Hip-Hop Musical* have performed the play across North America, winning numerous awards and citations. Now the duo, assisted by Foreign Affairs Canada, are performing the rhythmic postmodern production this month at Fringe 2004 in Edinburgh, Scotland. Also in Edinburgh is Batalion's sister, **Judith,** who is presenting a surreal comedy, *Cyclo-Analysis*.

* * *

Children's Book Award: The Association of Jewish Libraries announces the 20th annual Sydney Taylor Manuscript Competition for aspiring authors of children's books. A cash award of $1,000 awaits the best fiction manuscript appropriate for readers ages eight to 11, written by an unpublished author.

The story should have universal appeal, yet serve to deepen the understanding of Judaism and reveal positive aspects of Jewish life. Submissions deadline, Dec. 31. For details, visit www.je wishlibraries.org or e-mail **Rachel Glasser** at rkglasser@aol.com.

* * *

Arts in Brief

• *Zasch Till*, a play by **Bekky O'Neill**, is one of two works being presented in 2004 as part of Tarragon Theatre's summer youth reading series. It's based on the Holocaust-related experiences of O'Neill's grandmother. Theatre Passe Muraille Mainspace. PWYC. Friday, Aug. 13, 3:30 p.m.

• Always wanted to sing in the Royal Opera Canada chorus? Rehearsals begin Aug. 30. To audition, e-mail auditions@royaloperacanada.com.

• The 2004 RBC Seniors' Jubilee features more than 1,300 talented performers age 50 and over, with a different lineup of entertainers each day. Roy Thomson Hall, Aug. 16 to 20. Lobby entertainment from 11 a.m., stage show at 1 p.m. 416-872-4255.

• Stratford's popular production of *Guys and Dolls* has been extended by 12 performances to Nov. 21. 800-567-1600.

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Singer/songwriter to get national radio play

By JOSEPH SERGE
Arts Editor

Mark Feldman is making good use of his business degree – but not in the way you'd expect.

Feldman, 24, is taking everything he learned at the University of Western Ontario and applying it to marketing himself as a singer/songwriter.

"It's no different than what I learned in school," the Thornhill, Ont., resident says. He explains that a company might get 100 resumes for a job. Some are removed from the pile for spelling mistakes, others for their appearance, others for not meeting the criteria.

"In the end, this leaves them with maybe 10 per cent that they actually start looking at."

Feldman uses this approach to attract the attention of important people in the music business, distributing his own CD and snappy press kit.

"Image is a big thing and then following up is a huge part of it," he says.

I agree. He called me several times after he handed me his self-produced, self-titled CD before I agreed to interview him for this story.

And of course if self-confidence is a big marketing tool, Feldman has lots of that.

"I think I'm a very talented writer," he says. "Recognition on a global scale is my ultimate goal. I know it's hard to make it happen with one CD. I'd like to headline a major concert and be recognized – that is the plan."

A successful marketing approach requires a sound business plan and Feldman has one prepared.

"I started off by talking to the media, and then I sent around 20 CDs to record labels to get some professional feedback.

"I'm sending off some of my songs to music publishers to see if they'll pick up a couple of songs [and sell to other artists] and then finally I'll send CDs to radio stations."

Feldman's business approach is paying off. One person at CBC Records loved the CD and asked for more CDs, so he can distribute them to CBC radio stations nationally for radio play. "They should be playing my songs nationally in a month or so. That's very important."

Feldman's music is simple folk/pop, played mostly on an acoustic guitar. His press sheet says it's a mixture of Bob Dylan, John Mayer (a 25-year-old Grammy Award-winning singer/songwriter) and "a twist of James Taylor."

Truthfully, it is some of that but a whole lot more. I found myself humming the melody to the first song, *Bonita Bay*, after just one listen.

"Developing your own style is essential and being unique sets my music apart," Feldman says. "There are many bands out there that sound the same, but the few that sound different is what makes them special."

Although he plays all the instruments on this CD and plays solo gigs, he would like to form a band and have a fuller sound. But he only wants to work with professional studio musicians who can listen to his songs once and add their creative touch to them. "Musical sophistication is absolutely key," he says.

Feldman enjoys listening to groups such as the Beatles, The Band, Phish and Jack Johnson. Mostly, though, he's got a soft spot for perennial folk crooner Dylan.

"My dad started playing Bob Dylan songs like *Like a Rolling Stone* when I was young; something just clicked and that was it for me."

The longest song on Feldman's CD is a tribute to his icon, Dylan, called *Talkin' Bob Dylan Blues*. The song is structured like a classic Dylan story-within-a-song, on acoustic guitar and harmonica, and filled with Dylan references. The song tells of a dream that the narrator has about meeting a young Dylan and getting advice from him as they "drank and laughed into the night, playing tunes and loving life."

Mark Feldman

"I dreamt of Bob Dylan five or six times, very vivid dreams," he admits. The night before he wrote the song, he dreamed he met a young Dylan, "but everything else is all a figment of my imagination."

Feldman is convinced that his hard work and perseverance will pay off. "The key is to keep writing good music – it's all about writing good music. Talent can only go undetected for so long. I have a lifetime of incredible songs in me."

Feldman recently auditioned for *Canadian Idol*, and although he didn't make the final cut, he gained a lot from that experience.

"I gave my CD to Jake Gold (one of the judges and former manager of the Tragically Hip) who really liked it. I met some good people who've come out and seen me play. Something like that always pays off either intrinsically or career wise."

Feldman gigs three to four times a week, playing some of his own songs and a selection of favourite crowd pleasers. He's performing every Sunday until Labour Day at Rocky Mountain High (125 York Blvd, Richmond Hill), from 5:30-9p.m.!

He also does private and corporate functions. For more information, visit his website, www.markfeldman.ca, or e-mail markfeldman@rogers.com.

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Rosh Hashanah and Continuity...

This time of year in the Jewish calendar is all about beginnings and recommitments. Thankfully, once again, we are given the opportunity to begin anew and to recommit to the people, the values and the way of life that are most precious to us. If staying connected to the Jewish community in Canada and abroad is part of that new beginning for you , there is no better vehicle for doing so than *The Canadian Jewish News.*

As a way of helping individuals launch their new beginnings, *The CJN* is introducing a special continuity subscription offer in time for Rosh Hashanah. We have decided to offer our readers a special, one-time opportunity to provide their children or their grandchildren with their own subscription to *The CJN.*

A gift subscription for your child or grandchild, **who does not already subscribe to *The CJN*,** will cost **$19.95** (taxes included) for one full year to anywhere in Canada.

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[Sid Shoub photo]

For the sake of the children

The cloudless, deep blue sky behind them belies the storm of terror that has broken upon the land these past three years. Alas, there appears no imminent sign on the horizon that the storm will abate.

Israeli cabinet minister Natan Sharansky recently told a Toronto audience about a new, terror-induced phenomenon that has taken hold in Jerusalem.

Members of families leave notes of love whenever they leave the house. However mundane and routine the reason for the departure – a child going to school, a parent to work or a sibling merely going shopping – a note of love and of possible farewell is left behind, usually on the kitchen table, so that no words might be left unsaid in the cruel event that the child or the parent does not return home.

We therefore greet the coming year as we did last the one: with hope in our hearts and a prayer on our lips that this year will bring the people of Israel closer to peace.

Rosh Hashanah is the holiday of judgment. We are sustained by the traditional belief that one of the key underpinnings of our world is justice, even though it is not always apparent to our merely human sensibility and understanding.

But where is the justice, we cry out, when suicide bombers wantonly and deliberately slaughter children returning from an outing at the Kotel?

Where is the justice, we cry out, when the United Nations General Assembly protects the chief planner and practitioner of terrorism?

Where is the justice, we cry out, over and over again?

Continued on page 10

Editorial

Shabbat: Rosh Hashanah
Candlelighting: 6:51
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Beckett's play about nothing not as boring as it sounds

By DAVID SILVERBERG
Special to The CJN

As *Seinfeld* fans can attest, a show about nothing can be as amusing as a show about something. *Waiting for Godot*, Soulpepper's first play of the season returning to the Premiere Dance Theatre is truly an absurdist creation by French playwright Samuel Beckett.

Nothing happens, as in no real plot emerges, but the challenging script and the exemplary performance by the two leads prove that watching people waiting isn't as boring as it sounds.

Vladimir (William Hutt) and Estragon (Jordan Pettle) are two tramps killing time as they wait for the mysterious Godot. Set on a country road sparsely adorned with a bare tree, the two-act play establishes the kinship forged by these two friends, whose bond is cemented by more than patience; the older wanderer Vladimir believes there is salvation in Godot's arrival while Estragon's main problems centre on hunger, uncomfortable boots and a bad memory.

Often, Estragon urges Vladimir to leave, but the resolute old man simply replies, "We can't go. We're waiting for Godot."

But the audience doesn't have to wait long for mesmerizing performances. Hutt displays his incredible range as he fearlessly steps into the raggedy shoes of Vladimir. A simple goofy smile, or a woe-is-me frown, sparks a torrent of emotion from a character that only few actors could tackle.

Hutt's diction is perfect, and he delivers Beckett's ping-pong dialogue with the energy of an actor half his age. Indeed, Hutt's grizzled look contrasts wonderfully with his acting partner's wide-eyed innocence.

Jordan Pettle proved his mettle in *Zaide's Shoes*, *Written on Water* and *Sunday Father*, and in *Waiting for Godot* he also adds some sparkle to the role of an inquisitive, despondent and suicidal tramp.

Estragon's comedic flares require smooth transitions and Pettle delivers the laughs without any bumpy segues. Pettle and Hutt lay down their lines with exceptional timing, as the circular conversations often end with an impatient wave of the hand and a "Forget it."

There is something electric between the two leads, as if these two actors have teamed up for years. Their friendly embraces are tender and thoughtful, and their angry insults resemble any relationship that has turned ugly for only several minutes. Director Albert Schultz knew when to leave physical space between Hutt and Pettle, but he also understood the need for tension that spanned several paces.

Although the play focuses on the two tramps, Beckett also included an odd supporting cast that today would be called "those wacky neighbours." Pozzo (Joseph Ziegler) is the pompous slave-owner of a baggage-lugging Lucky (Oliver Dennis), and Schultz doesn't mask the cruelty.

Jordan Pettle, left, as Estragon and William Hutt as Vladimir in Soulpepper Theatre's production of *Waiting for Godot*. [Guntar Kravis photo]

Pozzo drags Lucky with a rope, often choking the quiet slave with a sharp tug. Dennis, as Lucky, plays the role with tired wheezes and groans, and his gibberish monologues – with lines such as "In spite of the tennis, the facts are still there" – offer a mind-tickling break from the pitter-patter conversations.

Ziegler is the only weak spot in the play, as his overacting and arching eyebrows don't offer the realism his role deserves. Trying to steal scenes from Hutt or Pettle is not a wise move.

Waiting for Godot is beyond a glimpse into wiling away the hours. Interpretations abound on Beckett's experimental work: a Marxist parallel exists between Pozzo, the capitalist, and Lucky, the labourer; Godot is God, and the two tramps act as humanity waiting for a saviour (although Beckett once remarked that Godot came from the French word "godillot," meaning a military boot); since Vladimir and Estragon devise games while waiting, those distractions can also be seen as our toil through tedium partaking in any number of diversions (TV, sports) that avoid heavy questions such as "Why are we here?"

After two-and-a-half hours, more lateral thinkers may wonder why they paid to hear meandering talk amidst slapstick comedy. But whoever is looking for challenging work staged by a skilled theatre company should look no further – *Waiting for Godot* is about nothing and something, if that makes sense. Beckett would've understood.

Waiting for Godot runs from Aug. 27 to Sept. 24, at Premiere Dance Theatre (207 Queen Quay West). For ticket info, call the Soulpepper box office 416-973-4000.

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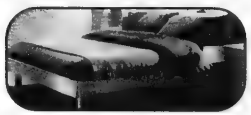

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89-year-old artist still growing

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

"Art is a growing thing – you grow with it," says artist and teacher Anne Greenstein.

Greenstein turns 90 years old this October and has the enthusiasm and vitality of someone half her age.

A recognized artist and humanitarian from Montreal, she moved to Toronto a year and half ago.

Her solo art exhibition, Jazz Series Collages, is on at the North York Central Library, 5120 Yonge St., until August 31.

Greenstein said that after her husband died 13 years ago, she spent three months creating a dramatic form of collage using black pigment. From that period of experimentation, the vivid images in her current show evolved.

"Collage gave me the opportunity to make art more abstract," she says. "I had to fool myself into it."

Born Anne Greenberg in Warsaw, Poland, in 1914, she came to Canada with her family in 1930. As a child, her drawings were included in an exhibit of children's art that toured Poland.

She studied at the École Des Beaux-Arts in Paris and the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

During an interview in her studio, she recalled that her father told her, "Anne, when you marry, you don't know who you will be married to, and your husband may not make a living, so you have to be independent."

He sent her to apprentice at a photo studio, where she later worked as a retoucher.

She married businessman Sam Greenstein, and as a young mother, she taught art to preschoolers. She went on to become the director of the Fine Arts Department of the Golden Age Association in Montreal (now the Cummings Jewish Centre), where she worked with seniors for more than 50 years.

Greenstein retired after she had heart surgery. At her retirement party, she received a tribute presented by Reva Gesser, who served as the association's president from 1964 to '66.

The plaque she received says that she "shared her gifts of artistic talent, boundless energy, eternal optimism and an abiding belief in the innate creativity of every human being.

"Anne teaches us all with her warmth, compassion and love, and we are all enriched for knowing her."

Greenstein was also the director of the Laurentian Fresh Air Camp for Seniors for 13 years.

In Montreal, she exhibited widely, with six solo exhibitions as well as group and travelling shows.

Over the years, Greenstein has embraced new artistic media. A showing of her mixed media – oils, acrylics and collages – is on at the Fairview District Library, 35 Fairview Mall Dr., this October.

Currently, she is a volunteer in the art department at the Don Mills Foundation for Seniors, Taylor Centre.

"All my life, I believed people had something inside begging to come out," she says. She adds that her priority in teaching is "to ignite a spark in my students."

Greenstein has two children, David, a psychologist in Waterloo, and Elaine Minsky, an early childhood educator; five grandchildren, Daniel and Camille Greenstein, and Adam, Katie and Emma Minsky; and one great-grandchild.

Anne Greenstein, above, and one of her works from the Jazz Series Collages on display at North York Central Library.

Reiter crowned Montreal's first 'Jewish Idol'

By MICHAEL REGENSTREIF
Special to The CJN

MONTREAL — A crowd of about 1,000 packed the Spectrum in downtown Montreal last month to see teenager Kathleen Reiter eliminate nine other finalists in the city's first Jewish Idol competition.

Reiter, 15, a Herzliah High School (Snowdon) student, captured the crown June 27 with her rendition of Aretha Franklin's *Respect*. She also sang *The Voice Within*, made famous by Christina Aguilera, in the preliminary round.

Jewish Idol, organized by Centre Hillel, copied the format of the popular *American Idol* television show, which features aspiring young pop singers competing in an elimination tournament decided by a combination of audience votes and judges' opinions.

"I knew I was going to win," Reiter declared before she performed *I Will Always Love You*, the Dolly Parton tune that was also a Whitney Houston hit, as her victory song.

During two auditions in May leading up to the final night, close to 100 entrants were winnowed down to the 10 semi-finalists who performed at the Spectrum.

The show was structured just like the TV version, although at more than 3½ hours, it was much longer than a single episode on the small screen. Hosted by MusiquePlus VJ Chéli Sauvé-Castonguay, the evening featured a panel of four judges from the music industry – rap singer Anson Oliver, record producers David Kakon and Jean Lamothe, and performer François Babin – who each made brief comments after each performance.

From the beginning, it was evident that each performer had a contingent of family, friends and fans in the crowd. Every singer, whether they were emulating Céline Dion, Lionel Ritchie, Aretha Franklin or Frank Sinatra, drew sustained applause.

For the most part, the judges acted more as cheerleaders than critics, though Oliver was booed by the audience when he occasionally adopted the persona of Simon Cowell, the notoriously harsh *American Idol* judge.

After each of the 10 contestants performed, three finalists were chosen by a combination of the judges' opinions and the audience's ballots. Each of the three finalists, Reiter, Randi Katz, 29, and Michaël Knafo, 19, returned with another song.

All three reached back to before they were born for their second-round material, with both Reiter and Katz choosing Aretha Franklin songs (*Respect* and *Think*, respectively) and Knafo singing one by Nickolas Ashford and Valerie Simpson that was made famous by both Marvin Gaye and Diana Ross (*Ain't No Mountain High Enough*).

Only the judges voted in the final round, choosing Reiter as the Jewish Idol and Katz as runner-up.

As Jewish Idol, Reiter will receive a portfolio of photographs and a demo CD produced by a professional music studio (Junited Records), and she will also have a concert arranged for her.

The show also featured three non-competitive performances. The first was a choreographed hip-hop dance number by three young women, and the second was a rap song performed by a nine-year-old calling himself "One-88." Sauvé-Castonguay referred to him as "a future Jewish Idol."

As well, at the end of the evening, all 10 contestants returned to the stage and sang a Hebrew song together.

Centre Hillel's Jewish Idol committee was co-chaired by Laura Sonego and Steve Sebag, who promised the competition would return next year.

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Jewish community rejuvenated in Muslim Kazan

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

KAZAN, RUSSIA — A look of utter amazement comes over Jenya Sontz's face when she's told about the harassment experienced by Jewish students on Canadian college campuses. She shakes her head in disbelief when she's told about the mini-riot at Concordia University, which prevented former Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu from speaking, and the day-to-day anti-Israel agitation that often spills over into intimidation.

At the numerous universities and technical schools in Kazan, Jewish students have experienced nothing like that, she said. In fact, non-Jewish students in the Muslim region of Tatarstan are curious, even respectful, of their Jewish colleagues.

"The most popular reaction when I say I am a Jew is, 'wow, say a few words in Jewish,'" she says.

Sontz, director of Hillel programming for more than 500 Jewish students in Kazan, the capital of Tatarstan, said in the post-Soviet republic students take an interest in other groups and are respectful of each other's heritage.

While the Tatar people are of Turkish descent, there are also Arab students on campus who are eager to discuss current events in the Middle East.

When it comes to travel, "non-Jewish young people admire our opportunity to go to Israel," particularly through Taglit (Birthright). So far, more than 100 Kazan students have visited the Jewish state on Birthright missions.

"We think young people can discuss without a fight, without fanaticism," Sontz said. "Thank God, Tatarstan is such a tolerant republic."

More than a decade after the collapse of communism, 20-somethings and those younger are free to explore their Jewish identities and many avail themselves of the cultural and historical programming now available in Kazan. "Older people envy us because they say they never had that opportunity," Sontz said.

While younger people are interested in developing a firm Jewish identity, those in their 30s and 40s show only modest interest in Jewish programs and traditions. That is a result of 70 years of Communist government, which stifled religious and nationalist identification, Sontz said.

The Sontz family, however, refused to be cowed. Her late father, Leonid, was a klezmer musician who popularized the Jewish art form, at first in underground circles. Sontz grew up in a family that had a keen sense of Jewish traditions.

With the end of the Soviet Union, Jewish life in Kazan has returned to the open and the community boasts a wide range of facilities offering religious, cultural and social activities.

Pavel Vasenin, 19, is co-ordinator of Hillel projects in Kazan and a regular drop-in at the student club, Afifon, located above the community's synagogue. Like student centres in North America, the rooms are sparse, barely decorated. But they provide a handy venue for Jewish kids to gather, schmooze and, what else, eat.

"I'm here because I'm learning more about Jewish history and Jewish tradition," he said. "Two years ago, I never knew there were Jewish organizations in Kazan. When I came here, I adapted very quickly. And now I even started to do my own research on anti-Semitism, as well as co-ordinate Jewish programs."

For many years, Judaism never played a big role in his life. He was aware his mother's passport had the designation, "Jew" in it, but she never overtly identified herself as such. Today, Vasenin is the only one in his family who attends synagogue – "and I have a big family," he said.

Students gather at Afifon club

"I feel myself more protected... more calm here."

Over at the Chesed seniors' club, the elderly are experiencing something similar – the sense of camaraderie, shared history and familiarity that was hard to find in communist times.

Sofia Borodova, 45, directs cultural programming at the Kazan community centre. She, too, knew little about Judaism until relatively late in her life. It was her interest in Jewish culture that first linked her to things Jewish. In the 1980s, she recalled, a Jewish cultural society called Menorah was quite popular, while Sontz's concerts sometimes attracted 1,000 people. The first public seders attracted hundreds more. Ironically, they were held in the former headquarters of the Komsomol Union – the communist youth movement.

With the 1990s liberalization, many Jews left Kazan, mostly for Israel. At the same time, community leaders discovered many others reclaiming their Jewish heritage. Kazan residents joke "there were 7,000 Jews, 4,000 left and now we have 11,000," Borodova said.

Rabbi Yitzchok Gorelick believes the most accurate figure today is a Jewish population of 7,000 to 10,000 – or at least that many with some Jewish roots.

All aspects of the Jewish life cycle are now available in Kazan, including chupahs at weddings and mikvahs.

While most of her friends are not Jewish, Borodova said they are interested in learning about her heritage. What's more, "we have a ladies' club and non-Jewish women come to learn about Jewish traditions."

Borodova would like to see her two sons marry Jewish girls. "When I met a Jewish guy, I felt something natural, something dear to me. Many Jewish ladies of an older age who come to Chesed, who married non-Jews, they're saying they made a mistake. I wouldn't say my personal life is so unclouded or ideal, but this personal unity makes our family strong."

Religious life is co-ordinated by Rabbi Gorelick, who is held in high regard in Kazan. "We were lucky that we have this rabbi," Borodova said. "In other places, there are problems between the religious and the secular organizations. [Rabbi Gorelick] is a very understanding person, because our people are not familiar with religious life. But the rabbi does his best to take into consideration that the people are not used to it. It's very hard for them."

Borodova believes that while strict religious observance is not prevalent, "there are key values... We find the common values and Chabad has the highest authority in the community.'

Rabbi Gorelick points to the co-operation between Chabad, secular organizations and outside Jewish agencies in rejuvenating Kazan's Jewish life. He sat with the community board to brainstorm ways of raising money to upgrade the community building, which was returned to the community in 1995. Chabad committed to repairing the main-floor sanctuary, while local philanthropists donated significant sums for the rest of the structure. The Joint Distribution Committee gave funds to operate Chesed and a library, while the Russian Jewish Congress helped in the reconstruction of the third floor. Altogether, $700,000 US was raised.

Chabad pays 50 per cent of the continuing operating expenses for community programs, including the kindergarten, which serves 17 children, and events such as community seders and the summer camp, which is attended by about 100 youngsters.

Rabbi Gorelick acknowledges the level of religious observance in Kazan is not where he would like it to be, but few people eat pork and in other ways, "many have taken the first step" toward a more observant lifestyle, he said.

Rabbi Gorelick believes bringing the community along to a more traditional lifestyle is a long-term project and cannot be forced down people's throats.

Twice a year, Rabbi Gorelick travels to small towns in the region around Kazan to minister to the clusters of Jews there. A few hundred can be found in Izhevsk, Yoshkar-Ola and Cheboksary, he said. Chabad also dispatches yeshiva students to these towns to help conduct holiday services, he added.

Although his yeshiva education contained no lessons in administrative and organizational skills, Chabad emissaries are expected to learn on their feet. In the years since he accepted his posting to Kazan, Chabad has begun to organize seminars on these vital topics and he has flown to Moscow, New York and Israel to attend these conferences.

Paul Lungen was recently a guest of Chabad Lubavitch in Russia.

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500 TUTORING
510 UPHOLSTERY
515 WATERPROOFING
520 WINDOW COVERINGS
525 WINDOW REPLACEMENT
530 WINDOW CLEANING
550 WORKSHOPS

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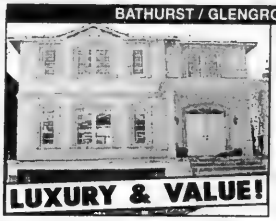
BATHURST / GLENGROVE



Exquisite new custom home, 5 + 2 bdrms., 5 baths, fin. bsmt., sep. entry to in-law suite, fam. room, dream kit. Luxurious upgrades throughout! Lowest priced new home in area. **$969,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712. Visit **TERRACE LANE** on our website.

BATHURST / LAWRENCE

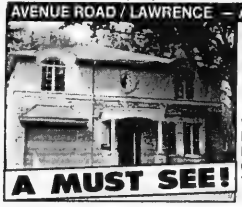
LOWEST PRICE IN AREA! Ideal starter home or build your dream home. Cozy detached 2 bedroom bungalow on 35 x 132 ft. lot in central location close to TTC, schools, shops ++. **ONLY $289,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

* * *

BATHURST / LAWRENCE

Gorgeous 42 ft. building lot, widens to 57 ft., facing Prince Charles Park. Build your dream home in this serene setting! Approved plans for 4,400 sq. ft. new home included. **ONLY $479,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

AVENUE ROAD / LAWRENCE — AFFORDABLE LUXURY!



Magnificent new custom home in prime central location, 3,200 sq. ft. + finished bsmt., luxurious upgrades throughout! 10 ft. ceilings on main floor, dream antique white kitchen, gleaming hardwood floors, granite, limestone ++, $1,039,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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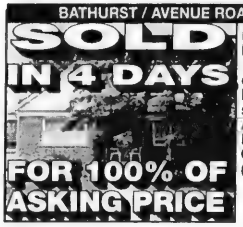
Luxurious Chateau-style custom home by upscale builder in prestigious location! 3,800 sq. ft. + finished basement. Architectural gem with impressive front elevation, stone exterior, granite & limestone, 5 + 1 bdrms., 7 baths, dream maple kit., main floor library + fam. room ++. $1,099,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / AVENUE ROAD / GLENCAIRN



Detached 3 bedroom bungalow on lovely 42 x 132 ft. lot, separate entrance to possible in-law suite, close to TTC, shops, schools, shuls. Attached garage. **ACT FAST — WON'T LAST!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

SOLD

BATHURST / SHELBORNE – UNIQUE CONDO ALTERNATIVE!

Huge raised bungalow on spectacular lot in prime central location! 58 ft. lot frontage widens to 83 x 132 ft. Dramatic skylit entrance, indoor pool, large principal rooms, ideal for entertaining. $949,999. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

* * *

BATHURST / YORK DOWNS — REDUCED!

RARE OPPORTUNITY ON SPECTACULAR 67 X 432 FT. LOT! Build your dream home on this magnificent property backing onto Timberlane Ravine and surrounded by multi-million $ homes. **PRICED FOR IMMEDIATE SALE AT ONLY $1,119,000 — ACT FAST!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

* * *

AVENUE ROAD / EGLINTON

Magnificent custom home, 4 years new! Over 3,100 of finished living space. 4 bdrms., 4 baths, high ceilings, open concept. Ideal for home office. Contemporary design with warm traditional finishes. **ONLY $869,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

* * *

BATHURST / DELL PARK — STUNNING CUSTOM HOME

Approx. 3,600 sq. ft. of luxury + fin. bsmt., 5 + 2 bdrms., upgrades throughout. Stone front, extensive use of limestone, marble & granite, main flr. 9.5 ft. ceilings and custom library w/ built-in bookcases, dream kit., sep. entry to 2 in-law suites, w/o to deck. **ONLY $999,999!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712 or visit **TERRACE LANE** on our website.

* * *

CORTLEIGH / ALEXANDER WOOD — COUNTRY IN THE CITY!

Executive home on gorgeous 50 x 153 ft. lot in most prestigious central location close to schools, shuls, and all amenities! 4 bdrms., 5 baths, main floor family room, stunning inground pool. Asking $1,499,500. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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BATHURST ST AND CLARK AVE
"BEST LOCATION CLOSE TO SYNAGOGUE"

Beautiful large 4 bdrms, 4 baths, main flr fam rm with fireplace, french doors, dark stain wood flrs throughout, skylight, 2 kitchens, 2 walk-outs, mn flr laundry rm and entrance to 2 car gar. Magnificent fin bsmnt w/t rec rm, bdrm, bathroom & Passover kitchen. Detached. **ONLY $439,900.**

BATHURST ST AND HIGHWAY 7

Magnificent 1 year new home, 4 huge bedrooms, 6 baths, $$$ spent on upgrades, wood floors, 9 ft. ceiling, huge family room w/gas fireplace, lrge living room open to dining room, huge loft w/Juliene balcony. Finished bsmnt apt w/2 bdrms, 2 kitchens, 2 baths and sep entrance. Aprox. 3,700 sq. ft. Only the best. Very motivated to sell. **ONLY $565,000. WOW!**

****SUPERB NEW TOWNHOUSE 1,700 S.F.****

Fab 3 bdrms, 3 baths, family room, 9 ft. ceiling, basement garage, strip hardwood floors in living & dining room, master bedroom w/5 pce ensuite and walk-in closet, 5 appliances, central air. **$254,900.**

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Perfect Family Home Brockington Cres.

This beautiful 4 bedroom home has it all. 2 kitchens, 4 1/2 bathrooms, main floor family room, 2 fireplaces, huge rec room, large principal rooms, magnificent tiered ravine lot. Over 4,000 sq. ft.

Ruth Bass, *Sales Representative*
Forest Hill Real Estate Inc.
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Beautiful custom Family Home in Bathurst Manor
Suitable for a growing family

Located on a quiet cul-de-sac backing on ravine, steps to transit, parks, synagogues, shops & best schools, offers spacious rooms, eat-in kitchen, family room with walk out and a lot more.
View this home at www.rpt.ca/waterloo

Call Batya Mishan at 416-229-4454
Royal LePage Partners Realty

WATCH FOR THE BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLEMENT COMING AUG. 19

REAL ESTATE Section

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Forest Hill
Real Estate Inc. Realtor

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CENTRAL PROPERTIES

SPECTACULAR LOWER VILLAGE HOME!
Designed and Décor by Katherine Newman. Stunning pool. Must See! B. Sokol* & B. Westbrook* 416-226-1987

291 GLENGROVE AVE — FABULOUS 50 X 175'! SOLD
$939,995! Lytton Park 4+1 bdrm, 4 bath, centre hall! Reno kit! Mn Fam+2pce! Won't last! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

FABULOUS UPPER VILLAGE VISION!
4 brdms, double garage, central air, very pretty! Curb Appeal + Family Room! $889,000! Cathy Himelfarb* 416-488-2875

GREAT CEDARVALE HOME! 4+1 BDRMS
Main floor family & powder room, large eat-in kitchen, professionally Landscaped. Brenda Westbrook* 416-226-1987

ARMOUR HEIGHTS - TOTAL RENO $699,000
Fabulous 2 storey addition. Great family room/master suite, 2 car garage, all done. Patti Pollock* 416-226-1987

ARMOUR HEIGHTS - EXTREMELY TASTEFULLY RENO.
$649,000. Impeccable & Unique. 3 bdrm/3 bath. Outstanding Fam Room. Breathtaking 74x150 Irreg. lot. Patti Pollock* 416-226-1987

BATHURST/WILSON 4 BDRM - 2 STOREY $599,000
Great addition - family & breakfast rm. Master ensuite. Magnificent 50x140 lot. Patti Pollock & Gary Pollock* 416-226-1987

BATHURST/YORK DOWNS - BUILDING LOT - $459K
Great 50x150' lot on excellent quiet st to build your dream home. Close to prks/schls/snyag/TTC. Carolyn Feldman** 416-488-2875

NEWLY RENOVATED BATHURST/LAWRENCE
3+1 bedroom bungalow, 2 kitchens, finished basement. Separate entrance! Brenda Westbrook* 416-226-1987

263 CODSELL AVE! 3+2 BDRM 3 BATH! 399K!
Bathurst N/Sheppard! Updated bungalow w/Nanny ste! Fabulous 42 x 114'! Walk to subway! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

12 LISTER DRIVE! NOW $389,999! YONGE N/FINCH!
Impeccable 3+1 bedroom! 3 Bath Bungalow! Nanny Ste! Double Garage! Rare 67x113'! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

BAYVIEW/NORTH PROPERTIES

536 GLENGROVE AVE! LUX 5+2 BDRM 5 BATH!
$1,079K! Bathurst/Glencairn Beauty! Main Family+Library+2Pce! Nanny Ste! 40x133'! Wow! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

165 STEELES AVE E! RARE 81 X 123'! $969K!
Just w/Bayview! Incredible 7+Bedroom, 6 Bath w/2 Nanny Ste's + loads of parking! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

1ST AD! 146 HOLMES AVE $799K! BAYVIEW S/FINCH
Exec 4+2 Bdrm, 4 Bath! Main Family+Library+Lau+2Pce! Nanny Ste! Spectacular 50x160'! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

THORNWOOD WOOD WEST 2 YR NEW, 4 BDRM $434,900
Living/Dining, Kitchen, Breakfast, Family/Fp, 2,325 sq. ft., B/I Double Gar, 4 Prkg, near school. Marilyn Merrick* 416-488-2875

DON MILLS/FINCH $389,000 RAISED BUNGALOW
3+1 bedroom, large living+dining rooms. Sep entrance to finished basement, B/I Garage, parking for 3. Saul Merrick* 416-488-2875

CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

LUXURIOUS AVONDALE YONGE/SHEPPARD
2 bdrm, 2 bath, breakfast, family rooms. Liv/din rooms, den, 2 terraces, 2,350 sq. ft. $759,900. Marilyn Merrick* 416-488-2875

LUXURY FOR $299,000 YONGE/FINCH
2 bedroom, 2 Bath, Eat-in kitchen. Open liv/din, solar. 9 ft. ceiling, 2 prkg. 1,359 sq. ft. Near sub shops. Saul Merrick* 416-488-2875

2 STOREY LOFT FACES SOUTH $279,000
1 bedroom+den, 2 bath, open liv/din, kitchen, balcony. Hardwood, 5 appl's, 1 prkg, lock, near subway. Saul Merrick* 416-488-2875

LIVE LUXURY FOREST HILL $245,000
2 bdrm, 2 bath, kitchen, liv, din. Aprox. 825 sq. ft., 1 prkg, locker. Great Loc near shops, subway. Marilyn Merrick* 416-488-2875

RENTALS

FOR LEASE 2 STOREY DET 3 BDRM, 2 BATH, FIN BSMNT
Fenced yard. Renovated, close to TTC. $1,500 + utilities. Eva Rames* 416-488-2875

**Associate Broker * Sales Representative

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

SEIDMAN
REAL ESTATE LIMITED REALTOR
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PRIMROSE CONDO
Corner unit, 2 bdrm, 2 baths, balcony, locker, prkng, great buy.

CLARK/YONGE CONDO
Large 2 bdrm, 2 baths, living & dining combined with wood floors, large eat-in kit, solarium, locker, balcony, 2 parking, Don't Miss.

BATHURST/BJCC
Custom built side split, 3 bdrm, huge living & dining room, kitchen with breakfast area, family rm with walkout to yard, finished basement, double garage, steps to all.

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MARLEE & LAWRENCE
8 bedroom triplex, 5 baths, two 3-bedrooms & one 2-bedroom, good condition. Good investment for the future.

DUFFERIN & TEN OAKS
Elegant 4 bedroom, 2 year old home, 2,700 sq. ft., 9 ft. ceilings. See it -- love it.

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CUSTOM BUILT HOME
Lawrence/Bathurst
Build To Suit.
3,600 sq. ft. 4/5 bedrooms, $975,000.
Bo Gustafsson
Sutton Group
416-783-5000

BATHURST/SHELBORNE
Spacious 3 bdrm bungalow, large corner lot, self-contained basement apt, close to shopping, schools, minutes walk to Bathurst St./ Lawrence Plaza. $799,000. **CAROL TURACK**, C/B Pinnacle Real Estate 905-707-8001

BATHURST / GLENGROVE
Fabulous 5 bdrm. family home on generous lot. Hrdwd.. fin. bsmt. Call for wish list features.

Call **JACOB FLORANS**
Sutton Group Admiral Realty
416-739-7200

10 HOUSES FOR SALE

Near Promenade Mall, beautifully landscaped & renov. home, fin. bsmt, 4 bdrm, 4 baths, upgraded kitchen, 416-837-4971.

15 HOUSES FOR RENT

Near Yorkdale Mall, 5 bdrms., 2 baths, 2 kits., prkg., hrdwd flrs., a/c, htng., newly renov., spac. backyard, $1,800 + util./mo. Call 416-910-7478 or 905-842-9976.

Bathurst/Clark - 3 bdrm. + lge. fam. rm., 3 baths, 2200 s.f. A1 condit., lge. kit. 905-764-7423.

30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

"THE SAVOY" LUXURY CONDOMINIUM
Finch & Bathurst - $374,500. Built by Tridel, approx. 1,550 sq. ft., $$$ spent for upgrades, corner, 2 bedroom + 1 suite, 2 full bathrooms, 2 parking, 3 lockers, large balcony, kitchen with breakfast area, 2 walk-outs to balcony, picture windows, mirrored closet doors, indoor pool, excellent recreation facilities.
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Top 3% in Toronto Region
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Homelife/Bayview Realty Inc.

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

BATHURST-SHEPPARD
ELEGANT TWIN BLDS.
Very lrg. 1, 2, 3 Bedrooms, 2 & 3 Bdrms. w/2 balconies and 2 baths.
Ample closets plus cedar, Roof laundry, ravine setting, pool, pkg. incl.
6 Apts. per flr.
416-960-3238 - Bus.
416-631-9377 or 416-631-0388 - Super

Bathurst/Steeles, Townsgate, 1550 sq. ft. 2 bed., 2 bath, 2 prkng., sol. & locker, $2100/mo. 905-731-3321 / 416-224-2837.

75 APARTMENTS FOR SALE

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Consider
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Rental Community
4001, 4003 and 4005 Bayview Ave.
Bayview/Steeles

Offering beautifully appointed
1, 2, 3 and 3+ den suites in a 20 acre private setting complete with gatehouse and extensive services and amenities.

"One of the things I like about the Gates of Bayview is the parklike atmosphere."
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Bathurst/Sheppard, lux., spacious, bright apts., in quiet ravine setting off main streets, newly reno'd, walk to TTC, utilities incl. 1 bdrm. avail. immed., 2 bdrm. avail. Sept. 1. 416-398-0566 / 905-474-3600.

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Bathurst/Steeles, lux. bsmt, fully furn. apt., street level, priv. entr., close to all facilities. All new appl. $800, no pets/smoking. 905-886-3341.

Bath./Shepp., newly renov. spac., 2 bdr., 2 bath, bsmt. apt., sep. entr., lndry. & hydro incl., close to TTC & all amen. 416-916-2662.

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The Eldorado
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Few Remaining Call Today!

- Central Air Conditioning
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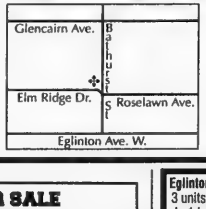
- 2 Bedroom: 1,600 sq. ft.
- 2 Bedroom + Den: 1,700 sq. ft.
- 3 Bedroom: 2,300 sq. ft.
- 3 Bedroom + Den: 2,500 sq. ft.



For more information or to schedule a viewing, please call:
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416-878-4441
416-878-6618

30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

SANTEE REALTY INC. 416-441-2003

SKYMARK
DON MILLS & FINCH - 2 PENTHOUSES
55 Skymark Zenith: Unobstructed view, large corner, 2 bedroom + family, skylights, sauna, fireplace, hobby room.
Skymark I: Unique 2 bdrm. + family + solarium, an atrium garden w/skylight.
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3 units avail. for immed. occupancy: Jr. 1 bedroom and 1 bedroom, from $780+hydro/mo. Availabe Oct. 15th 2 bedroom and 3 bedroom units.
Great location!
Ask about our move-in specials
Please call Colin at 416-781-0408

Bath./Glencairn, 1 bdr. furn. bsmt apt, n/smkr/pets, ful kit./bath, sep. entr. $750/mo. 416-787-4154.

82 ROOM AVAILABLE FOR RENT

ROOM AVAILABLE
Private room and board plus full service conveniences avail. in a large, luxury kosher home. Convenient Lawr. & Bath. loc. Contact 416-785-4422.

105 COTTAGE FOR SALE

New MUSKOKA Jewish Cottage Community. Sparrow Lake, 1.5 hrs drive, scenic lakefront cottages. Community tennis, pool, rec hall, Shul and more. 3 bdrm, $225K. For info email: cottage@deverett.net

Lake Simcoe/Belle Ewart, secluded winterized 4 bdrm, waterfront, open plan, mod kit, renov 4 pce. bath, cedar cath ceiling, skylight, marine rlwy. No Agents. 416-860-2600 or at cottage 705-456-6037.

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Lake Muskoka Cottage 3600 sq. ft. $634,900. 6 bdrms., fplc., sand beach, s/exp., level lot, 2 slip boathouse, 2 bdrm. guest cottage, 2 car garage.
Kahshe Lake Cottage $895,000. Custom built 3100 sq. ft. only 10 years old. Stone fplc., 5 pc. ensuite, w/exp., deep water, sunroom, decking on two levels.
Lake Muskoka Home $599,000. 3 bdrm., 2 bath., walk to shopping, 2400 sq. ft., west view of Muskoka Bay.
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Sales Representative
Office 705-687-2243
Cell 705-644-0087

125 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE

WEST PALM BEACH
LANDS OF THE PRESIDENT
PRIVATE GATED GOLF COURSE COMMUNITY
Best Location in Palm Beach County
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CITY PLACE!!!
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- High Rise Doorman Buildings
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165 ISRAEL PROPERTY FOR SALE/RENT

PRESTIGIOUS PROJECT IN REHAVIA
Rehov Rashba, central location, option of garden or balcony. Exclusive to PROSPERITY REAL ESTATE.
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190 VACATION PROPERTY AVAILABLE

Mt. Tremblant, 5 bed., 2 bath. Sleeps up to 12. Pool, close to village & beach. Shuttle. Very lux. Reas. rates. Also avail. for sale. 1-866-955-9961.

Sunny Palm Desert California, new, 3 bdrm. 3 baths, fully furn. home, w/swim pool & hot tub, kosher kitchen, 3 clubhouses + 2 golf courses. 714-240-8953, deckfeld@aol.com

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Apartment & Sixplex Owners: Better to pay capital gains than have vacancies of 10%!

Vacancies are sharply up and take months to fill. Utilities and taxes are skyrocketing. A prudent investor must sell now. First time housing more affordable than ever. Don't get caught short. Legislation will change detrimentally next year. It is proposed that vacant units will no longer go for market rents. Sell now and profit by it while you can.

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Weiss Realty, 416-666-4362

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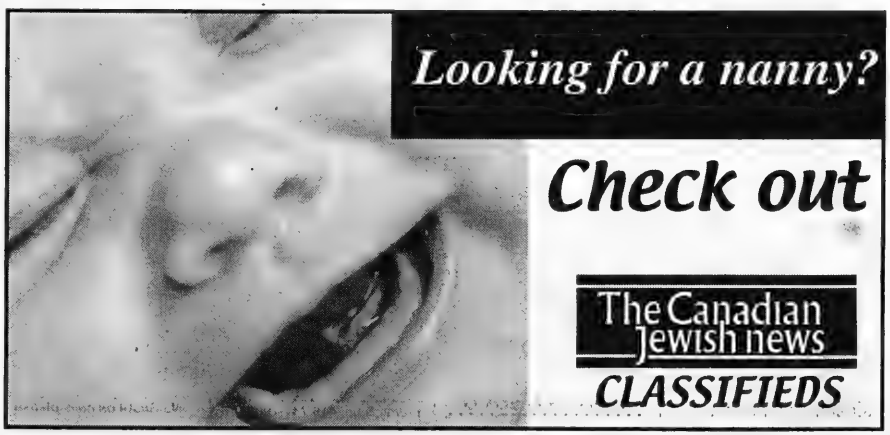

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Sports & Leisure

'Paddling papa' among Jewish returnees at Olympics

By E.B. SOLOMON
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

NEW YORK — Joe Jacobi's pain as he prepares for the Olympics is more emotional than physical.

The canoeist and kayaker says he misses his three-year-old daughter, Seu Jane – named for the Spanish village that hosted some rowing competitions in the 1992 Summer Games – who is at home with his wife in Tennessee.

The pursuit of an Olympic medal usually conjures up a youthful single-mindedness, but like Jacobi, 34, many of the 15 Jewish athletes competing for the U.S. team at the Athens Games are veteran athletes who competed in previous Olympics.

Jacobi, nicknamed the "paddling papa," won gold at the Olympics in 1992, the same year he was named USA canoe/kayak male athlete of the year.

Another veteran, swimmer Lenny Krayzelburg, a triple gold-medal winner at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Australia, will also compete in Athens, when the Games get underway Aug. 13.

Krayzelburg, a Jewish immigrant from Odessa – in what is now Ukraine – has been a Jewish role model of sorts, once telling reporters that "being Jewish is part of me, it's part of my culture."

He got his first American swimming experience, and his first job, at a Jewish community centre in Los Angeles shortly after his family arrived there in 1988 from the Soviet Union.

After setting world records in the 100-metre and 200-metre backstroke at the 2000 Olympics, he participated in the Maccabi Games in Israel.

Nearly 29, an age considered ancient in a sport mostly dominated by teenagers and those in their early 20s, Krayzelburg made headlines in mid-July when he qualified for the American team by finishing the 100-metre backstroke in 54.06 seconds, behind world champion Aaron Perisol.

His teammate, 28-year-old Jason Lezak, another Jewish swimmer, won the 100-metre freestyle after setting a new American record of 48.17 seconds in the semifinals.

"Based on what you hear in the general public, you'd think there wasn't much representation, but the list we have is very impressive," said Jed Margolis, executive director of Maccabi USA/Sports for Israel. In certain sports, he added, Jews "are at the top of the world."

Continued on page 42

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Israeli tennis players set record in Toronto

By MARVIN GLASSMAN
Special to The CJN

For the second time in four years, Israeli tennis players set a new record for their country at the recent Tennis Masters Toronto event held at the Rexall Centre at York University.

The Israeli Davis Cup team of Andy Ram and Jonathan Erlich finished as the first Israeli doubles quarterfinalists in tournament history.

Although the results were not as dramatic as in 2000, when Harel Levy, Israel's top-ranked singles player, finished second in the same tournament, the impressive results of the Israelis drew the attention of many fans and competitors.

Erlich and Ram began the tournament by defeating crowd favourites Marat Safan of Russia and David Nalbandian of Argentina 4-6, 6-1,6-2, then upset seventh seeded Martin Damm and Cyril Suk of Czechoslovakia 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, before losing to Daniel Nestor of Toronto and Mark Knowles of Bahamas 6-4, 3-6, 6-3.

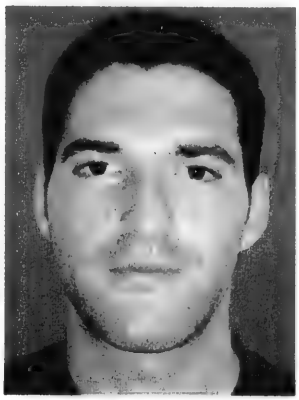
Unlike singles play, doubles competition involve co-ordination of players in net play, speed, power and concentration. "It is so important that we play with an understanding of what we can do against our opponents. Jonathan (Erlich) and I knew each other for many years; since we were juniors. I never had any success until I started playing with him in 2003," said Ram.

Remarkably, the duo dropped their first sets in all of their matches and, with the exception of the quarter-final match, rallied for victories due to inspired net play and a belief that they would break their opponents.

"We knew it was only a matter of time before we would break our opponents. In the match against the Czechs (Damm and Suk), we read their serves well and knew we could beat them if we pushed them far enough with volleys and backhands. Our strategy worked and the good level of play gives us confidence that we can win a medal at the Olympics," said Erlich.

Erlich, 27, and Ram, 24, have been a formidable duo since teaming in 2003. They have won three doubles titles and finished as semifinalists at Wimbledon in 2003. Ram also finished as a mixed doubles finalist in 2003, losing to tennis legend Martina Navratilova and Leander Paes.

Jonathan Erlich



Andy Ram

[Photos by Getty Images]

Both players immigrated to Israel as children from Argentina (Erlich) and Uruguay (Ram) and share a love of Israel. Erlich and Ram are so proud to represent Israel in the Olympics, they can't understand why some American athletes – as is the case with top American basketball stars – wanted to bypass the Olympic Games.

"It means so much to our people back home to do well. We can't be concerned with security. In Israel, we live with a security alert every day. We are hoping to bring back a medal for our country and with that goal in mind, Andy and I want to make our country proud," said Erlich.

Erlich and Ram are ranked among the world's top 20 doubles team, and their opponents feel it is not farfetched for them to win a medal at the Olympics.

"We beat them, but they are going to be tough because you can never let up against them," said Nestor following his victory against the duo. "They have been playing together for longer than most of the teams at the Olympics, and I think they have an excellent chance to win a medal for Israel."

Five Jewish players (Harel Levy; Noam Okun; Ram of Israel; Gaston Etlis of Argentina; and American Glenn Weiner) entered the tournament through the qualifying rounds. None of them survived to the main draw. The only Jewish player in the main draw, 13th seed Nicolas Massu of Chile, lost his opening-round match to Thomas Johansson of Sweden 6-4, 6-4.

Levy is attempting to regain the form he established in 2000, following his runner-up finish in Toronto and a top-30 ranking. He underwent hip surgery in late 2001 and hasn't returned to his earlier form.

"It was so tough because I had to learn to walk again after surgery. However, I look to players like Agassi to give me inspiration. He was ranked as low as 300 and then he came back. I hope that will happen for me," said Levy.

At 26, Levy still has a few more years left to regain form. However, the road ahead is tough. He lost his first-round match event in a Granby challenger (for low-ranked players) tournament a few weeks before the Toronto event.

DROP SHOTS… Budding Canadian tennis star Sharon Fichman of Toronto has earned an automatic berth to the Canadian tennis team at the Maccabi Games in Israel next July by winning the Canadian 18 and under tournament last month at age 13. Fichman is the youngest Canadian ever to earn a berth on the tennis team without qualifying. Next summer, Fichman makes her debut on the pro circuit at the Rogers At&T Cup in Toronto. Fichman also competes in December in the 18 and under event at the Orange Bowl Junior Tennis tournament in Miami.

'Paddling papa' among Jewish returnees at Olympics

Continued from page 41

Take, for example, Sada and Emily Jacobson. This dynamic duo of Jewish sisters may be Olympic neophytes, but they will enter the Olympic arena with high expectations.

Sada Jacobson, 21, is the top-ranked woman fencer in the world and in the United States and has said that making the Olympic squad is honour enough.

Her teammates likely are honoured to be competing alongside her, though – not only is she the first American woman and second American fencer to reach the top of the world rankings, she is also a four-time world championship team member and a two-time National Collegiate Athletic Association sabre champion.

Sada's younger sister, Emily, 17, is just a few lunges behind, and the pair's domination of women's fencing has been compared to that of tennis' well-known sisters, Venus and Serena Williams.

Emily, one of two athletes to receive a 2002 Jules D. Major Award to Jewish High School Athletes of the Year, was ranked second in U.S. sabre fencing in 2003 and was a 2003 Pan American Games bronze medalist.

The Games in Athens will also be the first for 28-year-old fencer Dan Kellner. This six-time world championship team member finished second in the foil competition at the national championships in 1997, 1998 and 2000.

But in 2000, Kellner did not make the Olympic squad. After a year's hiatus, he came back and won a gold medal at the 2003 Pan American games and his first national championship in 2004.

For Kellner, making the Olympic team reflects the eagerness of a younger generation that is following closely in the footsteps of those before them.

"My friends who have done it before say it's an experience that will change your life," he said in an interview with the *New Jersey Jewish News*.

At the opening ceremonies, "I plan to heed their advice and walk slowly – you only get once around the track," he said.

In other sports, though, veteran Jewish athletes will be representing the United States.

In track and field, Deena Drossin Kastor, who competed in Sydney, qualified in the marathon; equestrian Margie Engle, a member of the 2000 U.S. Olympic team and the winner of five major equestrian competitions in 2001, will also compete.

Rami Zur, a newcomer to the American team who rowed in the canoe/kayak competition for Israel in 2000, will compete this year for the United States. His dual citizenship allowed him to qualify for both countries' teams.

Autumn in New York

I was 19 years old when The American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York City accepted me into its acting program. I remember skipping and singing in the street of my usually quiet residential neighborhood, waving my letter of acceptance in the air.

By MIRIAM PORTER

I had worked diligently throughout high school on small acting projects and I was ready to move forward.

That fall, I packed my bags and moved to Manhattan's Upper West Side to pursue my dream. I rented a tiny room in the Beacon Hotel on Broadway, which I shared with two other students from my school. (And a nice family of furry brown rats, but that's another story.)

I experienced so many wonderful moments and events during my time in New York. I remember walking more than 40 blocks to Times Square at midnight in the pouring rain to watch the stage version of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* with students I barely knew. I fought the crowds at Macy's and Bloomingdale's for the best bargain. I ate salty pretzels and hot potato knishes I purchased from street vendors. I bravely took the subways and got lost among the maze of crossing tracks. I studied with inspiring acting coaches and performed in off-Broadway theatrical productions. And I learned about the great culture surrounding me. However, one event in particular stands out for me.

It was December 8, the anniversary of the death of former Beatle John Lennon. My theatre class consisted of 25 students, and we were all passionate and energized about living in Manhattan. The other students were from the United States and I alone represented Canada.

We were all actors away from home for the first time and also Lennon fans, so we decided to pay a tribute to him in our own special way.

Every year on the anniversary of his death, people gather in Strawberry Fields in Central Park to pay their respects to the fallen legend. I heard that his widow, Yoko Ono, even makes an appearance each year and leaves a dozen red roses.

We rehearsed a mini-performance every day after school for a week and were well prepared. We were determined to be a part of something that was so special and unique.

We arrived in the park just after sunset. The multi-hued leaves had already fallen from the trees and they crackled under my feet. It was one of the few nights left that year in which you would be warm enough in a light jacket.

The crowd of people gathered in the park represented Manhattan's diverse communities. Lennon had many adoring fans. They saw us dressed in our flowing white shirts and white pants and were intrigued. We picked a spot and started our performance.

The music from our old stereo, which we had borrowed from the academy, started to play and we dramatically lit the candles, which we placed around us on the ground. We began to sing as we danced and acted out the lyrics to Lennon's song "Give Peace a Chance." Within minutes, the crowd surrounded us and other people from the park came to join in. Together, we sang the lyrics of Lennon's famous song, "All we are saying is give peace a chance." I had not sung in public since my bat mitzvah, during which I almost passed out from absolute terror, but that night I felt free.

Our performance had such a positive impact that when we were finished, we started again from the beginning for the next group of people who had arrived. We repeated our performance throughout the evening. I was so enthralled that I forgot to look for Ono, but I believe she showed up to leave her roses

During my time at the academy, I performed in many plays by award-winning, brilliant playwrights, but my performance in Strawberry Fields left the most significant impact on my life. I was living away from home for the first time in a new city and attending a school I read about in magazines. Anything and everything was possible.

Now, as a 30-something, my life has changed considerably since those days. But I never stop dreaming. No matter where my life takes me in the future, I will always have my memories of autumn in New York.

Miriam can be reached at Miriam@jtvproductions.net

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1 tsp. vanilla
cooking spray

TOPPING: 1 cup (250 g) low fat sour cream or yogurt
2 tblsps. Splenda

Preheat oven to 300°F. Combine all filling ingredients in food processor using steel knife, until silky smooth. Spray 9" springform pan with cooking spray. Pour filling into pan, bake in centre of oven for 35 mins. Mix topping ingredients together. Spread topping evenly over cake. Bake for 5 more mins. Turn off oven, open oven door and let cake cool inside the oven. Refrigerate and serve. Can be decorated with fresh berries.

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PAYING TRIBUTE: Toronto Holocaust survivor Kurt Herzstein (far right) and his wife Shirley recently paid a visit to Herzstein's German hometown of Duisburg, north of Dusseldorf, to take part in a ceremony that dedicated a memorial to his late mother Hertha, murdered in Sobibor in 1943. Herzstein helped lay a *Stolperstein* ("stumbling stone") outside his former home, one of several hundred brass markers set into sidewalks across Germany in an innovative effort to pay tribute to Holocaust victims. The moving ceremony featured a cellist who played *Kol Nidre* and students from a local high school.

Making good on 'Never again'

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

This summer, I have written a series of articles encouraging the Jewish community to respond to the genocide in Sudan, what the United Nations has called "the world's worst humanitarian disaster."

I wrote about the disconnect between the message of "Never again" – that if wickedness should befall another people, we will respond, knowing the pain of the Holocaust – and our limited response when challenged with the real deal.

Today, I overflow with Jewish pride as I write this article, knowing that parts of the Toronto Jewish community, and the world Jewish community, have started to respond robustly to the weeping of the people of Darfur.

Over the last few weeks, a number of local organizations – including Canadians Against Slavery and Torture, B'nai Brith Canada, the Holocaust Centre of Toronto, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and Ve'ahavta: the Canadian Jewish Humanitarian and Relief Committee – have developed a solid strategy to fight the war and help the refugees of western Sudan.

The strategy includes a plan for a rally in Ottawa, letter-writing to MPs, a meeting with Prime Minister Paul Martin, acts of civil disobedience and a relief operation.

The CJN has featured Sudan on its front page, as well as in a prominent editorial calling for Jewish activism as 1,000 people a day die in Darfur.

The Canadian coalition is central to relief operations that would include the distribution of pharmaceuticals (donated by local Jewish entrepreneurs) and nutritional supplements, as well as medical care and the building and development of refugee camp infrastructure.

The Canadian Jewish coalition is also part of a network of Jewish and non-Jewish North American organizations – made up of humanitarian groups, synagogue and church councils, and federations – that recently met with Elie Wiesel to discuss a strategy that includes a massive rally in front of the United Nations.

The coalition is currently setting up meetings with UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell. A comprehensive call-to-action has been drafted and will be published in international newspapers. Some members of the Canadian coalition are signatories.

The American Jewish World Service – a dynamic humanitarian grant-giving organization headed by prominent Jewish activist, politician and feminist Ruth Messinger – has granted funds to Doctors Without Borders, a prominent humanitarian organization, to assist in refugee camps in neighbouring Chad.

Indeed, donations and requests for volunteer opportunities have increased dramatically. Recently, Anita Ekstein, a local Holocaust activist, told me about some of her discussions with Holocaust survivors who have been driven to respond to the barbarism inflicted upon black African men, women and children in Sudan.

All is not perfect, however. I have been yelled at by some Jews who accuse us of misusing Jewish resources for people who "would likely kill us given the chance." One active community member, a very good man, said to me, "Why the hell should we help others when nobody helped us [during the Holocaust]?"

I responded that Judaism abounds with instructions to involve ourselves in the world community, and logic dictates that we should support others, knowing the pain our people experienced when others remained silent about Auschwitz. He disagreed with these thoughts and my position that we need to strengthen the Jewish people by reaching out to others at a grassroots level, thereby creating alliances and friendships that would be useful in our times of need.

Judaism requires all Jews to fix the world. Some respond by devoting themselves to the needs of the Jewish world. Sometimes, however, a raw and disgusting sore appears on the face of humankind that requires all of us to respond. Sudan is one such example.

Never again. A message with honour.

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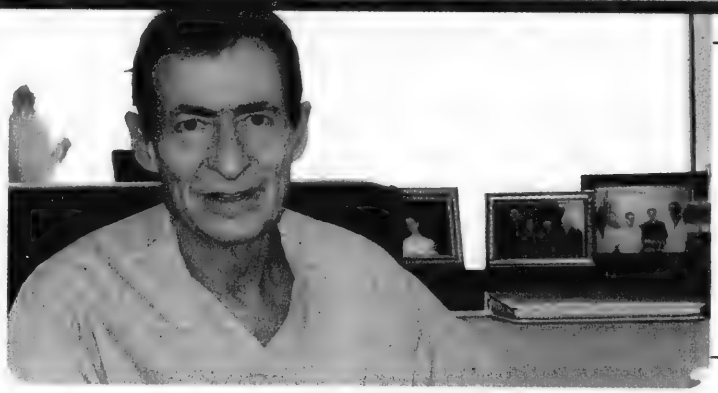

Dr. Allan Gross Tribute Dinner

Sunday, October 17, 2004

Mount Sinai Hospital and Canadian Technion Society will be honouring Dr. Allan Gross for his outstanding contributions to health care, specifically in the area of orthopaedic surgery.

Dr. Gross' innovative leadership and pioneering clinical skills regarding hip and knee procedures are recognized with the highest regard throughout the medical world.

Your personal participation would add significance and prominence to the event and be greatly appreciated by Mount Sinai Hospital and the Canadian Technion Society.

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This Week

National

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Life insurers change policies on travel to Israel. *Page 5*

Media assistant at Stratford, Shira Ginsler, loves her job. *Page 15*

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South Africa's Garden Route is a sensual feast. *Page 43*

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Canadian to officiate at Olympics tennis tournament. *Page 50*

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Israeli official asks for sanctions on Iran over Olympic boycott

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

Israel's top judo official called on the sport's governing body to punish Iran on Monday for apparently refusing to contest an Olympic bout with an Israeli.

"I think the International Judo Federation must stand and say that we cannot involve politics in sport, and I think also they must punish them because it is not the first time that they have done this," Eddy Koaz, president of the Israeli Judo Federation, told Reuters.

"We cannot let them just do it, because if they do it and nothing happens, other countries will do it again. We must be tough in this case and punish them," he added, though he declined to say what sanction he favoured.

Judo champion pulls out of Games

After failing to make the weight for Sunday's first-round under-66-kilogram bout against Israel's Udi Vaks, two-time world champion Arash Miresmaeili was quoted as saying he reported overweight to avoid fighting, out of sympathy with the Palestinian people.

A spokesperson for Iran's Olympic Committee said he had been told to pull out, in line with Iran's national policy toward Israel.

The International Judo Federation (IJF), due to discuss the case again on Monday after an inconclusive emergency session on Sunday, said it needed more evidence before taking action.

Continued on page 31

How the Holocaust rocked Geddy Lee

By SCOTT R. BENARDE
Special to The CJN

Canadian rock veterans Rush will draw from an impressive song catalogue spanning four decades on its current 30th anniversary tour, including classics such as *New World Man*, *Tom Sawyer* and *Freewill*.

But it is another song in the Rush repertoire that concertgoers should pay close attention to when the band wraps up the North American leg of the tour on Aug. 21 and 22 in Montreal and Toronto respectively.

Red Sector A, from the 1984 album *Grace Under Pressure*, comes from a deeply emotional and personal place in the heart of lead singer and bassist Geddy Lee.

The seeds for the song were planted nearly 60 years ago in April 1945 when British soldiers liberated the Nazi concentration camp Bergen-Belsen. Lee's mother, Manya (now Mary) Rubenstein, was among the survivors. (His father Morris Weinrib was liberated from Dachau a few weeks later.)

"The whole album," Lee says of *Grace Under Pressure*, "is about being on the brink and having the courage and strength to survive."

Though *Red Sector A*, like much of the album from which it comes, is set in a bleak, apocalyptic future, the "psychology" of the song, as Lee calls it, comes directly from a story his mother told him about the day she was liberated.

"I once asked my mother her first thoughts upon being liberated," Lee says during a phone conversation. "She didn't believe [liberation] was possible. She didn't believe that if there was a society outside the camp how they could allow this to exist, so she believed society was done in."

Rush lead singer Geddy Lee and his mother, Mary Rubenstein.

In fact, when Rubenstein looked out the window of a camp building she was working in on April 15, 1945, and saw guards with both arms raised, she thought they were doing a double salute just to be arrogant. She did not realize British forces had overrun the camp.

Rubinstein and her fellow prisoners, says Lee, "were so malnourished, their brains were not functioning, and they couldn't conceive they'd be liberated," because they thought civilized society no longer existed.

It is easy to see why Lee's mother had given up on civilization. She and her future husband Weinrib were still in their teens – and strangers to one another until they were interred in a labour camp in their hometown of Staracohwice (also known as Starchvitzcha), Poland in 1941. Prisoners there were forced to work in a lumber mill, stone quarry, and uniform and ammunition manufacturing plants.

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Canadian Birthright youth give 'gift of life' — please see page 32

CANADA

Tape Barred for Hate

OTTAWA — The Canada Border Services Agency stopped a cassette tape containing a speech by a late U.S. white supremacist from entering Canada in April on grounds it is hate literature, the *Ottawa Citizen* reported. In the February 2002 recording, William Pierce alleges that CanWest Global Communications, publisher of such newspapers as the *Citizen* and the *National Post*, is part of a Jewish conspiracy to control the media and that its owners, the Asper family, exert "monopoly Jewish control of the Canadian mass media." He also said the late Izzy Asper banned articles critical of Israel from CanWest papers. Pierce wrote the novel *The Turner Diaries*, which was cited as inspiration by Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh.

Natives Tour Israel

WINNIPEG — Thirty native leaders from Manitoba and Northern Ontario were in Israel for nine days last week to learn about the Holocaust and Jewish culture. The trip, led by Rev. Raymond McLean of Southeast Aboriginal Ministries, was part of a Jewish-native dialogue started last year by B'nai Brith Canada after former national native leader David Ahenakew praised Adolf Hitler.

WORLD

Alleged Guard Pursued

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Justice Department wants the U.S. government to revoke the citizenship of an alleged concentration camp guard. The department's Nazi-hunting unit, the Office of Special Investigations, says Anton Geiser was a member of the SS Death Head's Battalion at Sachsenhausen in 1943 and served at Buchenwald, and he lied about his wartime service when he applied to enter the United States in 1956.

Lyon Graves Vandalized

LYON — Some 60 graves were daubed with swastikas, Nazi symbols and anti-Muslim expressions at a Jewish cemetery in Lyon last Monday. The cemetery is the only Jewish graveyard in the centre of Lyon, which has France's third-largest Jewish community. Two days later, 1,000 people, including local leaders such as the president of the regional council and Lyon's archbishop, attended a rally at the site denouncing the attack. The head of the region's Muslim Council read a statement condemning the desecration on behalf of the city's religious leaders. Two men arrested late Monday are in custody. The incident comes after the July 28 discovery that 32 graves were desecrated in a Jewish cemetery near Strasbourg.

Gravestones Toppled

PRAGUE — A Jewish cemetery was desecrated in the Czech Republic. Unknown perpetrators toppled 80 gravestones last month in the cemetery in Hranice na Morave, which dates back to the 1600s.

Charity Status Revoked

LONDON — Britain is removing Betar-Tagar, a right-leaning Zionist group, from its list of officially sanctioned charities. The Charity Commission of England and Wales said Betar-Tagar is a political organization, not a charity, and had not filed a financial statement since 1999, despite repeated requests. The move strips the group of non-profit status. Betar-Tagar blamed Muslim pressure for the move.

Israeli Sued Governor

NEWARK — New Jersey's governor resigned last week amid reports of a sexual harassment lawsuit filed by an Israeli man. James McGreevey announced he was quitting after admitting he had an affair with a man and is gay. The man is Golan Cipel, an Israeli who was once McGreevey's homeland security adviser and later liaison to the Jewish community, ABC News reported. The two met in Israel in 2000 when McGreevey went there with some New Jersey Jewish federations. Cipel left to work in the private sector two years ago.

Students Harassed

OSWIECIM — Jewish college students from Israel, the United States and Poland were verbally assaulted by three French male tourists at the site of the Auschwitz death camp last week, the *Jerusalem Post* reported. After seeing a student with an Israeli flag, one man ran at the students and shouted anti-Semitic and anti-Israeli insults as they went through a model gas chamber and crematorium. The men were eventually separated from the group.

Israeli Immigrants Overtake Argentines

WINNIPEG — Despite the Winnipeg Jewish community's efforts to attract Argentine Jews, figures from the city's Jewish Family and Child Service show Israelis have overtaken them as the largest group of Jews coming here from outside Canada.

In the first six months of 2004, 42 out of 78 Jewish families who immigrated to Manitoba's capital were from Israel, while 31 came from South America, Winnipeg's *Jewish Post & News* reported. Most of the Israelis cite job security as a chief reason for coming, while some "just want a calmer place to be," said Faye Rosenberg-Cohen, director of planning for the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg/Combined Jewish Appeal.

Rosenberg-Cohen said the federation doesn't do anything to encourage Israelis to come, but it also doesn't turn them away if they show interest. She added she doesn't know if the Israeli influx will keep up, "but over the next six months at least, the vast majority of immigrants will be from Israel."

The Winnipeg Jewish community has been actively recruiting Argentine Jews as part of a plan to increase its population from about 15,000 to 18,000 by 2010. Rosenberg-Cohen said the number of newcomers from the troubled South American country is down lately because many of the "large number" who applied over the past two years to come have already arrived. Like other Jewish arrivals, she said, the Israelis are coming under a Manitoba program that speeds up immigration for those with skills needed in the province.

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Troubled Jewish youth make pilgrimage to Israel

Special trip aims to break cycle of despair and encourage aliyah

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

Trip participants and escorts gather under a Jewish Agency for Israel banner prior to leaving for the Jewish state last week. [Ron Csillag photo]

"I'm pretty pumped," announces Rachel Danzinger, 18, while chewing gum and sipping coffee. "I feel good, man."

Now "in between" high schools, Rachel lives on her own and is, as she puts it, "working hard at life." She was raised "always knowing I was Jewish. We celebrated the major holidays, but not much else."

Standing at the frenzied El Al counter at Toronto's Pearson International Airport, she knows she's about to embark on a journey of a lifetime.

However, she's outwardly blasé about her long trip this day to Israel. "I'm looking forward to it but it'll be kind of like a vacation," she shrugs.

But a needed one. The point of the tour Rachel is taking with 11 other Jews aged 17 to 24 is, at least until their return on Aug. 26, not only to experience Israel and promote aliyah, but to break the cycle of despair that many of the participants find themselves in.

This trip to Israel – dubbed "From Darkness to Light" – is like no other. Perhaps the first of its kind in the world, it's geared to young, local Jews with a history of substance abuse, homelessness, spotty school records, trouble with the law and problems with parents. They have flown below the Jewish community's radar not because they lack Jewish identity – all are eager to see Israel – but because their troubles have made them almost invisible.

Continued on page 6

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Volunteer remembered for her willingness to help others

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Aviva Barth, 30, who was recently killed in an accident while scuba diving at Big Bay Point on Lake Simcoe, truly knew the meaning of giving back to the community, says her sister Jennifer.

When growing up in Guelph, says Barth, her sister Aviva, a Toronto consultant with the firm Bearing Point, was part of Canadian Jewish Congress Ontario region's outreach program for high school students in smaller communities.

"She enjoyed it so much, that four years ago she began volunteering with the program so she could help give other teens the same experience."

Being part of that group changed Aviva's whole Jewish life, says Barth.

"We had a Jewish upbringing, but not everyone around us was Jewish. This group was made up of kids with similar backgrounds. It brought people together."

Judaism was a major part of Aviva's life, says Barth. "She would go to synagogue and remark that people around the world are doing the same thing. She found that incredible."

Fauna Mandel-Grill, co-ordinator, community services and youth outreach, with the Regional Jewish Communities of Ontario, says the two met when Aviva began volunteering with the program.

"She was not only a dedicated volunteer, but she was a good friend. She always had the time to attend Shabbatons and be there for the kids. I had already booked her for a weekend in October.

"She did it because she believed in what we did, and she knew the importance of meeting other people in the same situation. This is a huge loss to everyone, including the kids in the small communities."

Noah Wagner, Aviva's boyfriend of eight months and a diving instructor, says that Aviva took part in last week's dive as part of a certification course. "We had booked a trip to Israel to visit family at the end of the summer, and we had also planned to do some diving in Eilat.

"She wanted to share diving with me, because she knew how passionate I am about it."

Aviva had just completed her second dive of the day, says Wagner, and after she floated up, a boat sped by and hit her. "[Another instructor] and I tried to revive her; we did everything we were trained to do, but her injuries were too massive."

Aviva Barth was recently killed in an accident while scuba diving.

Wagner says, "The word tragedy just doesn't describe what happened.

"Aviva was unique, full of life, and everyone was her best friend. They sought her advice and wanted to hear her opinion. She was generous, giving and endlessly beautiful."

She also argued for what she knew was right, says Wagner. "She once challenged some protesters in front of the Israeli Consulate, and they had no comeback."

Insp. Tom McDonald, media officer for the South Simcoe police, says police are still trying to determine the identification of the vessel that struck Barth, and are seeking any potential witnesses.

Memorial donations can be made to United Israel Appeal earmarked for the Aviva Barth High School Outreach Fund, Regional Jewish Communities of Ontario, 416-636-7655, ext. 0, or mail to the fund c/o United Israel Appeal, 4600 Bathurst St., third floor, Toronto, M2R 3V2.

From the editor's desk **Will Return**

SeeJN

BRIS FOR CUBAN BOY: The Canadian Friends of Cuban Jewry (CFCJ) recently organized a circumcision for one of the younger members of Cuba's Jewish community, a boy named Ariel. A mohel specializing in adult circumcision was flown in especially for this occasion. Pictured are Ariel with CFCJ director Rabbi Shimon Aisenbach, who is holding a sign proclaiming the boy's new Hebrew name, and Ariel's parents. Just prior to the bris, the CFCJ sent its 86th mission to Cuba, primarily for the summer camp it runs each year for Jewish children in Havana.

Life insurers change policies on travel to Israel

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

A number of options appear to be developing for travellers concerned about being denied life insurance coverage if they visit Israel.

Manulife Financial, the largest life insurance company in Canada and fifth largest in the world, has tentatively agreed to write policies with an exclusion clause that will not void coverage for those who visit Israel, according to financial adviser David Brown.

In addition, Brown's family firm, Al G. Brown & Associates, is working with a large international insurer based in the United States to agree to write a policy with an exclusion clause that would not cover death due to terrorist attack while on a visit to Israel.

Pursuing yet another track, Brown said, "We're trying to get agreement from the reinsurance community that travel to Israel is not an excessive risk."

Since the outbreak of the Palestinian intifadah in September 2000, life insurance companies have denied coverage to new applicants – the new rules did not affect those who had already obtained life insurance coverage – if they indicated they had visited Israel or intended to visit in the next year. Policies were also denied travelers to North Korea, Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Syria.

Reinsurance companies, such as Swiss Re and Munich Re, which assume most of the risk in life insurance policies, had determined that travel to Israel added a risk they did not want to cover, Brown said.

Since reinsurers are generally responsible for most of the payouts for successful claims, and since they dwarf most Canadian life insurers in size, they called the shots when it came to issuing these policies, Brown said.

Earlier this year, Marlene Klassen, a spokesperson for Canada Life, said, "We adhere strictly to the foreign residence guidelines of our reinsurance companies, who research and update these guidelines several times per year. Political unrest is only one of the reasons contributing to substandard and uninsurable foreign travel and residency."

The reinsurers also rely on government travel bulletins warning about dangers in certain countries, she added.

Al G. Brown & Associates has been lobbying the reinsurers to convince them there are no hard data to show travellers to Israel are at added risk. "I feel if we get one or two reinsurers to agree, then others will fall into line. That's what happened in the United States," he said, where a lawsuit in California prompted some insurers to offer policies up to $1 million if the visit to Israel lasts four weeks or less.

"The process is moving along," he said.

Insurers now seem to accept that the security situation in Israel has improved and the number of Israel-bound travellers "is not huge compared to the international market, so it's not a big risk, really," Brown said.

In the United States, meanwhile, Allstate Life Insurance Co. announced recently it would reverse its position and allow customers who plan to travel to Israel, the West Bank or Gaza to apply for life insurance, the *Chicago Sun-Times* reported.

Allstate was one of 13 insurers alleged in a California lawsuit of carrying on unfair business practice of denying insurance to travellers to Israel. As part of a settlement, Allstate agreed to no longer consider past or future travel to Israel as a condition of issuing life insurance policies. In March, Rep. Rahm Emanuel and three other congressmen introduced legislation that would have prohibited insurers from denying or cancelling policies to customers who had travelled to Israel and 26 other countries on the U.S. State Department's travel warnings list. That bill is pending, the *Sun-Times* reported.

York police arrest suspect in hate incidents

York Regional Police announced late last week that it had arrested an 18-year-old man in connection with hate-related incidents in Markham in late June.

Kassin Cuffe of Markham has been charged with 12 counts of mischief to property over $5,000.

The incidents that led to Cuffe's arrest took place in the early morning hours of June 27 and 28, when more than 25 anti-Semitic and anti-black messages were spray-painted on businesses, homes, cars, fences and railway property in Unionville. The graffiti included swastikas.

Police have asked the Crown Attorney's office in nearby Newmarket to determine whether additional hate crime charges should be laid against Cuffe.

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Greater Toronto Area

Special trip aims to break cycle of despair

Continued from page 3

Gadi Anavi, the bear-like shaliach for the Israel Aliyah Office in Toronto who has spent the better part of the year scouring the city for young people who don't fit the traditional Jewish mould, calls them "kids in the shadows."

"This is very emotional for me," says Anavi. "Not because the program has been a success, but because these kids, if it weren't for us, would never go to Israel. It's a chance for them to hook up with their identity."

By "us," Anavi means himself and Lillian Freedman, a freelance social worker who's dedicated the last five years of her life to finding and housing homeless Jews in Toronto, as well as helping those on the fringes. Last winter, the two got together and began plotting their improbable project.

What the participants on this trip share is a life of turbulence, Freedman says.

"There's been drugs, alcohol, welfare, being shunted from one place to another," says Freedman. "But mainly, they have all felt, at one time or another, a sense of not belonging – to the Jewish community or really anything."

Freedman knows some of the participants; others came aboard by word of mouth after a *CJN* article last April that described the effort. Some, like Joe Anidjar, found out about the trip through Jewish Family & Child Service, where they have been clients.

Anidjar, 21, stands out among a group of fellow male travellers who wear wispy beards, clunky silver jewelry, super-baggy jeans and, in one case, black nail polish.

Anidjar's hair is short and he sports an Israel Defence Forces T-shirt.

"I've always liked to do things on my own. I've lived on my own since I was 19," he says. "And it's been rough. I believe this trip will start my life over."

In fact, he's cleared his calendar for the possibility of staying in Israel for an extended time.

The two-week trip is as ambitious as any tour of Israel from North America. Included are standard tours of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, but there's also an archeological dig, a Bedouin feast, a canoe trip down the Jordan River and lots of free time.

Participants will also be able to tap into counselling, with a view toward making Israel their new home. Should they choose to do that, they'll receive free skills training or high school, life on an all-inclusive absorption centre where they would learn Hebrew, and free undergraduate university classes.

They're being accompanied by Freedman and two other adult escorts.

After some initial funding glitches, the tab for the trip is being picked up by the Jewish Agency for Israel, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and UIA Federations Canada.

As if the scene at the El Al counter wasn't chaotic enough, a group of evangelical Christians came to the airport to see the trip off.

After singing "Give Thanks to the Lord," members of the New Dundee, Ont.-based Return Ministries, which promotes aliyah and travel to Israel, offered their blessings.

"We will pray for you," said ministry director Dean Bye, a well-known Christian Zionist, likening the 12 young travellers to the 12 biblical spies sent by Moses to scout out the land of Canaan.

To keep tabs on the group's progress, visit www.jewishadventures.com/toronto/.

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Strange Decisions

In the space of just a few weeks, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC), the national broadcast regulator, announced two decisions that are at odds with each other and should cause the Jewish community concern.

First, the regulator announced that it would permit the Qatar-based Al-Jazeera news channel, described as the CNN of the Arab world but which is known to air anti-Semitic content and beheadings by Islamic fanatics, to be carried on digital cable TV in Canada. At the same time, the regulator denied entry to RAI International, an Italian general interest television network, and to five other foreign-language services seeking places on the dial.

Then, in a decision that is nothing less than a blow to free speech, it announced it would not renew the licence of CHOI, Quebec City's most popular radio station, because of abusive comments by its popular early-morning host, Jeff Fillion.

While supporters of the CRTC decision on Al-Jazeera will note that the regulator also insisted on numerous safeguards and restrictions – the network's programming must be monitored for questionable content – the principle is clear, and disconcerting.

A broadcaster that has a sordid record of airing anti-Jewish hate comments and has been accused of being a propagandist for Osama bin Laden has a legitimate place on Canadian cable. On the other hand, on-air personalities who adopt a Howard Stern approach to radio entertainment and public affairs, and who employ foul language in doing so, do not.

Canadians, it seems, need not be protected from anti-Jewish rants of Mideastern muftis who accuse Jews of using blood on Purim and Passover, but are sensitive flowers in need of safeguarding from tasteless comments about the disabled or women's breasts.

Al-Jazeera is allowed on Canadian cable, but only with safeguards to monitor speech that might violate the Broadcasting Act. CHOI is given no such alternative. It's shut down, completely, for good.

The CRTC is supposed to be an arm's length, apolitical administrative organization, but its members are appointed by cabinet and buy into the kind of paternalistic thinking that deems Canadians in need of being told what they can and cannot watch. The commission acknowledged that it received 9,417 interventions in favour of CHOI and only 38 opposed. But Fillion has attacked the province's sacred cows. He is a federalist and a libertarian. He supports Israel's right to defend itself. And he is unpopular with Quebec's media elite.

Al Jazeera, meanwhile, speaks to a large and growing demographic of Arab-speaking immigrants whose political clout will no doubt expand in years to come, and whose multicultural credentials stand it in good stead with Ottawa decision-makers.

These decisions ought to trouble the Jewish community.

– P.L.

Setting the record straight – 1

I read the brief news item "Mandel runs for mayor," (*CJN*, Aug. 12), about Stephen Mandel's decision to run for mayor of Edmonton, and I wish him every success. However, you indicated that if Mandel is elected, he would become the second Jewish mayor ever in Western Canada, after Sam Katz, the new mayor of Winnipeg.

I was saddened to see that you had forgotten about the remarkable contributions of the late senator Sid Buckwold, who served honourably as mayor of Saskatoon from 1958 to 1963 and again from 1967 to 1971.

Senator Buckwold was born in Winnipeg in 1916, but spent most of his life in Saskatoon. He was appointed to the Senate in 1971 and made an officer of the Order of Canada in 1995. He died in 2001 at age 84, and is much missed, not only by his friends and family, but by the entire community of Saskatoon, Jews and non-Jews alike.

Naomi Rose
Toronto

* * *

Setting the record straight – 2

You reported in your Aug. 12 edition that Sam Katz, the new mayor of Winnipeg, is the first Jewish mayor in Western Canada. I must beg to differ, as Katz was bested by my grandfather, Samuel Korbin, by almost 90 years. Samuel Korbin was the mayor of Canora, Sask., from 1914 to 1917.

Barry Corbin
Toronto

* * *

Down memory lane

Having grown up in New Waterford, N.S., in the 1950s and '60s, I enjoyed your article, "Rose Schwartz Park opens in New Waterford" (*CJN*, Aug. 12). I can attest to the countless contributions made by Rose and her family to the community. I have fond memories of shopping at the family clothing store, drooling over some of the more elegant ladieswear, anxiously awaiting the end-of-season sales, and, most importantly, observing how customers were treated with dignity and respect. This is a family that has left an indelible mark on their mother's adopted country, and for this we should all be grateful.

Thank you for giving me this trip down memory lane.

Helen (Desveaux) Neufeld
Grande Prairie, Alta.

* * *

Seeking people from Lithuania forest

Emma Karabelnik, 45, a computer specialist living in Israel, is looking for people who may be able to identify the 1,800 names of Jews not already recorded by Yad Vashem who were murdered in the Kausenai Forest just outside Plungyan, now called Plunge, in Lithuania. Her list currently contains nearly 1,000 names.

Karabelnik's efforts will be a valuable contribution to the honouring of the memory of the men, women and children who were shot on July 14 and 15, 1941, by the Germans and their Lithuanian accomplices.

Readers with a Plungyan connection are invited to contact Karabelnik at emma.k@netvision.net.il. The first stage of her work will be completed in September 2004, after which a decision will be made as to how to display the names in Plungyan itself.

Glenda and Abel Levitt
Kfar Sava, Israel

* * *

White Zimbabweans not in vogue

A couple months ago and with little media fanfare, land owned by whites in Zimbabwe was "repatriated." That's dictator-speak for stolen. I waited on the edge of my seat for the impending uproar by the press, as they are so quick to talk about stateless refugees in other conflicts, but not a peep was heard. I was shocked to find that no one cared about Zimbabweans. Well, it's not that no one cared, it's just that they are white.

There is clearly a different standard for whites, Christians and Jews than for certain groups aligned with the interests or sympathies of the press. When Sudanese Christians are slaughtered, no one cares. When white, well-to-do Zimbabwean lives are ruined, no one cares. But when the Palestinian media darlings revise history with their accounts of vanquished home and land, there is always a listener.

This constant and repeated bias must be relinquished. It is of no consolation to the trampled Zimbabwean farmer or dead Sudanese Christian that their plight is not in vogue.

Jonathan Mansoor
Toronto

* * *

Treating eating disorders

Much has been said about the signs and symptoms of eating disorders, yet they remain one of the most difficult health problems to treat. Eating disorders are often believed to be about food and nutrition, when really the issue runs far deeper. They are often a relentless pursuit of thinness in order to dull one's emotional pain.

Treatment requires a multi-dimensional approach, including a qualified, extensively trained registered dietitian, psychiatrist, family doctor and psychotherapist, who work together with the victim.

Emotional support from family, friends and professionals is essential. People with eating disorders need unconditional love, support and empathy. Feelings need to be validated, and trust needs to be rebuilt and maintained.

It is disheartening to note that you do not need any qualifications to provide psychotherapy or to call yourself a counsellor. Despite good intentions, unqualified people give false hope to already vulnerable people. They become yet another person who has let the sufferer down.

Treatment, even from qualified people, is often exceptionally costly. This is particularly sad, as it takes a tremendous amount of courage to seek help at all, only to be met with the realization that it comes at a high financial cost.

Waiting lists for government-funded treatment are long – years even. By that time, sufferers can become even more entrenched in their depression and negative mindset.

The National Eating Disorder Information Centre has listings of accredited psychotherapists, dietitians and programs across Canada. Toronto's Sheena's Place offers support to people with eating disorders, their family and friends.

Joanna Raven
Toronto

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Perspectives

The true path to peace

By JIMMY BITTON

By and large, western political analysts steer clear of criticizing Islam when seeking to explain Muslim hatred toward Israel, for fear of appearing to deviate from the social etiquette of tolerance.

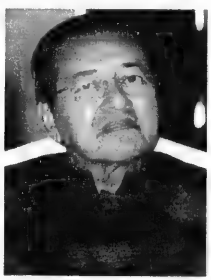
Tolerance is regarded as the best way to protect the liberty of all members of society irrespective of political or religious opinions. But in order to defend our liberty, we must never deceive ourselves into accepting the maxim of unconditional tolerance. Occasionally, we must be intolerant of intolerance. By censuring the Islam of either precept or practice, we run the risk of being labelled Islamophobic; however, the real danger comes from turning a blind eye to the hatred encouraged by the doctrinaire approach to religion so widespread in the Muslim world.

It is not the absence of a plan that has hindered progress toward peace, as is evident in the cries for Israel's destruction prior to the occupation. Take, for example, the 1964 essay written by Abd al-Rahman al-Bazzaz who was a professor of law at the University of Baghdad and a former prime minister of Iraq: "The existence of Israel is a flagrant challenge to our philosophy of life and the ideals for which we live, and a total barrier against the values and aims to which we aspire in the world."

Students burn the Israeli flag at Cairo University during a demonstration March 23. Egyptian students demonstrated in universities across the country in response to Israel's assassination of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the spiritual leader of Hamas. [RNS/Reuters photo]

The world needs to recognize that even if Israel were to make painful political concessions for the sake of peace, the Muslim campaign to destroy it would continue. As alluded to in the notoriously anti-Semitic address given by former Malaysian prime minister Dr. Mahathir Mohammad on Oct. 16, 2003, at the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, "For well over a half-century, we have fought over Palestine. What have we achieved? Nothing. If we had paused to think, we could have devised a plan, a strategy that can win us final victory."

Is a final and lasting peace settlement what the good doctor had in mind with his reference to a "final victory"? What about the sentiments of the Muslim leaders who responded to his speech with a standing ovation? Was it the drumbeats of peace that echoed on that day? I think not. From where does this loathing derive?



Dr. Mahathir Mohammad, former prime minister of Malaysia

The answer to the question may be found by investigating two Islamic principles: *Dar al-Islam* and infidels. From an Islamic perspective, the world is divided into two camps: *dar al-Harab*, lands not yet under Islamic rule; and *dar al-Islam*, lands where Islamic *sharia* (Muslim) law exists. Once under Islamic rule, land remains a part of *dar al-Islam* until Judgment Day. Thus, since the area formerly known as Palestine was once under Muslim control (634-1099 CE), it can never be relinquished.

The second confrontational Islamic teaching is the classification of people as either Muslim or infidel — the latter is further divided into "tolerated" (which includes Jews and Christians who are recognized by the prophet Muhammad as recipients of a divinely revealed scripture), and "not tolerated" (polytheists).

Jews and Christians are granted protection and tolerated under the widely misinterpreted *dhimma* treaty. The theological justification for the creation of this legal status stems from a *Hadith* (tradition relating to the prophet Muhammad), when in 628 CE, the Jewish tribe in Khaybar surrendered to Muhammad and his army under a *dhimma* treaty.

The infidel principle has existed since the time of Muhammad and has largely determined relations between Muslims and non-Muslims ever since.

In the words of renowned scholar and historian Amos Funkenstein, "[From a Muslim perspective], the world has to be politically 'secure' so that no Muslim is dominated by 'infidels.' And infidels, even if they are tolerated [Jews and Christians], are not to occupy positions of leadership in the *dar el-Islam* [*dar al-Islam*]." Muslims have an inherent interest in maintaining their socio-religious supremacy by denying equality to non-Muslims.

In the words of Algeria's first president, "*Ce que nous voulons, nous autres Arabes, c'est être. Or, nous ne pourrons être que si l'autre n'est pas* (What we want, as Arabs, is to be. However, we can only be, if the other is not)."

In view of these radical Islamic teachings, it should be no surprise that the Declaration of the State of Israel sent shockwaves all through the Muslim world.

With Palestine reverted to the Jews, a "vanquished people" had thrown off the yoke of Islam and declared statehood on land considered by Muslims to be an eternal part of *dar al-Islam*. As a result, Muslims were confronted with a theological dilemma to either revise exegetically inspired notions of Muslim supremacy, or to engage in a campaign against Jews in "occupied" Palestine, aimed at reuniting it (a "final victory") with the rest of *dar al-Islam*.

Unfortunately, the response of mainstream Islam to the creation of a non-Muslim state in Palestine has not been reform; instead, Muslims – spearheaded by Arabs – have engaged in a carefully calculated campaign against the Jewish state in an effort to put Muslims back in their "proper place" of advantage. Only when there is major reform of these fundamental Islamic doctrines can peace be achieved.

There are those, such as Egyptian-born political writer and academic, Tarek Heggy and other like-minded Muslims, who struggle for such reform. However, the real onus lies not on them, but on Muslim clerics who would have the task of maintaining the integrity of the Qur'an while reconciling it with modern notions of egalitarianism. More often than not, radical exegetes attack moderates whom they accuse of diluting Islam with secular ideas.

Until the mainstream Muslim world is ready to accept the equal treatment and rights of all human beings, we should not expect to see an end to the Arab-Israel conflict. In the meantime, Islamic intolerance should not be tolerated.

Jimmy Bitton is a Jewish history teacher at Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto and a graduate student at York University.

Shi'ite Muslims burn an Israeli flag during a religious procession in Karachi, Pakistan, in March 2003. [RNS/Reuters photo]

Opinions

The Jewish link in the DNA chain

The death last month of Francis Crick has once again cast the spotlight on the fascinating story behind one of the most important breakthroughs in scientific history – the discovery of the molecular structure of DNA. While Crick's name, along with that of James Watson, will forever be linked with the unravelling of the DNA secret, the race that for them ended in triumph and a Nobel Prize, had, along the way, included other researchers of similarly high intellect and boundless drive.

Lawrence Hart in Hamilton

Among them was a young woman named Rosalind Franklin. Born into an Anglo-Jewish family in 1920, Franklin could trace her paternal ancestry back to the 15th century, with a direct connection to the Imperial Rabbi of Prague. On her mother's side, her great-uncle was Viscount Herbert Samuel, the first British High Commissioner to Palestine.

Until well after she succumbed to ovarian cancer in 1958 at the age of 37, Franklin's name and her pivotal role in defining the structure of DNA went largely unheralded. The reasons are complex, with an undercurrent that graphically reflects the professional jealousies and apparent disdain for women that were ingrained in the scientific community of her day. Her biography, by Brenda Maddox, titled *Rosalind Franklin: The Dark Lady of DNA* (Harper Collins, 2002) is an inspiring read that explores her character in the context of her Jewish roots, her disciplined upbringing, and the various factors that brought her into frequent conflict with some of her co-workers.

It was, in fact, one of Franklin's associates, Maurice Wilkins, whose dislike for her may have paved the way for Watson and Crick's (and his own) success and reduced her to a mere footnote in the annals of scientific enquiry.

What Wilkins did was to show Watson the now-famous "Photo 51," the clearest X-ray diffraction image of DNA available at that time. The template, produced by Franklin, had the helical structure that gave Watson just the evidence he needed to fully construct his DNA model. Franklin was completely unaware of the subterfuge. And since she and Wilkins worked in London, while Watson and Crick were at a competing laboratory in Cambridge, the rationale for Wilkins' unusual action was, to say the least, highly suspect.

Such circumstances notwithstanding, it could still be reasonably argued that the real key to unravelling the elusive "code of life" lay as much in the generation of the helical image contained in Franklin's photograph as it did in Watson's interpretation of it. But whether Franklin's contribution would also have been recognized with a Nobel prize would never be known. Her premature death put an end to any such speculation.

Learning lessons from Machane Yehuda

To my mind, Jerusalem is a window onto Israel as a whole. All the country's woes and wonders, all its incompatibilities and inconsistencies, are packed, in miniature, into its capital: Arabs and Jews; East and West; Islam, Judaism and Christianity; modern and ancient; religious and secular – you name it. The good news is that in spite of (or, rather, in opposition to) the conventional TV view of the city, it actually works pretty well most of the time.

Ross Culiner in Jerusalem

One of my favourite corners of Jerusalem is the Jewish outdoor food market, Machane Yehuda. This colourful spectacle is the ultimate metaphor for where we're at as a people. A survey of the crowd teeming through its laneways on a typical Friday afternoon before Shabbat presents a fairly comprehensive taxonomy of our nation, with its long and varied Diaspora experience.

In this 21st-century manifestation of the biblical vision of the ingathering of the exiles, you'll find Sephardim and Ashkenazim speaking dozens of different languages, with shadings of skin from dark to light and theological positions from fervently anti-Zionist haredi to fervently Zionist secular – all of us, mingling freely and openly, sorting through the same heaps of tomatoes, potatoes, and onions.

Social and religious taboos speak against the nature of many casual interactions and associations that can be seen in the tight quarters of the market. But a simple and essential need common to everyone – feeding our families – fosters a sense of pragmatism and a level of tolerance that in other, less vital situations, might be rare, if not unthinkable.

Perhaps the most visually striking kinds of unintended encounters are when haredi men, traditional black garments and all, end up side-by-side, if not shoulder-to-shoulder, with young women, some of them scantily clad and sporting, not so rarely these days, rings in their lips or ears, and occasionally tattoos on their arms, legs or bellies.

A fastidiously pious individual, who for a full hour or more, if necessary, would remain standing on a city bus rather than sit beside a female soldier in slacks, might find himself, suddenly, in relatively intimate contact with one, and not infrequently with women of other religions and nationalities, too. Strict behavioural guidelines compiled over long centuries in the benign isolation of religious study halls often fail the test of real life in the streets of modern Israel.

There are numerous indications – some directly related to the trials and tribulations of recent times – that, despite manifold internal differences as a Jewish society (not to mention as a society of all of its citizens, whatever their national, religious or ethnic affiliations), we are drawing closer together. Mutual dependence is a powerful inducement for bringing down what are otherwise clearly demarcated social and religious boundaries. Our desperate situation, alas, has driven us deeper into one another's embrace.

At the grisly scenes after bombings, several praiseworthy haredi volunteer associations are often the first to arrive, tending without bias or hesitation to the victims – all the victims, be they female, male, Arab, Jewish, observant or atheist. In overcrowded hospital wards, saving lives and the relief of suffering, not one's headwear, are the only criteria in dispensing treatment. All other mores, credos, principles and beliefs take a back seat to our universal need to pull through these dark ages intact as a society. We Jews have learned once again that, when selecting targets, blind hatred does not make distinctions between our various theological positions.

Like Machane Yehuda, all of Israel is but a tiny, crowded place of astonishing complexity where discordance abounds and social harmony is at a premium. The squabbling will most surely persist, the bitter recriminations and slanderous insults continue to be traded, for years to come.

But it begins with things as simple and straightforward as shopping and dying together in one thin little strip of land. Slowly, the idea will begin to take root that we are all in the same inescapable fix called modern Jewish statehood.

Remaining separate and apart in ghettos was OK for preserving who we were in other people's countries, but it's not so good for shaping who we must be if we are to last in a country of our very own.

Advice to Paul Martin: forget the myths

Even before Prime Minister Paul Martin's new ministers could find their seats, self-proclaimed Middle East experts were giving them unsolicited advice.

Most agreed that under Martin's predecessor, Jean Chrétién, Canada lost influence on the Arab-Israeli conflict and that its policies were ineffective. Canadian officials supervised meetings on the refugee issue and poured money into UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees), while ignoring evidence that Palestinian Authority President Arafat had no interest in a peaceful solution. In United Nations speeches, Canada condemned violence and supported democracy, but in the votes, these principles were forgotten. Hobnobbing with their European and Arab peers, many Canadians took the expedient anti-U.S. and anti-Israel route.

Gerald Steinberg in Jerusalem

For Martin and his new foreign minister, Pierre Pettigrew, the need for a new approach to Israeli-Arab issues should be obvious. Indeed, early on, the new government took a small step away from Europe when it abstained on the UN General Assembly vote endorsing the International Court of Justice's farcical "advisory opinion" on Israel's anti-terror barrier. A "no" vote would have been principled, but the abstention was a step in the right direction.

Looking forward, the new government has an opportunity to reconsider the myths of Canada's Middle East policy, as well as the influence of the people who promote them. A case in point is provided by Michael Bell, a former senior Canadian diplomat in the Middle East who has joined the University of Toronto's Munk Centre for International Affairs.

Bell probably has good intentions, but his analyses, as published by the Canadian Institute for International Affairs and in newspapers columns, show that he doesn't get it. For Bell and his peers, Palestinians are helpless victims while Israel is the "stronger" and perennially guilty party. Their distorted map of the Mideast conflict excludes Hezbollah bases in Lebanon, Iran's nuclear weapons program, and the war still being waged against Israel from Algeria to Syria and Saudi Arabia.

Similarly, Bell filters Israeli responses to bus bombings through politically correct stereotypes (labelling it the "iron-fist approach"), and he refers to Israel's security barrier as a "land grab" and "contrary to international law." This mythology also confuses symptoms of the conflict, such as "settlements," "occupation" and refugees, with the core disease – Arab rejectionism – which Bell ignores.

This line of thinking also patronizingly excuses decades of Palestinian rejectionism and terror as "unavoidable," as if only Israelis leaders are capable of selecting historic compromise over unending confrontation. Bell refers to "communal warfare" (a euphemism for terror and a military invasion) that "broke out" in 1947 and in September 2000, thereby obscuring deliberate choices made by Arab leaders.

Beyond the particulars, Bell's thinking highlights the dangers of "balance" that dominate the approach of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. Although DFAIT officials claim to be "fair-minded" and "principled," the reality is that Canadian policy has been governed by an immoral "balance," in which the distinction between terrorists and victims is lost. Such artificial balance also erases the uniqueness of Israeli democracy in a neighbourhood dominated by military dictatorships and corrupt royal families.

Instead of more of the same, Martin and his team have a chance to use Canada's relative advantage – a reputation for morality – to positive effect in the Arab-Israeli conflict. It's time to end the habit of Canada's diplomats, including Bell, of downplaying incitement and hate speech in the Palestinian, Arab and Iranian media, and the brutality that it encourages. Similarly, Canadian officials have yet to explain their contributions to the disastrous 2001 UN World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa ("A conference against racism that was exploited to promote racism against Israel and the Jewish people," as Canadian Justice Minister Irwin Cotler has noted). Without such an accounting, Canadian diplomats will not have the credibility to preach morality to others.

In particular, Martin's new government and the Middle East would be well-served by a policy that focuses on educating Palestinian and Arab children to reject violence and hatred. Serious "permanent status agreements" and an end to the conflict are still decades away, and clinging to tired myths will not change this.

The Kirshner File

Spectre of Muslim anti-Semitism haunts Europe

In a recent diplomatic tempest in a teapot, Israel's prime minister, Ariel Sharon, triggered an international incident when he urged French Jews to emigrate.

Sharon, referring to the upsurge of anti-Semitic attacks in France since the outbreak of the second Palestinian uprising in September 2000, declared: "If I had to advise our brothers in France, I'll tell them one thing: Move to Israel, as soon as possible."

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Sharon's appeal for aliyah, while strictly in conformity with boilerplate Zionist rhetoric, touched a raw nerve in Paris. French President Jacques Chirac demanded an official explanation and let it be known that Sharon would not be welcome to visit France – the first modern European state to emancipate Jews but also the country where Vichy authorities sent 75,000 Jews to their deaths during the Holocaust.

The furor sparked by Sharon's call to aliyah dented Israel's relations with France, but it soon passed. In retrospect, the brouhaha was symptomatic of a new, disturbing phenomenon that has taken hold in France and parts of western Europe.

Until quite recently, anti-Semitic violence was perpetrated virtually exclusively by white European Christian radicals. But in the past four years, there has been a sea change, judging by a report on anti-Semitism issued by the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia in the autumn of 2003.

Commissioned by the European Union in 2002, following the bombing of a Jewish school near Paris, the report concluded that disaffected Muslim youths of North African extraction were behind many of the anti-Jewish assaults on synagogues, institutions, schools, cemeteries and shops under examination.

To be sure, as the European Union Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia noted in a subsequent report released four months ago, white neo-Nazis continue to play a major role in anti-Semitic incidents. And far right-wing political parties, such as Jean Marie Le Pen's National Front, pander to racism and have belittled the Nazi gas chambers as a "minor detail."

Nevertheless, it's clear that Muslim extremists, influenced by radical Islam, anti-Zionism, the intifadah and their marginal place in society, have informally joined Christian neo-Nazis in attacking Jews.

Muslims have expressed rage against Jews not only on the street, but via the Internet and Arab language media and audiotapes often culled from inflammatory sermons delivered by imams in mosques.

The new spectre haunting Europe feeds on its burgeoning Muslim population, estimated to be 20 million, compared to some 1.7 million Jews.

As of last year, Muslims comprised approximately five per cent of the European Union's population. But if current trends in birth rates and immigration persist, that figure could reach 10 per cent by 2020. And if that happens, Muslims will probably wield increasing influence in such diverse fields as foreign and social policy, perhaps to the detriment of Israel and local Jewish populations.

The countries with the highest concentrations of Muslims are France (five million vs. 600,000 Jews), Germany (3.5 million v.s 100,-000 Jews) and Britain (2 million vs. 250,000 to 300,000 Jews).

In France, the vast majority of Muslims hail from Algeria, a former colony that gained its independence in 1962 after 132 years of French imperial rule. But of late, Muslims from Morocco and Tunisia – which were also colonized by France – have migrated to France. Today, Muslim concentrations are found in Paris, Marseilles, Lyons and Lille.

Germany's Muslim community is made up primarily of Turks who were encouraged to come as so-called guest workers and essentially never left. They live in such cities as Frankfurt, Munich, Berlin and Hamburg. Like their Muslim counterparts in France, the Turks of Germany have formed a close-knit network of communal organizations radiating from the mosque.

The earliest migration of Muslims to Britain was from Yemen in the mid-19th century. But in the past three or four decades, Muslims have been immigrating to Britain from three southern Asian nations – Pakistan, India and Bangladesh – and have settled mainly in London, Birmingham, Manchester, Radford and Glasgow.

In all these countries, Muslims have generally established themselves as law-abiding, hard-working, productive citizens. But a handful of malcontents have sullied the image of these peaceful communities, particularly in France and Britain, because of their connections with militant Islam and anti-Semitism.

According to France's interior ministry, incidents of anti-Semitic violence shot up by nearly 60 per cent in the first three months of 2004. Lately, vandals have desecrated Jewish cemeteries in Lyon and Herrlisheim and smeared a shul with neo-Nazi graffiti in Valenciennes. In June, in a Paris suburb, a young man of North African origin, shouting "God is great!" in Arabic, stabbed a 17-year-old Jewish teenager wearing a kippah.

As a result of these incidents, the Jewish community is gripped by a sense of insecurity, if not outright fear, a fact Sharon alluded to in his controversial remarks.

French officials, from Chirac and Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin on down, have condemned these attacks and promised a more vigorous response to anti-Semitism.

At the same time, the government has taken steps to rein in Muslim extremists and promote tolerance and assimilation.

- France has created a national advisory council to encourage the emergence of a moderate strain of Islam.
- France has cracked down on Muslims associated with banned groups such as Al Qaeda. Since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist atrocities in the United States, which galvanized some Islamic fundamentalists, France has expelled dozens of Islamists, including fanatical clerics, who have preached jihad and hatred of "infidels" and who have voiced opinions at odds with the secular and democratic principles of the republic.
- France has also passed a bill, set to take effect next month with the start of the new academic year, banning conspicuous religious symbols – veils, crosses and kippot – in state schools.

Jacques Chirac

Britain, meanwhile, has been rocked by a rash of racist incidents, none of which bode well for relations between Jews and Muslims or reflect brilliantly on Islam, the world's fastest growing religion.

Two years ago, an East Ham Muslim affiliated with the radical Al Muhajiroun movement, was convicted of stirring up racial hatred by distributing leaflets calling on Muslims to kill Jews.

This year, a Muslim man from Edmonton was charged with making threatening and abusive phone calls to shuls in London.

The brother and sister of Omar Sharif, the first non-Arab suicide bomber to infiltrate Israel, currently face charges of failing to disclose information about his plan to attack Mike's Place in Tel Aviv, a bombing that claimed three lives in 2002.

Sir Sigmund Sternberg, one of Britain's leading interfaith activists, recently withdrew an award to Iqbal Sacranie, the newly elected secretary-general of the Muslim Council of Britain, after learning he had accused Israel of "ethnic cleansing." Sternberg described his statement as inimical to dialogue.

Sacranie, who charged Israel with engaging in a "calculated and deliberate" campaign of "creeping genocide" against the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, recently attended a ceremony marking the opening of London's largest Muslim community centre. The guest speaker, a Saudi sheikh named Abdur-Rahman al-Sudais, was a known fanatic. In a fiery sermon in Mecca prior to his London engagement, he denounced Jews as "the scum of the human race, the rats of the world, the murderers of the Prophets and the offspring of apes and pigs."

Having been apprised of al-Sudais' ideology, Jonathan Sacks, the chief rabbi of Britain, cancelled a planned appearance at the centre. But Sacranie saw no reason to pull out or to demand a replacement for al-Sudais.

Since then, the waters have been further muddied by accusations from Al Muhajiroun that Britain's "Jewish lobby" influenced the arrest of Abu Hamza al-Masri, a British citizen of Egyptian background who faces extradition to the United States on charges of terrorism.

Al-Masri, whose sermons at London's Finsbury Park Mosque were filled with invective, had a coterie of admirers ranging from Richard Reid, the shoe bomber, to Zacarias Moussaui, an alleged Sept. 11 plotter.

At a recent House of Commons debate on anti-Semitism, Fiona Mactaggart, a Home Office minister, pledged to keep a close eye on Muslim extremists in Britain like Al-Masri.

In light of a warning by Hebrew University historian Robert Wistrich that "a cascade of hate" against Jews is pouring out from the Muslim world, all European states have a duty and an obligation to exercise vigilance.

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Greater Toronto Area

Office equipment supplier pushes sale of Israel Bonds

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

A Toronto office equipment supplier has hit on an idea that stretches Israel Bonds' double mitzvah program into a triple play.

Under a scheme being advanced by Motek and Gregory Konopny of Office Supercentre, their company will set aside five per cent of its sales for the purchase of Israel Bonds that their customers can donate to charities of their choice, and for which they then receive a tax deduction.

The idea, which was launched in October 2003, builds on Israel Bonds' double mitzvah program, which sees investors purchase Israel Bonds, thereby helping Israel, and donating the financial instruments to charities in lieu of a cash donation, said Motek Konopny, the company president.

Their plan will see the same two mitzvahs achieved, while adding the feature of making it automatic with the purchase of office equipment, he said.

> *'... people feel the need to promote issues that matter to them'*

"It's tremendous added value for clients who sign up to the benefits program," said Gregory Konopny, Supercentre's CEO.

"In these days of ethical business, people feel the need to promote issues that matter to them. Our clients are no different. Many of them already support a number of worthy causes. This benefits program enhances their charitable good-works," said Motek Konopny. "Best of all, it doesn't cost our clients a penny to give more to what they believe in."

He said the idea of linking Israel Bonds, charitable donations and the purchase of office supplies has boosted Supercentre's top line substantially.

Sales have increased by 30 per cent in the privately held company in less than a year. Given the modest size of the company compared to giant competitors such as Grand & Toy, the program has had a "great impact," he said.

Most companies taking advantage of the program are controlled by Jewish businesspeople, he continued, with about half the charities benefiting also Jewish. The United Jewish Appeal, the Jewish National Fund, Mount Sinai Hospital, the Baycrest Centre, Netivot Jewish day school, CHAT, Eitz Chaim and the Hospital for Sick Children are among the recipients of Israel Bonds. Charitable benefactors, who of course are also Supercentre customers, include RioCan Real Estate Investment Trust, Oakdale Golf & Country Club and Atlantic Packaging, as well as a number of real estate developers.

Edward Sonshine, president and CEO of RioCan, said he instructed his office manager to give Supercentre some business and has been happy with the result. In terms of cost and service, Supercentre has delivered, while there is "the additional attraction of the five per cent of sales that get donated to the charity of choice.

"I think it's great... If it works out right, it's a win, win, win situation."

Sonshine, who serves as chair of Israel Bonds of Canada, said he has directed RioCan's donation to the Baycrest Centre, where his wife, Fran, is chair.

Elan Levitan, manager of marketing for Israel Bonds, said in terms of public relations the Konopnys' idea has been quite successful, with dozens of businesses directing bonds to their favourite charities.

While it is too early to quantify the impact on overall bond sales, Levitan hopes "it will be a neat way to remind business leaders of the value of tzedakah (charity) and that Israel Bonds can be used for charitable giving.

"It's definitely precedent-setting in a self-generating way by doing things one would normally do to run a business."

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Together We're Stronger

The line between criticism and anti-Semitism

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

Brian Bethune's "The New Old Hatred," in the Aug. 2 edition of *Macleans*, is a timely overview of the dangerous rise of anti-Semitism disguised as anti-Zionism, which Bethune, a senior staff writer, calls "a new mutation in the old prejudice."

Bethune alludes to the fact that some critics say their legitimate criticism of Israel is often denounced as anti-Semitic as a means of silencing valid discussion. He appropriately rejects this complaint. Bethune writes that "it's relatively easy" to distinguish legitimate criticism of Israeli government policies from illegitimate attacks, including most anti-Zionism – the denial of Jewish national liberation. "Even ardent Zionists, supporters of a Jewish state in the Mideast, can disagree with the policies of current [Israeli] Prime Minister Ariel Sharon," Bethune writes.

But a line is crossed, he says, "by the fact that crazed Jew-haters and anti-Sharon forces often use the same metaphors, drawn from the same deep-pool of ancient twisted imagery." For example, Bethune cites a 2002 editorial cartoon in the Italian newspaper *La Stampa* that showed a baby Jesus facing an Israeli tank and pleading, "Surely they are not going to kill me again?"

The left-leaning British magazine *New Statesman* ran a similar cover story, "A dangerous time to be a Jew," by Simon Sebag Montefiore, on June 28. Montefiore makes many of the same points as Bethune, although in a more urgent manner, given the more tenuous situation of European Jewry.

Writes Montefiore: "For more than a decade now, Israel has been the fashionable bête noire of the chattering classes. The response to Israel in the European media, particularly the BBC and *The Guardian*, has long been prejudiced, disproportionate, vicious [and] often fictitious.

"A typical case of the media's mendacity on Israel was the invented coverage of the Jenin 'massacre' [in April, 2002]… by British news organizations, which were so anti-Israel that they popularized an event that they could not have witnessed, because it had not happened."

He adds later that "in the British media, every Israeli sin is amplified, while those of the Arab world are ignored. The million dead of the Iran-Iraq war, Saddam Hussein's 300,000 victims, thousands more massacred in Chechnya, the Arab militias killing black Sudanese, the torturing Middle East tyrants are ignored… Our media conceal the venom directed at Israel by Arab clerics, television and the Internet, presenting Israeli complaints as propaganda."

Montefiore also makes the crucial distinction between legitimate criticism of Israeli policies and anti-Semitism: "It is not anti-Semitic to criticize Israel. Many of its policies are clumsy, self-defeating, wrong… If criticisms against Israel were based purely on its political faults, no one could complain. Yet, since the first intifada, Israel's critics [have used] hysteria and unreality, holding Israel to standards to which Britain, for one, could never aspire."

Montefiore's piece provides a fitting reply to the notorious, undeniably anti-Semitic cover that the *New Statesman* ran on Jan. 14, 2002. The cover illustration – with the caption "A kosher conspiracy?" – depicted a Star of David piercing the cross of the Union Jack. Following widespread protests, the magazine's editor, Peter Wilby, apologized for the cover, saying: "[T]he *New Statesman* is vigorously opposed to racism in all its forms. But it used images and words in such a way as to create unwittingly the impression that the *New Statesman* was following an anti-Semitic tradition that sees Jews as a conspiracy piercing the heart of the nation." Still, Wilby did not apologize for the accompanying story, which purported to investigate "the power wielded by the Zionist lobby."

It would be encouraging to believe that articles such as Bethune's and Montefiore's have resonated in media circles that have been preoccupied with Israel to the detriment of coverage of more urgent global events. But perhaps it is merely coincidental that traditional offenders, such as the BBC, have recently been paying more attention to events in Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Sudan and other hot spots around the world.

Proportionality – keeping things in perspective – is the key.

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

ISRAEL MYTH & REALITY: The Israel Myth and Reality program took place last month. Twenty-one Jewish day-school educators participated in the summer study program, which was sponsored jointly by the UJA Federation, the Jewish Agency for Israel, Partnership 2000 and the Jewish National Fund (JNF). Each of the co-sponsors focused on a different aspect of what comprises the Israel of 2004 and worked closely with the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto Board of Jewish Education (BJE) to produce the program. The Jewish Agency portion, which centred on Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, examined Israel's historical and cultural legacy and the birth of the modern state at Tel Aviv's Independence Hall on May 14, 1948. Partnership 2000, which links Jewish communities in the Diaspora with those in Israel, allowed some participants to work with disadvantaged Eilat youth. Combining appreciation of both the land and its peoples, the JNF portion of the trip included a visit to Ilan Ramon's grave, a mini-lecture on the Druze community and a visit to the beautiful Lake Agmon Nature Reserve in the Galil's Hula Valley. Most of the participants in the program are general studies teachers from 10 day schools affiliated with the BJE.

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Media assistant at Stratford Festival loves her job

By JESSICA HELLEN
CJN Intern

Shira Ginsler loves that her job is different every day.

As the media assistant for the Stratford Festival of Canada, Ginsler, 25, spends her time writing press releases, collecting and editing artists' biographies, setting up media interviews for actors, taking photographs and pitching story ideas to newspapers.

She said her job is "cyclical to the theatre schedule," which runs from April to November, but she works all year long.

Ginsler, who was born in Toronto and grew up in Kitchener, studied cultural management at the University of Waterloo.

During her last semester at Waterloo, a guest speaker from the Stratford Festival came to talk to the students in her arts-writing course. The speaker gave Ginsler's teacher a job description for a four-month summer position with the festival.

Ginsler applied, got the job and started work. While she was there, another employee unexpectedly decided to leave. At the end of the summer, Ginsler was hired to stay on full time.

Now, she has been a media assistant for the Stratford Festival for two years.

Ginsler said her friends and family are "thrilled and impressed" with her job. "My family thinks it's great. My grandmother and parents love to come to Stratford."

In high school, Ginsler was in a specialized arts program and "did a lot of performing" in plays, she said.

Once she decided to get involved in the behind-the-scenes aspect of theatre, and began planning and organizing productions, she realized that her days of acting were over.

"I really enjoyed [what I was doing]," she said. "I was getting better and better at it."

A friend of Ginsler's suggested she pursue a career in arts administration, a field Ginsler was unaware of. "I had no idea there was such a thing," she said.

Ginsler said being young doesn't get in the way of doing her job, but does sometimes make it difficult, and a bit lonely, for her to live in Stratford. "There aren't many people that work here in Stratford who are my age," she said.

Despite that, Ginsler said she is happy at work and, at the moment, "can't imagine leaving. I guess I'll be here until it's time to move on.

"I love being part of the Stratford Festival. I [used to] come with my family and with school every year. It's really nice to be part of something I was already familiar with and admire so much."

Ginsler said there is no Jewish community in Stratford, but there are other Jews at the festival, mostly in the acting company. "Being Jewish in Stratford just means that you go elsewhere to practise Judaism.

"I go back to Kitchener for holidays. I don't know what it would be like to grow up Jewish here, but most of the people at the festival grew up in larger places and have met Jews before, so I don't get strange questions or funny looks."

Ginsler begins each workday by clipping articles from the local daily newspaper, the *Stratford Beacon Herald*, as well as from the *London Free Press*, the *Toronto Star* and the *Globe and Mail*.

"Then I go all over the place and talk to different people about different things. I co-ordinate," she said.

"Yesterday, before the matinee, I was out with the digital camera taking pictures of the 'fanfare' musicians for one of the newsletters."

Instead of turning lights off and on, to indicate to the audience that intermission is over, Ginsler said, fanfare musicians blow their trumpets at the Festival Theatre, one of Stratford's three theatres.

Ginsler said in the future she would like to work for a symphony orchestra, or an opera or dance company. "I'd love to try different things."

When Ginsler studied arts administration at school, she said the focus of her program was on fundraising, not on media relations.

"I'm learning this as I go along," she said. "At first, it certainly was [challenging], but eventually I got the hang of it."

Shira Ginsler, 25, the media assistant for the Stratford Festival of Canada, says that being Jewish in Stratford means that "you go elsewhere to practise Judaism," as Stratford doesn't have a Jewish community.

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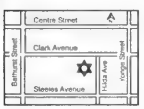

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Jewish Life

Ours is definitely to question why

By RABBI MARK FRIEDMAN

Recently, a friend of mine spoke to me after Shabbat morning services about a problem he was encountering. He was taking a Jewish studies class, and each time he would ask a question concerning the meaning behind a commandment or why we Jews conduct ourselves in a certain fashion or do things in a certain way, the instructor, a very observant man, would avoid the question. He would say something to the effect that a Jew should not pose such queries or that it is more important to observe the mitzvot than to understand the reasons behind them.

Rabbinic Reflections

These responses did not satisfy my friend. He told me he could not believe that we are not permitted to utilize the innate sense of reason bestowed upon human beings by our Creator to try to understand and explicate His commandments. I encouraged my friend in his search. I told him he was following in the footsteps of a great Jewish leader and scholar, Moses Maimonides.

Here are the words of Maimonides, as found in the *Guide for the Perplexed* (3, 31): "There is a group of human beings who consider it a grievous thing that causes should be given for any law; what would please them most is that the intellect would not find a meaning for the commandments and prohibitions... For they think that if those laws were useful in this existence and had been given to us for this or that reason, it would be as if they derived from the reflection and the understanding of some intelligent being. If, however, there is a thing for which the intellect could not find any meaning at all and that does not lead to something useful, it indubitably derives from God; for the reflection of man would not lead to such a thing. It is as if... man were more perfect than his Maker; for man speaks and acts in a manner that leads to some intended end, whereas the deity does not act thus, but commands us to do things that are not useful to us... But He is far exalted above this; the contrary is the case – the whole purpose consisting in what is useful for us."

Maimonides declares his view on this topic even more clearly in his great work on Jewish law, the *Mishneh Torah*. In it, he directs his readers to "seek out the reasons for all the commandments" (Laws of Trespass, VIII,8). Maimonides cautions his readers that all of the laws are to be obeyed, even if we fail to understand or rationalize them. Nonetheless, it is incumbent upon us, Maimonides states, to attempt to penetrate to the essence and real motives of the laws of the Torah. I would add, and I believe Maimonides would agree, that it is also possible that the more we learn about the world and its inhabitants, the more likely it is that we may achieve a new and broader understanding of the commandments and their meaning for us today.

Maimonides makes another very cogent point. He maintained that by discovering the reasons for the commandments, we discover the universal foundations that underlie them. The other peoples of the world can learn to appreciate the wisdom of the Torah and thus the name of God becomes sanctified in the world. When we show that the laws and statutes have rational significance, we cause the name of God to be sanctified and draw positive appreciation of our Torah from the entire world.

Rabbi Mark Friedman is a hospital chaplain affiliated with the Cummings Jewish Centre for Seniors and rabbi of Congregation Sha'ar Shalom in Montreal.

Singer's 100th birthday

***Gimpel the Fool to the Letter Writer* by I. B. Singer, Library of America, $35 US.**

***A Friend of Kafka to Passions* by I. B. Singer, Library of America, $35 US.**

***One Night in Brazil to the Death of Methuselah* by I. B Singer, Library of America, $35 US.**

Books

Bernard Baskin

This summer, Isaac Bashevis Singer, who died in 1991, would have celebrated his 100th birthday. These three volumes of his collected short stories, as well as a number of special events in his honour across North America, mark the occasion.

Singer arrived in the United States from Poland in 1939 and began a writing career of prodigious energy and output that led to widespread acclaim and readership and the Nobel Prize for literature in 1978. It was the first time, and undoubtedly the last time, that the award would be presented to a Yiddish writer.

In his Nobel lecture before an august audience, Singer asserted: "People are asking me often, why do you write in a dying language? And I want to explain it in a few words. First, I like to write ghost stories, and nothing fits a ghost better than a dying language. The deader the language, the more alive is the ghost. Ghosts love Yiddish; they all speak it.

"Secondly, I believe in resurrection. I'm sure that the Messiah will soon come, and millions of Yiddish-speaking corpses will rise from their graves on that day, and their first question will be, 'Is there any new Yiddish book to read?'"

One aspect of Singer's work that has aroused both unusual interest, as well as dispraise, is the realm of the occult or the supernatural.

In one of his stories, a rich stranger, who showers the poor town of Frampol with fine foods, gorgeous clothes and gold, turns out to be Ketev Mriri, chief of the devils; and the entire town is burned to the ground as werewolves, imps, demons and hobgoblins descend from the sky. Strange creatures appear from nowhere; people are possessed or corrupted by demons.

It is no wonder that Singer's volumes of children's stories are so successful. He infuses the familiar fairy-tale motifs with the folklore of eastern European Jewry. There are all the supernatural elements: dream castles with silver roofs and crystal towers; golden lockets; pieces of chalk with magical powers; and spicy rolls mixed with powerful poison, but Singer gives it all a distinctly Jewish flavour. When good triumphs over evil, it is usually with the help of the Kabbalah.

Asked about his reliance on folklore, Singer said, "If you walk in the street, you know that you are not invisible, you are going to be seen. If you have no wings, you know you cannot fly. But folklore gives you wings, give you the little cap that makes you invisible, gives you little boots, so you can walk seven miles in a second. This appeals immensely to our human emotions. Folklore doesn't give a hoot about the mind. It works only for your feelings. And this to me is the essence of art... In my case I use Yiddish folklore – the folklore I heard in the house where I grew up."

A recent editorial in the *Jewish Forward* – the newspaper in which almost all of Singer's writings were first published – commented on the anniversary with these words: "The world of prewar eastern European Jewry is fading from living memory into history. When the last survivors have gone, the memories will live more vividly because of Singer. He may not have been the most accurate portraitist, or the most popular among his peers and subjects, but he is the one who has left the stamp on the wide world for all of them. Time and dictators leave a mark on the world, but writers – including Singer – will have the last word. For this, we honour them."

Jewish Life

Bar/bat mitzvahs for special needs kids

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

At the best of times, planning a bar or bat mitzvah is a time of joy – and stress – for everyone involved. But if the child preparing for the big day also has special needs, it can make the celebration daunting – and for some families, impossible.

Today, I would like you to meet some amazing young people, who along with their dedicated families, found ways to celebrate their Jewish coming of age.

In *A Bat Mitzvah for Jenny*, Marlena Thompson tells of the challenges of being the mother of an autistic daughter – while coping with a system that only made things harder for them. Thompson realized having a standard ceremony with Jenny being called up to the Torah would have little meaning for her daughter. She felt it would be more appropriate to celebrate during the havdalah ceremony marking the end of the Sabbath. The light of the candle, the taste of the wine, the aroma of the spices would be just right to inspire Jenny. But when their rabbi refused to be part of the unconventional ceremony, Thompson planned it herself in a local hotel.

"Gazing at my daughter's lovely face, luminous with the joy of achievement, and hearing her remark, 'Being Jewish smells like oranges and cinnamon,' I had no doubt that [the prophet] Elijah had indeed made his way to our self-styled sanctuary. His presence would be a fitting tribute to the sanctity of innocence and my unwavering belief that, differences and disabilities notwithstanding, God simply does not make mistakes." **[www.beliefnet.com/story/47/story_4772_1.html]**

For more stories about special children and their special families, go to the Council for Jews with Special Needs website. **[www.cjsn.org/articles.shtml]**

One of the heroes in developing programs for children with special needs is Judith Edelman-Green. Edelman-Green is director of Israel's Bar/Bat Mitzvah for the Special Child program. **[www.jrep.com/Israel/Article-45.html]** Established in 1995, the program has helped more than 1,500 children youngsters celebrate their special day. The program is run by Israel's Masorti (Conservative) Movement but children from all backgrounds are welcome. Edelman-Green says, "Although a child may be limited physically or mentally, he or she need not be limited spiritually." **[www.masorti.org.il/mason/have/bm_special.html]**

Leslie Kessler feels parents should consider an important question before they embark on the challenge of preparing a child with special needs for a bar or bat mitzvah. The speech therapist says families need to ask themselves whether this is "'what's best for the child, or do I really want this for me?' because many of these children can't tell you if they don't want this. Parents need to take a very careful inventory of their child's abilities." **[http://tinyurl.com/6p782]**

Becca Hornstein planned a bar mitzvah for a son with autism. She is also executive director of the Council for Jews with Special Needs, in Phoenix, Ariz., and has advice for families who want to modify the ceremony to match the strengths and limitations of their children: **[http://tinyurl.com/4nnuw]**

• Child cannot learn to read Hebrew: Write the "script" in transliteration (phonetic English) or prepare an audiotape with all the prayers in Hebrew in English.

• Child cannot verbalize: A boy who was profoundly multiply disabled and had absolutely no communications skills "sat on his father's lap, his fingers lovingly curled around the wooden handles of the scroll, as his father chanted the Hebrew in his son's honour."

• Child cannot stay in one place for long: Hornstein tells the story of one hyperactive boy's bar mitzvah. Knowing that he might wander during the Shabbat service, the rabbi said, "Today is Ben's day. The entire chapel is his bimah, and he can move in it as he wishes [to] communicate with God in his way. **[http://ici.umn.edu/products/impact/143/over09.html]**

Speaking of doing things a bit differently, sometimes the right timing – and location – for the ceremony can make all the difference in the world. When Brian David was called to the Torah to celebrate his bar mitzvah, "on hand were Brian's parents, two sisters, brother and family friends, as well as almost 600 of his closest friends – the campers and staff of Camp Ramah in Canada." At 21 years of age with Down syndrome, Brian was also a veteran of the camp's tikvah program for children with special needs. When Brian was 13, his parents had decided to forgo a formal ceremony, "but now that he had a community of his own, with a congregation that welcomes him just as he is, we decided to have a bar mitzvah where Brian is both loved and respected." **[www.campramah.org/news/Brians_Song.html]**

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

Being there, with God

By ELLIOTT MALAMET

It's Friday night in the Nachlaot neighbourhood of Jerusalem, in – literally – an underground shul with the ambience of a bomb shelter. Here at Congregation Kol Rinah, Jewish spirituality is always tuned to a Carlebachian pitch, and the scene is almost surreal. Fervent men and women – ex-hippies, Bratslavers, New Agers, leftover Shlomo devotees, and assorted others, many of them dressed in pure white – stand wall to wall, and the singing is high-decibel. Men are dancing, and some are jumping up and down like headbangers in a mosh pit. Many are beaming, and a few are crying. A young blind man with a cane is shuffling around the bimah. The scene is almost Pentecostal in flavour, and nothing like the emotional restraint in the synagogues of my youth – and, alas, my adulthood. The service runs more than two hours. By the time I leave, I am sweating. And I am reminded of why I pray, especially as the High Holy Days approach.

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Prayer, as Rabbi Abraham Heschel states, should be an attempt to ask ultimate questions and make contact with an ultimate source of being. To inhabit this "zone" of prayer, we must shift from the domain of "having" into "being."

"Having" is characterized by acquisitiveness. It is not simply about wanting material possessions, it's a craving that extends into vast range of different fields. We "have" people – husbands, wives, friends, children. We "have" knowledge, admiring our possession of information or know-how. We "possess" our bodies, our life, even our afterlife.

Religion, too, eventually falls into this realm of "having," for we organize our spiritual lives along similar lines. To push off our anxieties about the deepest existential questions – Why am I alive? What is the purpose of living? How do I confront my own mortality? – we surround ourselves with the realm of "having." A religion that cannot address these deepest questions is no more than a system of ritual. Prayer is designed to operate within the realm of "being," a realm that focuses entirely on asking meaningful questions and seeking out God. If prayer remains trapped inside of "having," it is as though it is imprisoned in a foreign place, and its effectiveness will be severely contained.

"Being" is life stripped of social constructions and reorganized according to its essential terms – mystery, awe, silence, wonder. Judaism, like other faith systems, is an organized response to mystery, and prayer is part of that response. "Being" is vertical. It dictates that life must be thought of as a process of asking and coming to terms with the questions noted above. Often in our society, anyone who dwells on such questions is regarded as "morbid" or "dreamy" and is assigned a place on the margins of life, in a niche carved out for eccentrics, philosophers and monks.

Ultimately the goal of the Torah, as Maimonides states, is an absolute preoccupation with the source of all things. Being is thus, in theological terms, the place where God lives.

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Israeli teens experience Toronto camp life

Partnership 2000 brings Eilat youth to Centre Camp

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA Federation

Thanks to UJA Federation's Partnership 2000 (P2K) initiative, the Bathurst JCC's Centre Camp has a decidedly Israeli flavour this summer. P2K is designed to develop professional and personal connections between the people of Eilat/Eilot and Toronto.

For the first time in its 17 year history, P2K organizers recently hosted three youngsters from Toronto's twinned community of Eilat at the camp, where they took part in its Counselor-in-Training program. Their two-week visit wrapped up earlier this week.

While the three Eilat youths were officially considered campers, they were also involved in leadership workshops and training seminars at the camp.

For 15-year-olds Phillip Grace and Stav Orr, as well as Shirlee Levy, 16, who were accompanied by their chaperone, Ofra Boaron, their first sojourn to Canada was hardly a disappointment.

"There is nothing like this for us in Eilat. They have camps for younger kids, but nothing for children of our age," said Levy, who is involved in a number of youth groups in Eilat. "When they asked me if I wanted to go to Canada, I screamed 'yes, of course I do'! The environment in Toronto is so beautiful; it's so green, especially compared to Eilat. But it's also such a big city, about two-and-a-half million people. Eilat has only 60,000 people. It's very different, but also so beautiful."

While all three acknowledged that they quickly made friends with the Toronto campers, there was one noticeable and bittersweet difference between the two cultures.

"Maybe it's because we come from Israel, but I feel that we are older than the Toronto 15-year-olds," said Grace. "In Israel we need to grow up much faster than the kids do here. We have to get ready to go in the army in two or three years. We really don't have that much time just to have fun and be children. Life is obviously much harder in Israel than in Toronto."

For Kevin Knopman, Centre Camp's assistant director, the visit by the Israelis to the camp is part of a new mandate.

"At Centre Camp this year we've really tried to significantly expand our connection with our friends in Israel, and through this P2K initiative, we've really succeeded," said Knopman who recently visited Eilat and then found Canadian families willing to house the youngsters during their stay here. "As much as they've been influenced by our community, they have touched us as well. They are terrific ambassadors for Israel and we hope that when they return to Eilat, they'll be great ambassadors for Toronto and Centre Camp."

(l-r) Shirlee Levy, Stav Orr, and (kneeling) Phillip Grace, teens from Eilat, recently enjoyed camp life at the Bathurst JCC's Centre Camp.

legacy of life

Ben Schneider 1912 - 2004

There are many types of people in the world and it takes a special character to be able work well with all of them.

Ben Schneider was such a man. Whether he was helping settle immigrants and refugees into the United States after World War II, soliciting funding for Jewish communal services, or planning a cemetery that would be all-inclusive, Ben knew how to bridge the gaps.

"One of the best things Ben brought to the community was his ability to work with a large range of leadership personalities," recalls Ben's longtime friend Jerome D. Diamond, a former executive director of Toronto's Jewish Family and Child Service. "You have very fussy people and you have people who use their community involvement to boost their status. Ben involved all orthodox schools instead of having every little *shteibel* do their own thing. Women had emerged as leaders in business and Ben was alert and sensitive to that. He had a shopping list of what a modern functioning Jewish communal system should look like and feel like, and he used his people skills to make it happen."

Ben, who died earlier this year at the age of 92, devoted his whole life to helping others. Born in New York City to what his son Kal describes as a "less than affluent family," Ben knew from an early age that he wanted to do for others and pursued a Masters of Social Work from Fordham University. While completing his education, Ben was assigned to work at New York's 125th Street office of the Department of Public Affairs. His boss was a woman named Mary Swit Diamond – Jerome's late first wife – and she instantly saw great potential in the young man from the Lower East Side.

"My wife had an entire white staff catering to the black community, so she wanted to encourage some of her black female clients to go back to school and qualify as social workers," says Jerome, who used to play handball with Ben at New York's 92nd Street Y. "Even though Ben already had a heavy caseload, he welcomed the opportunity to train these women."

Soon after, Ben took on a post at the United Service for New Americans in New York to help settle Jewish Holocaust survivors in the U.S., a step that would mark the beginning of his lifelong devotion to the Jewish community. There he was, trying to help people fit into American society when they had just lost their homes and their families in the cruelest of ways. He felt moved at every encounter and never forgot their pain.

Ben & Estelle Schneider

"That job really affected my father," says Kal. "He recognized that these were people in need. He had people sitting across from him who had only a duffel bag."

Ben took a number of positions at Jewish communal organizations in Boston, Miami and Cleveland, and in 1959, he became director of social planning for the United Jewish Welfare Fund (UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's predecessor organization). He later took over as director.

Ben was insistent that women take on leadership roles in the community and stand "side by side with men without any *chochmas* (arguments) about it," says Jerome. He became a tough-minded fundraiser and "absolutely relentless in setting fundraising goals and putting teams in place to deal with the issues." He believed that fundraising was a community affair and brought together all branches of Toronto Jewry to make it happen. His efforts paid off in the form of UJA Federation's endowment fund (now the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto) and the all-inclusive Pardes Shalom Cemetery.

"What impressed everybody was the absolute fairness in the way Ben set up the cemetery," says Jerome. "He designed a modern cemetery system with the reputation as being the best in North America. That's the kind of guy you're dealing with."

Still, Ben never let his public life take him away from his family. He was a loving father to Kal and his sister Margaret, taking them on day trips to the country or tobogganing in the park, teaching them to bike and skate, or shooting hoops with them on the driveway. And the avid golfer was completely devoted to his wife Estelle, who died four months before him after more than 60 years of marriage.

"My Dad was phenomenally smart," says Kal. "He was able to convince people that the right thing – his ideas – were their ideas and he didn't have an ego to get in the way. He was the kindest, gentlest person who did the job that had to be done and didn't need any recognition."

Margaret, a psychology professor in Toronto, says that growing up with an activist father made it a natural for her to involve herself in helping others, too.

"Dad was my role model in a really unobtrusive kind of way – by the way he lived, not by anything that he said," she says. "He never said to me, 'It's good to be an activist' or 'This is valuable work.' He just did his work and demonstrated through it some of the values he held, like the importance of community and the importance of activism and the importance of working for people who are less advantaged than we are. It just made it an integral part of my life. That's what you do."

Legacy of Life is a presentation of the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto to honour the memory of those who were exceptionally devoted to the community.

Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto
UJA Federation

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Holocaust survivors prefer to live in Toronto

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA Federation

According to a recent study, the Greater Toronto Area is home to more than half of the 23,660 Holocaust survivors living in Canada.

The report, published by UJA Federation and UIA Federtations Canada, is based on data collected from the 2001 census, and was written by Charles Shahar, chief researcher, national demographic study on the Jewish population of Canada.

The report cites 12,815 Holocaust survivors living in the GTA, representing 54.2 per cent of Canada's survivor population, compared to 6,795 in Montreal, or 28.7 per cent.

"Toronto's large percentage of survivors can be traced to Toronto's influx of elderly Jews from other parts of Canada and other countries in the last several years," says Shahar.

"Many of these seniors may have wished to join younger family members already living in this metropolitan area," he notes. "It is likely that their numbers increased the total survivor population in Toronto, or at least made up for the losses experienced through attrition."

Holocaust survivor Michael Rosenberg, 78, a resident of Toronto since 1948 when he came to the city from Germany, says that Toronto was – and continues to be – the perfect setting for Holocaust survivors.

"The centrality of Jewish life, Jewish education, and Jewish organizations in Toronto made me, a survivor, feel welcome as a Jew immediately," he says. "Throughout the 56 years I have been here, I can honestly say that Toronto has been a city that because of its supportive Jewish community, has helped survivors of the Holocaust rebuild their shattered lives and, for this I can say, we are all truly grateful."

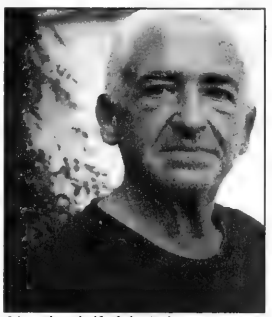
While Toronto has been good to Holocaust survivors, adds Rosenberg, the relationship has been beneficial to both sides.

"Holocaust survivors that I speak to through the UJA *landsmanshaften* (societies) know that it is their duty to support our community and to do whatever they can to foster Jewish education, and support Jewish identity, especially now, in light of the resurgence of anti-Semitism here and around the world."

A disturbing statistic uncovered by the study is that more than a quarter of Toronto's 20,000 Jewish poor are 65 years of age or older. Nearly 6,000 elderly people in the Jewish community live below the poverty line, which translates to one in five seniors.

"Seniors who live in poverty are an especially vulnerable group," says Shahar. "A gap in support services or an inability to access necessary supports can have a major impact on the lives of elderly persons who are economically disadvantaged."

According to Eric Kirsh, a social worker and supervisor of rehabilitation services for Toronto's Jewish Family & Child Service, the cost of housing is the biggest factor contributing to the economic woes of seniors.



More than half of the Holocaust survivors living in Canada reside in Toronto.

"Our seniors could definitely benefit from affordable housing – that's what eats up most of their limited incomes," he says. "Unfortunately, people who must ensure that they have a roof over their heads sometimes have to make trade-offs or sacrifices when it comes to other basic necessities."

Holocaust Centre acquires historical treasure

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA Federation

UJA Federation's Holocaust Centre of Toronto recently received a unique and priceless gift of 10 original lithographs, each depicting scenes from an important time in Jewish history.

The 10 original drawings – capturing images of life in the ghetto of Kovno – drawn by artist Esther Lurie, were recently presented to the centre's director, Professor Adam Fuerstenberg.

Despite the almost complete annihilation of Lithuanian Jewry during the Holocaust, Kovno – one of Lithuania's most prominent cities – is perhaps best known for its courageous acts of Jewish resistance. During the three years of internment in the ghetto, the Jews of Kovno – including Esther Lurie - also did what they could to secretly document their lives.

Born near Riga, Latvia in 1913, Lurie had returned to Europe from Palestine for further art study and was visiting her sister in Kovno when the Germans invaded in June 1941. The "Judenrat" (a Jewish council made up of former community leaders) in the Kovno Ghetto asked her, a photographer, and two lesser-known artists to record events in the ghetto. Lurie created over 400 watercolours and drawings, many of which survived, and among these are the 10 donated lithographs she created from rescued drawings. Some of the surviving works were first exhibited in Vienna in 1945 and in later exhibitions in Israel where the artist still lives.

The lithographs were donated by Anya Sorkin, whose mother, Sara Genaite, a professor of political economy at Vilnius University, was with her husband, Misha Rubinson, in the leadership of the Kovno Ghetto resistance and subsequently among the partisans in the area.

"Sara heard me speak during one of our Holocaust Centre events in Toronto, and she approached me after the event," says Fuerstenberg. "She said to me, 'I'm a survivor of the Kovno Ghetto and I have documents you might like. Would you be interested'? Would I be interested? Of course I was interested. Some months later we met again when her daughter Anya gave me these incredible works of art."

According to Fuerstenberg, the originals for these lithographs, which are in surprisingly good condition, were placed in ceramic jars before being hidden or buried in ruins and a cemetery in the ghetto.

"While I'm sure these drawings have a good monetary value, they are really quite priceless," says Fuerstenberg. "They are so unique because they are a very rare, first-hand artistic account of the people and of the horrors of life in the Kovno Ghetto. We plan to make these incredible images the centerpiece of an exhibit about survival and resistance in that ghetto."

One of the ten original lithographs from the Kovno Ghetto presented to UJA Federation's Holocaust Centre of Toronto.

From the Chair

Witnessing Dreams Fulfilled in Israel

By LESLIE GALES
Chair, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

"In France, there is fear in the streets – the Jews are very afraid to travel by subway/trains, to walk in the streets at night, and even during the day."
--Stephen Amar, a recent immigrant from France to Israel

Unfortunately, Stephen's sentiments are not only accurate but also echoed by thousands of French Jews – many of whom, with our help have taken the courageous step of starting new lives in Israel.

Leslie Gales, Chair of the UJA Federation Board, with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in Tel Aviv, as they recently welcomed 200 new olim from France.

"There is no future for Jews in France," adds Stephen. "None at all." But there certainly is a bright future for French Jews in Israel. After visiting Paris in May to assess the unsettling scope of French anti-Semitism and to meet with worried Jews contemplating aliyah, I was privileged, only a few weeks ago, together with UJA Federation president Ted Sokolsky, to see the circle completed.

There we were on the tarmac of Ben Gurion Airport, alongside Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, watching 200 ecstatic olim on a flight from Paris, realize their deepest dreams – a fresh start in Israel. It was a proud moment for the Jewish Agency, our overseas partner, responsible for aliyah for me for Ted and for the entire Jewish people. The Jewish Agency provided the plane, the logistics and the support, but it was the generosity of Jews everywhere, including Toronto, that rescued these well-educated, middle class olim from danger. Now we have to ensure both their successful absorption into Israeli life and the emigration of every French Jew who wants to leave.

Our visit to Israel was fulfilling in many other ways as well. Who would have thought, for example, that UJA Federation's donation of a fire engine to the Eilat Fire Brigade could be so meaningful? Before the arrival of this crucial vehicle, capable of reaching high-rise buildings, Eilat firefighters were forced to rely on a truck from Be'ersheva, more than 200 kilometres away. Now they'll be able to handle occurrences at Eilat's largest hotels. As an Israeli flag was hoisted high above the city, using the fire engine's giant ladder, it became clear that Toronto's gift was a huge source of pride for Eilat.

Toronto's remarkable relationship with Israel's most southern Eilat/Eilot region, through the Partnership 2000 (P2K) program, is based on special bonds of friendship and trust, from which our community and the Eilat/Eilot area are benefiting immeasurably. Now, what if we take our relationship an innovative step further by uniting UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, the Eilat/Eilot municipal administration, non-profit organizations, agencies and schools in an unprecedented partnership? The possibilities are only limited by our imaginations.

Some of the 200 new olim from France recently arrived to a great welcome at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport.

Any questions concerning information or photos that appear on these pages should be directed to jewishtorontonews@ujafed.org

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Greater Toronto Area

How the Holocaust rocked Rush's Geddy Lee

Continued from page 1

From Staracohwice, about an hour south of Warsaw, they, along with many members of both their families, were sent to Auschwitz. Eventually Weinrib was shipped to Dachau in southern Germany, and Rubenstein to Bergen-Belsen in northern Germany. Thirty-five thousand people died in Bergen-Belsen from starvation, disease, brutality and overwork, according to information from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Another 10,000 people, too ill and weak to save, died during the first month after liberation.

Lee told his mother's story to band drummer and lyricist Neil Peart, and "Neil took that sentiment and wrote *Red Sector A*," says Lee.

For a song that's supposed to be set in some unstated, undated future, lyrics such as, "Ragged lines of ragged grey/Skeletons, they shuffle away/Shouting guards and smoking guns/Will cut down the unlucky ones," sound realistic and reportorial. Perhaps it is the music with its pounding drums, chilling guitar and ominous synthesizer that transport the listener to a yet-to-come time and place. But maybe it is simply easier for Lee to deal with this song as metaphor instead of family history.

His parents were interned in a labour camp

Lee was born Gary Lee Weinrib in Toronto on July 29, 1953. His parents had immigrated there in 1947 and opened a discount variety store. (They had reunited after the war and lived in the officers' quarters of Bergen-Belsen after it was turned into a displaced persons camp. They were also among 2,000 couples that married in the camp during the first few months after liberation.

Unlike many Holocaust survivors, Lee's parents did not bottle up or hide their experiences. Lee began hearing the horror stories as early as age eight. He remembers the stress and nightmares the stories triggered. "These were the things that happened to them during the most formative time in their lives. Some people go to horseback riding camp; my parents went to concentration camp," Lee says, trying to explain why stories of Holocaust brutality and cruelty were so common at home.

His parents gave their three children a Jewish education, and Lee had a bar mitzvah at 13. Unfortunately, his father died the year before from chronic health problems that took root in the camps. (Today, Lee considers himself a cultural Jew, and celebrates many Jewish holidays with his family, but does not believe in organized religion.)

His mother, like many Holocaust survivors who became parents, was overly protective of her children. During Lee's teens, which he describes as "a selfish time," he distanced himself from his parents' history, and also discovered rock 'n' roll. Singing in a rock band, Lee says, "was me yelling back" at authority.

It was well after Morris Weinrib died, that an aunt told Lee his father had played the balalaika at bar mitzvahs and weddings, but had purposely kept that fact from his children. "He didn't want us going into music as a career," Lee says, adding, "It was a great feeling to know he was musical."

Lee was 16 when he formed the first incarnation of Rush with guitarist Alex Lifeson and drummer John Rutsey in 1969. Current drummer and band lyricist Peart replaced Rutsey in 1974 after the release of the band's debut album, thus the 30th anniversary celebration now.

Rush became a musical force to be reckoned with after the release of the album *2112* in 1976, and has sold millions of albums and toured arenas and stadiums ever since. Often skewered by critics as bombastic, the band's appeal stems from stellar musicianship and songs that veer far afield from run-of-the-mill hard rock fare.

On Lee's 2000 solo album *My Favourite Headache*, he co-wrote *Grace to Grace*, another song dealing with his mother's wartime experience.

The song, Lee explains, is partially about his mother's courage, survival instincts, and "her ability to keep her head up" though all of the horror she lived through.

Lee's mother has been reminded of Hitler's Germany by a wave of anti-Semitism that included the April fire-bombing of a Jewish day school in Montreal. The rise in anti-Semitism in Canada, Lee says, "is upsetting to all of us. There is a large Jewish community in Toronto and many of them are Holocaust survivors. My mother is sensitive to any act of anti-Semitism anywhere in the world, not just Canada. There is no such thing in the homes of Holocaust survivors that, 'It can't happen here.' They always feel it can happen again. My mother never felt secure again."

Except for possibly one time.

In 1995, Lee, his older sister, and younger brother accompanied their mother back to Germany to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Bergen-Belsen. They met many other survivors as well as British Army veterans who had liberated the camp. Their mother also took them back to her hometown in Poland and the house in which she grew up.

"The Holocaust doesn't go away," Lee says. "My mother still has a tattoo on her arm, but that was a great trip for her, a completion of something. It made her feel fantastic to stand on those grounds with her children. For the first time she felt like a victor, like, 'I'm here and you're not!'"

Scott R. Benarde is the author of Stars of David: Rock 'n' Roll's Jewish Stories *(Brandeis University Press).*

CHECK OUT OUR INTERNET
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Retraction

In the issue of July 29, 2004, we reported certain statements made by a York University spokesperson with reference to student Daniel Freeman-Maloy.

The Canadian Jewish News has no information that Freeman-Maloy was engaged in any violent conduct in the course of the two protests at York University referred to in the article, or at any time, and we retract any such suggestion.

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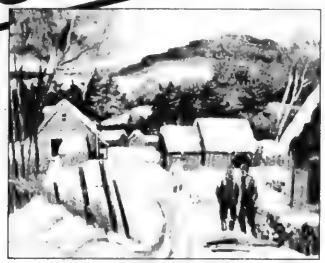
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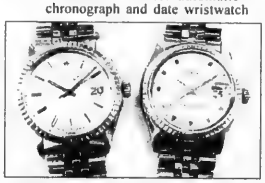
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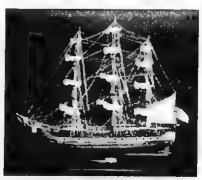
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Muslims threatened in Ryerson hate incidents

By JESSICA HELLEN
CJN Intern

In Ryerson University's second hate incident of the summer, posters threatening death to Muslims that purported to be from Jewish groups were found on bulletin boards around the school.

The letter-sized flyers, one of which called on Toronto Jews to "fight back against Muslims and Arabs who wish to cause harm to us," were spotted earlier this month in prominent locations on campus by maintenance staff, said Ryerson spokesperson Dana Yates.

After the flyers appeared, the Muslim Students' Association found a letter in its campus mailbox threatening the group's president.

The Toronto Police hate crimes unit was called after the posters were discovered and are investigating both the flyers and the letter with campus security. The effort includes reviewing Ryerson security tapes in an effort to identify those responsible.

"We take these things, obviously, very seriously," Yates said.

As of last week, there were no suspects and it was unknown if the perpetrators were from Ryerson.

Police hate crimes unit called in after posters found

Bernie Farber, executive director of Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region, said the flyers were meant to "drive a wedge and create hostility" between Muslim and Jewish students.

"I don't think it's someone caught up in Middle East politics," he said. "I think it's someone caught up in racist politics."

A Jewish person in the Ryerson community who saw the posters sent copies to Farber, who said he then contacted the school to make sure it was "aware of this [hate crime] and to ensure the security of both Muslims and Jews."

In one poster, signed by a group calling itself the Full Blooded Israelis Brigades, Islam is referred to as "a disease that had made its way into the world and it must be eradicated."

The flyer continues, "We ask Jews everywhere in Toronto not to be fearful of the Muslim parasites. We ask that whenever you spot a Muslim no matter who it is, Man, Woman, Teenager, Black Muslim, that you beat them and cause harm to them. Kill these Islamic Infidels and don't be ashamed to be a Jew."

Yates said Ryerson already has a "strong presence of security on campus," but it will be increased.

University officials met with representatives of Congress and the Canadian Arab Federation (CAF), after which they released a joint statement condemning the flyers and threats.

"Those who seek to divide the Ryerson community will not succeed. This is clearly an attempt to provoke ill will within Ryerson University," Ryerson president Claude Lajeunesse said in the statement.

Farber told *The CJN* that "the purpose was to create a statement that we could all share, that would denounce the flyers and send a statement of comfort to students.

"No matter the differences between the groups, [the statements on the flyers] are criminal, uncivilized and un-Canadian."

Another poster, signed by a group calling itself The FBC Ridaz, took responsibility for a June 23 incident in which the words "Die Muslims Die" and Stars of David were spray-painted on the walls of the school's multifaith room.

In the flyer, the group writes that the reason for the June incident was to get "back at the Muslim faggots that vandalized Jewish property and wrote anti-Semitic graffiti." The flyer did not specify what vandalism it was speaking of, but it may have been referring to vandalism of cemeteries and Jewish property in Toronto and Vaughan last spring.

The flyer also warns Muslim students that "we will continue to send messages and that this incident is only the first of many. We want to let them know that no Muslim student will be safe and that security isn't going to stop us."

Yates said Muslim, Arab and Jewish students at Ryerson have "a long tradition of getting along."

Dave MacLean, president of the Ryerson Students' Administrative Council (RyeSAC), agreed.

"We've never had a problem like this on campus before," he said.

After the flyers were found, RyeSAC set up a meeting for various faith groups on campus to talk about them with a harassment discrimination officer and with campus security.

"Students discussed how they felt about it," said MacLean. "Everyone felt it wasn't people from their own faith group. It was someone maliciously trying to cause conflict on campus. We firmly believe it wasn't someone from Ryerson."

In response to the recent incidents, the university has organized two community information sessions for students, faculty and staff.

The purpose of the sessions is to "talk about what actions have been taken by the university, what [the Ryerson community] can do about it and to get tips from campus security," Yates said.

Leatrice Spevack, campus groups administrator, said speakers will include Lajeunesse or a school vice-president, as well as representatives from campus security, RyeSAC, CJC and the CAF.

Farber said Hillel will participate in the information sessions to "look for ways to ensure the safety and security of the students on campus."

MacLean said he is planning a day in September when the different faith groups on campus can come together to show they don't support hate crimes.

He said this will send a message to the perpetrators that "they can't take Ryerson down with them. Racism is not tolerated on campus."

Last week, Premier Dalton McGuinty denounced the incidents at Ryerson, saying, "I strongly condemn these cowardly acts, which are an affront to Ontarians and our way of life."

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Seniors Scene

101-year-old gets aliyah at camp on his birthday

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Rarely, if ever, will you see a 101-year-old man have an aliyah at a children's camp.

Abraham (Abe) Lieff, a former justice of the Ontario Supreme Court, the first Jew to hold this position, was a special guest at Camp Ramah recently to celebrate his 101st birthday. He was given an aliyah during the reading of a Torah that was dedicated in his honour at the Beth Tzedec Synagogue on his 100th birthday.

A stipulation was that in addition to the Torah being read at the synagogue, where Lieff is a member, it would be taken to Camp Ramah in Utterson, Ont., each summer to be read by the children there.

At a *Shacharit* service at the camp, Lieff was joined at the Torah by Ryan Stern of Toronto, a 13-year-old camper whose bar mitzvah will be celebrated this fall. Some 130 campers, 40 staff members and several visitors participated in the service in the large recreation hall.

Abraham Lieff

The camp's Rabbi Matthew Futterman said the power and beauty of our tradition were symbolized by Ryan and Lieff standing together, reciting the same blessing, separated by 88 years of life, but joined by the same dedication and commitment to Torah.

This is the second year Lieff has attended a service at the camp, and he told *The CJN* he hopes to be there again next summer. He says he is dedicated to teaching Torah to children.

"That is the charter of rights for all mankind," he says. He adds that when he was in court, "I never sat there alone, God was always there with me."

Lieff's love affair with Camp Ramah began about 50 years ago, and "my grandchildren went to camp Ramah more than 30 years ago and I would visit them. I was very impressed with the camp."

Lieff was one of seven children born to Esther and Bernard Lifshitz in the shtetl of Antopol in the province of Grodno in White Russia (now Belarus). The family fled the anti-Semitic pogroms there in 1905 and came to Ottawa when Lieff was one year old.

He was called to the bar at Osgoode Hall in 1926 and ultimately became a well-known lawyer and assistant Crown attorney. He moved to Toronto in 1963 when he was appointed a justice of the Supreme Court of Ontario. He was the first lawyer to take his oath of office holding a Jerusalem Bible and the first to wear a kippah during the ceremony.

Lieff served for 17 years as president of the first Conservative synagogue in Ottawa, Agudath Israel Congregation, which he helped found. His first contact with Camp Ramah came during a visit to Ottawa by Rabbi Max Arzt, provost of the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, who came to speak to the congregation.

Lieff was embarrassed at the poor showing at a lecture. "When I apologized on behalf of our community," Lieff says, "Rabbi Arzt said his trip to Ottawa would be worthwhile if our community would send many of our children to Camp Ramah. And that began my 50-year love affair with Camp Ramah."

At the camp this year, the Torah was read by camper Eran Markose, 15, now of Jerusalem, whose father is Rabbi Howard Markose, and mother, Judy Markose, runs the Ramah Israel summer seminar.

At the conclusion of the *Shacharit* service, Lieff gave a dvar Torah on the word *rechem* (*rachmones*, compassion and mercy), stressing the importance of justice and compassion in law. He spoke of the 13 attributes of God and encouraged the campers to say the *Shema*, "which goes to the very heart of our belief."

He urged the campers to be strong Jewish leaders for the next generation.

"I felt as if I was talking to my own grandchildren. They are beautiful children in a beautiful Jewish environment," he says.

"It was wonderful to participate in a thoroughly Jewish atmosphere conducted by children who knew what they were doing and to whom Jewish living in the camping circumstances was an absolute joy."

He is proud of the young leaders Ramah produces "such as my granddaughter Sharon Cohen Barker, who lives in Massachusetts and attended Camp Ramah. She became a volunteer at the federation at a senior level and now her children are at Camp Ramah in Massachusetts."

Rabbi Mitchell Cohen, director of the National Ramah Commission, who attended the service says, "The service was incredibly inspiring, as it brought together people from many different generations, all concerned with the Jewish future.

"Judge Lieff's commitment to Ramah camping was incredible, and at 101, he expressed it to the campers, staff and visitors in a beautiful way. Camp Ramah throughout North America has been in existence since 1947 and it continues to inspire thousands of young Jews to lead committed Jewish lives."

"And this", says Lieff, "brings me much joy and hope for the future of our people."

Family Moments

only from The Canadian Jewish news

Mazel Tov to...

Susan & Tom Molnar, Bette & Barry Ross of Halifax announce the marriage of their children David and Kitty. This was our dream. Mazel tov.

Happy birthday Sally Raphael. Raymond, Jordan (Michele), Michael & Courtney wish the mother of the groom mazel tov; "50" never looked so good.

Henry and Dorothy Zlot joyously announce the marriage on Jan. 30, of their daughter Rochelle to Harvey, son of the late Morris & Bessie Wolfe.

Mazel tov to Stefany Sitzer who graduated from Seneca College from parents and grandparents Leon & Debra, Max & Fanny.

Brahm & Patti Taveroff and Rafi & Shelly Einbinder announce the engagement of Adine & Ron. Grandparents are Henri & Lucette Schindler, Jacob Aboud, Myer & Bertha Taveroff and Nathan & Bat-Sheva Einbinder.

Congratulations to Dina Kulik, who has been accepted to medical school at McMaster University. Mazel tov from Mom & Dad Esther and Irving, and brothers Jeff, Alex and Sean.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

Label the back of all photos and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Send all your photos to: The CJN, Family Moments, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, ON, M3B 3K4.

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By REBECCA NADLER

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What's New Deadlines: Monday, Aug. 23, is the deadline for the Sept. 2 issue and Monday, Aug. 30, is the deadline for the Sept. 9 issue. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Thursday, Aug. 19

IMMIGRATION POLICY

Shaarei Shomayim Congregation presents immigration lawyer **Joel Etienne** speaking on "Immigration Policy, Helpful or Harmful to Canada." 8 p.m. Members free, guests $2.

Sunday, Aug. 22

A CHORUS LINE

Join Adath Shalom Synagogue for the annual trip to Artpark to see *A Chorus Line*. $60 per person includes transportation. The bus leaves 864 Sheppard Ave. W. at 9:45 a.m. To reserve tickets, call **Bunnie** at 416-633-9691.

LEIBTAG VIA SATELLITE

Rabbi Menachem Leibtag is presented live via two-way interactive video-conferencing, discussing "Teshuva of the Individual vs. Teshuva of the Nation." Beth Jacob Synagogue, 147 Overbrook Pl. 9:30 a.m. For information, visit www.torahinmotion.org or call 416-633-5770. No charge.

MOSAIC BICYCLE RIDE

Join Mosaic Outdoor Club of Toronto for a bike ride beginning at E.T. Seton Park (Leslie/Eglinton) along the Don River to Cherry St. and Clarke Beach. Meet at E.T. Seton Park parking lot near bike path at 10 a.m. This will be about a 3-hour ride. Bring lunch. The ride will be cancelled if it rains at the start time. For information, visit www.mosaictoronto.org/events.

Monday, Aug. 23

NEXT STEPS FOR ZIONISM

Generation Hutzpah presents **Rabbi Ohad Ezrahi**, part of the new wave of Hebrew culture revival and Zionist renewal for young adults, discussing "Neo-Zionism, Creativity and Eco-Spirituality: Next Steps for Zionism" at Beth Tzedec Congregation at 7:30 p.m. 416-781-3511.

Other news

ZORNBERG LECTURE

Dr. Avivah Gottlieb Zornberg speaks on "Cries and Whispers: The Akeida and the Death of Sarah." Thursday, Aug. 26 at 8 p.m. 147 Overbrook Place. $10. For information, call 416-398-1510, 416-633-5770.

MIZRACHI SHABBATON

Mizrachi and Congregation Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem, Montreal, present a Summer Shabbaton, Aug. 27-29, at TBDJ, The Baily Shul. Hospitality will be provided in the community. Programming for children age 6 and up compliments of Bnei Akiva Montreal. $100/adult and children over 12. $75 for children 5-12. $36 for children under 5. Discounts available for large families. Transportation arrangements from Toronto. For reservations, call 416-630-9266 or 514-483-3660 or contact mizrachi@rogers.com.

SUNDAY JAZZ BRUNCH

Adath Israel Dynamic Singles 35+ host a "Summer Sunday Jazz Brunch" with the **Ron Davis Trio**, featuring **Alex Pangman** and **Mike Carston**. Sunday, Aug. 29 at 11:30 a.m. $15 in advance of Aug. 26, $20 at the door. 416-635-5340 or rachel@adathisrael.com.

SHUK IN THE PARK

Thousands of people are expected to attend this one-day event, which brings the spirit of Israel into the heart of Toronto. Created to replicate the sights, sounds, tastes and feel of an Israeli market, Shuk in the Park is an outdoor festival that includes live music, drumming circles, vendor market stalls, refreshments and a children's craft and play area. Sunday, Aug. 29, 12-6 p.m., in Suydam Park, Spadina and Strathearn. Rain or shine. Free. All welcome. www.shukinthepark.com

Continued on page 25

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What's New

Continued from page 24

MEDITATION MONDAYS

The Caring Committee of Temple Har Zion offers "Meditation Mondays" on Monday, Aug. 30 at 7:30 p.m., with **Dr. John Fleming, Karen Kaufman** and **Rosalind Smith.** The program is designed to support the practice of meditation among Har Zion members as well as the Jewish community at large and is intended for the curious, the novice and even those with a well-developed meditation practice. Call 905-889-2252 for further information.

YIDDISH SUMMER CONCERT

The Committee for Yiddish of UJA Federation presents its annual concert, "Songs of Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow," on Tuesday, Aug. 31, 7:30 p.m. at Beth Sholom Synagogue, 1445 Eglinton Ave. W. Tickets are $10 and only available at the door. For information, call 416-635-2883 ext. 137.

KOSHER CRUISE

Beth Jacob Synagogue is holding its second annual kosher cruise, Sept. 6, 6 p.m., $45. To reserve, call Sunday-Thursday, 9-11 a.m. 416-638-5955.

BOWLERS WANTED

Maven Bowling League, a co-ed Jewish bowling league for singles and couples aged 30 to 50, is looking for new bowlers and teams. Thursday evenings at 7:15 p.m. at a centrally located bowling alley. The first week of the season is Thursday, Sept. 9. An orientation BBQ will take place on Saturday, Aug. 28. All interested new and current bowlers are invited. Call **Ron Caine** for more details, 905-889-8333 or 905-764-8061, ext. 253.

Seniors Bowling Group meets every Sunday evening for 5-pin bowling. Welcomes new bowlers. Call **Ben,** 416-633-2428.

Ladies 10-Pin Bowling League is looking for bowlers for Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at Playtime Bowl. Call **Charlene,** 416-221-9328.

Mixed Singles Bowling League for ages 60 + at Bathurst and Glencairn Bowlerama. Join a fun group that also offers social functions. Begins Monday, Sept. 13 at 6 p.m. Call **Sonia,** 416-489-4944.

LEARN HEBREW

Canadian Zionist Federation offers Hebrew language studies with **Chanah Sargon.** Fall session begins week of Sept. 20. Day and evening classes available at all levels. Call 416-633-3988 or e-mail czf@bellnet.ca.

Keren Hatarbut Institute is now accepting registration for the fall session Hebrew-language classes. Classes are offered for adult, teenagers and preteens at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels. Beginners will speak, write and read Hebrew in 14 sessions. Classes are taught on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays beginning the week of Sept. 7. Reasonable tuition. 788 Marlee Ave. For registration, call **Joseph Klinger** at 416-787-0197.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service information/registration, call 416-638-7800, ext. 215. Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St.

Living with Cancer. A 6-session group for women. Topics include coping with emotions, changing relationships, dealing with health and wellness issues. Begins Tuesday, Sept. 7, 1-2:30 p.m., 4600 Bathurst St.

When You're About to Separate: What to Tell the Kids. A one-session workshop for parents about to separate or in the early stages of separation. The session will deal with how and when to tell the children about your separation and ideas and strategies to best meet their needs. Tuesday Sept. 14, 6:30 pm, the Promenade Mall, suite 313.

Effective Parenting. This four-session group will help parents learn what they can do to raise a happy, motivated, well-behaved child. Topics include how to nurture self-esteem, encourage problem-solving and help children cope with difficult feelings, how to increase parent child communication, and how to set effective limits and get kids to follow rules. Begins Tuesday, Sept 28, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at 4600 Bathurst St.

Social Skills Programs for Children and Adolescents. Eight-week groups that provide a positive environment to enhance self-esteem and foster social skills. Ages 6-8 group begins Tuesday, Oct 12, 6-7:30 p.m.; ages 9-11 group begins Thursday, Oct 14, 6-7:30 p.m.; early adolescent ages 12-14, begins Monday, Oct. 18, 7-8:30 p.m.; older teens ages 15-17, begins Thursday, Oct. 21, 7-8:30 p.m.

FOR SENIORS

Association of Jewish Seniors' general meeting, Thurs. Aug. 19, 9:30 a.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. **Jack Pinkus** speaks on "How to Use Your Medication Safely." Call **Tammy,** 416-635-2860.

Walking Club for Seniors. Seniors interested in forming a walking club in the Antibes/Torresdale area, call **Max,** 416-705-7972.

The Chai Dancers Fifty-Five Plus, Dept. of Adult Services, BJCC, have openings for new dancers. Some dance experience preferred. Daytime rehearsals. Call **Teme Kernerman** 416-636-1880 ext. 364.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Dances every Saturday night through August; beginner Hebrew classes, Tuesday mornings 10 a.m.-noon, $25/month. Now booking for Casino Rama Wednesday, Sept. 8 and Casino Niagara Monday, Sept. 27. Call 416-395-7881 Mondays to Thursdays 9 a.m-1 p.m.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the boardroom at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Call 416-630-9444.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St., Aug. 26, picnic in Earl Bales Park. Call to reserve. Contact **Menachem Wallach,** 905-731-7748, or **Malka Colla,** 416-630-5771.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

Sunday Movies 2 p.m. Aug. 22, *Stepmom;* Aug. 29, *Sleepless in Seattle.* Members $1, non-members $3.

Folk dancing, Monday, Aug. 23 and Wednesday, Aug. 25 1-2 p.m. Members $7, guests, $14.

"Who Watches Too Much Television: The Impact of Mass Media" with **Prof. Hugh Innis.** Tuesdays, Aug. 24 and 31, 10-11:30 a.m. Members $1.50, non-members $3.

High Holiday tickets now on sale for services at Bernard Betel. Members $75, non-members $85, children under 12, $35.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew-speaking seniors meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Aug. 24, sing-a-long; Aug. 31, **Michael Lipnitsky** delivers a lecture on Canadian history. Call **Galit Osadtsuk** at ext. 115.

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

The Wagman Annual Barbecue takes place on Tuesday, Aug. 24, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Tickets must be purchased in advance at the service desk.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

Variety Dance Show presented by the **Chai Dancers** and guest performers Wednesday, Sept. 1, matinee 1:30 p.m. Tickets $5. Evening 8 p.m. Tickets $8. Leah Posluns Studio Theatre. Call **Teme,** ext. 364

The BJCC School and Daycare has day-care space available for September 2004, a new extended Tic Tac Two morning program from 9-11:30 a.m. and new preschool, nursery, junior kindergarten and senior kindergarten, morning options 9-11:30 a.m. or 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Call ext. 248 to book a tour or for more information.

The Koffler School of Music registration for fall classes open for babies and toddlers music, preschool music, piano, guitar, violin, flute, saxophone, ensembles, Suzuki piano and violin, Nashir Children's Choir, opera master classes, opera appreciation and Resa's Pieces Band.

Register now for drama classes at Leah Posluns Theatre School. Call ext. 464 for information or ext. 231 to register.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or wwwmilesnadaljcc.ca.

Generation Hutzpah at the Miles Nadal JCC presents "Shuffling Your Spiritual Journey Through Breslove Wisdom Cards." Sunday Aug. 22, 3-5 p.m. Discover the secret tradition of Jewish tarot wisdom and hear its original chassidic story, *Master of Prayer,* from **Rabbi Ohad Ezrachi.** Register in advance, $10, $12 at the door.

Summer Yiddish Seminar 2004, Aug. 29-Sept. 3. This program includes an intensive study of Yiddish language for beginners and advanced students and a cultural component, which includes guest lecturers, music workshops and films. There is also a special one-day Yiddish marathon for absolute beginners. Advanced program, members $550, non-members $600. Beginner's program, members $200, non-members $250. One-day Yiddish marathon, members $75, non-members $89. Cost includes materials. Call for information and registration.

Registration for fall programs has begun at the Miles Nadal JCC. Program book now available or check the website.

New music classes for under-5 year olds with conservatory-trained **Susan Purdy.** Tuesday mornings. Call Harriet, ext. 133.

Join the klezmer players' workshop, led by clarinetist **Martin van de Ven,** Tuesday evenings. Beginners and intermediate levels. Call Harriet, ext. 133.

New youth choirs for Grades 1-6. Thursday after school. E-mail youthchoirs@milesnadaljcc.ca for info or call office. Get-together meetings Thursday Sept. 9 and 23. Registration required. No audition or experience necessary.

VOLUNTEER WANTED

Reena Foundation needs volunteers to help with Bingo Sundays 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Markham and Ellesmere Rd. No lifting or running required… just thinking. For information, call 905-763-8254, ext. 3030.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 20

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To place an unveiling notice, please call at least 15 DAYS prior to the date of the unveiling

OBITUARIES and Related Notices

To place any other family related notice, please call at least 10 DAYS prior to the issue date

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Nathan Tkatch	Aug 2/04	49 Heathcote Ave
Frank Hegedus	Aug 3/04	91 Lippincott St
Martha Lebo	Aug 3/04	119 Braemar Ave
Dr. Julius Haber	Aug 4/04	63 St. Clair Ave W
Faye Kline	Aug 4/04	72 Clinton St
Beatrice Codas Hannon	Aug 6/04	5700 Cavendish
Doreen Goodman	Aug 6/04	4003 Bayview Ave
Harry Pozner	Aug 6/04	32 Clarissa Dr
Albert Tobias	Aug 8/04	16 Cobden St
Anne Pearson	Aug 8/04	420 The East Mall
Michael Berkowitz	Aug 8/04	50 Bronte Rd
Faye Bornstein	Aug 10/04	1201 Steeles Ave W
Cliff Goldman	Aug 9/04	294 Sackville St
Kitty Fox	Aug 9/04	650 Briar Hill Ave

HEDREW DASIC

Sol Segal	Jul 30/04	1463 Eglinton Ave W
Edith Bornstein	Aug 5/04	668 Roselawn Ave

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SAM ACKERMAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Aug. 22nd, 12:00 noon
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
The First Narayever Cong. Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
GILDA DASH ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Aug. 22nd, 1:00 p.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Community Section EE
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
BEN HOCHMAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Aug. 22nd, 10:30 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Bathurst south of Steeles
Shaarei Shomayim Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SAMUEL KRONE ז"ל
(father of Lil Jacboson & Sheila Krone)
will take place
Sunday, Aug. 22nd, 11:00 a.m.
Lambton Cemetery
Ostrovtzer Society Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
HOWARD KLEIN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Aug. 29th, 10:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Adath Israel Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
BEATRICE SOBERMAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Aug. 22nd, 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Chevra Shas Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
HYMIE SAMELSON ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Aug. 22nd, 10:15 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Piotrkov Tomashov Belchatov Society - Section #19
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
GERTRUDE MARKSON ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 22nd at 10:30 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
(986 Wilson Ave. @ Keele)
Beth Sholom New Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SAM EDELSTEIN ז"ל
Beloved father, grandfather and brother
will take place
Sunday, August 29th at 12:30 p.m.
Roselawn Cemetery
Eitz Chaim - Anshei Poland Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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Section 13
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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Coast to Coast

Day says media have targeted him

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Conservative foreign affairs critic Stockwell Day charged that he is being "marginalized" for his outspoken support of Israel by a Canadian media obsessed with the Jewish state's alleged wrongdoings.

Day made the remark following his acceptance from the pro-Israel think tank, the Canadian Institute for Jewish Research (CIJR), of its Golden Magen David Award for his "consistent" defence of Israel throughout his political career.

In his remarks, Day blasted the media for focusing on suspicions that a Mossad secret service agent used a Canadian passport and ignoring far more egregious activity by Israel's enemies.

He related how a "hostile" reporter called him "demanding clarification" on his party's position on the "Israeli government's great crime."

"I was mystified… Where was the demand for clarification when the foreign minister of the Palestinian Authority said the PLO charter was never changed on the denial of Israel's right to exist? Or when Rifat Sayyed Ahmad, director of the Jaffa Research Centre, writes in Egypt's state-controlled newspaper in a recent article that the Holocaust is a Zionist lie to extort the West? Or when the imam of the leading Muslim association in Britain says, 'Yes, Israel has the nuclear bomb, but we have children bombs that we will continue to use until liberation'?

"Israel's response to these and countless other travesties should be used to inspire others to democracy and respect for human rights."

Day was also critical of Canada's voting record at the United Nations over the past 10 years on resolutions denouncing Israel. Of the 113 such resolutions, 75 were supported by Canada and Canada abstained on 38, he noted.

"There were zero condemning the non-democratic nations surrounding Israel," he said.

Day said that while in Tehran last year meeting pro-democracy supporters, he held up Israel as an example for Iran.

He also referred to "Taiwan, which is intimidated by the communist government [of China and] should use Israel as an example of standing up, against all odds, for what's right. Things that were declared impossible, Israel has proven can be achieved."

In accepting the award, Day said, "With no pretense of humility, I do not consider myself worthy when I compare myself to those who live in Israel or those here have done so much for Israel. The mild grief I have taken pales in comparison."

Day said the CIJR's daily electronic briefings on Israel have been "very helpful to us… So much does not get into the mainstream media."

Evoking Natan Sharansky's refusal to recant his activism for Jewish emigration when a Soviet judge offered him freedom in exchange, Day said, "I will continue to fight for Israel and everything it stands for, which is everything that is important to us."

Day admitted he has become "discouraged [by] how little of the true message about Israel is getting through." When he is down, he said his wife Valerie, with "her heart and passion for Israel," lifts him up. The couple visited Israel last year.

Questioned after the formal presentation, Day reiterated that he had "taken heat" from the media on his Israel position, but there is "no way it is going to change.

"The media has a very Arabist position, and I have taken some direct hits. The media tend to marginalize you on other issues for that, blending it all together."

Despite his strong support, he said the Conservative party has no plans to call for Canada to move its embassy to Jerusalem, an issue that helped topple Joe Clark's short-lived Progressive Conservative government in 1980.

Rosh Hashanah and Continuity...

This time of year in the Jewish calendar is all about beginnings and recommitments. Thankfully, once again, we are given the opportunity to begin anew and to recommit to the people, the values and the way of life that are most precious to us. If staying connected to the Jewish community in Canada and abroad is part of that new beginning for you , there is no better vehicle for doing so than *The Canadian Jewish News.*

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Coast to Coast

Human rights museum downplays funding rift

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — The executive director of the Asper Foundation, which is leading the drive to build a human rights museum in Manitoba's capital, is downplaying reports Ottawa may renege on a verbal promise to contribute $100 million to the project.

"We continue to dialogue with the government and are optimistic that at the end of the day we will get the support we need," said Moe Levy, adding that if all the federal money doesn't come through, "it may take us a little longer to build, but we expect to be successful."

The federal government has already pledged $30 million to the Canadian Museum for Human Rights project, but has yet to confirm the other $70 million.

After the recent federal election, the *Winnipeg Free Press* ran a series of articles that questioned the new Liberal government's willingness to commit all of the money, and the ability of museum backers to build it without federal funding. The original deal for federal funding was said to be between the late philanthropist Israel Asper, head of CanWest Global Communications, and former prime minister Jean Chrétien, the *Free Press* reported.

If all goes as planned, construction will start this fall on an 8.2-acre site in the Forks district of downtown Winnipeg, with the opening of the $200-million museum slated for July 2007.

The winner of the international competition to design the museum was scheduled to be publicized July 1, but Levy said the announcement has been delayed for a few weeks because some of the finalists are on holidays. Two Canadian architects and one U.S. firm have made it to the final three.

The museum was Asper's last major project before his sudden death last September. He launched his campaign to build the museum on April 17, 2003, the 22nd anniversary of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

The Asper Family, through the Asper Foundation, has pledged up to $50 million toward the project, while the province and the city have agreed to contribute $20 million apiece.

The remaining money is being solicited from the private sector through the National Friends of the Canadian Museum of Human Rights, whose goal is to raise $60 million for an endowment fund to help build and run the institution.

As of May, private fundraising had raised $34 million.

Former heritage minister Sheila Copps told CBC News that Ottawa is reneging on its promise, saying, "[Treasury Board President] Reg Alcock knows very well that the $30 million was a down payment."

A spokesperson for Alcock, a Winnipeg MP and Manitoba's senior voice in cabinet, said the minister (who is on holidays this month), "has been and continues to be committed to the project. He supports the late Israel Asper's vision and has been working hard in Ottawa to raise awareness about the museum."

As to the additional money, the spokesperson said museum organizers actually want Ottawa to contribute $70 million more for construction and $12 million a year for 10 years for operations.

"That's asking for $220 million," he said.

"It's rare for the federal government to put out that kind of money for any one project. It would also make Mr. Alcock's job easier if there were a signed document. This is an extraordinary project for Winnipeg, Manitoba and Canada, but it is going to take time to come up with the money."

In an interview, Premier Gary Doer said the museum is "an important project for the province, for the city and for the country. It has our full support. We continue to be optimistic it is going to go ahead."

He told CBC that he also believed the $30 million from Ottawa was a down payment and that Asper would never have gone ahead with the April 2003 announcement "without a strong indication from the federal government that they were committed for the grand vision."

Newly elected Winnipeg mayor Sam Katz said the city remains committed to the project.

"It appears that there are a few hurdles to get over," he said, adding he too, is, confident it will proceed.

"Everyone who supports the museum should be lobbying to get this done. I am sure that it will get done, but it will require patience. It can be hard being patient, but we have to be."

The museum hopes to draw 350,000 visitors a year – including 100,000 students – and will sell itself as a Canadian landmark

It will feature a 70-metre Tower of Hope, a Holocaust Gallery, a Hall of Fame and Shame, a Canadian Gallery exploring dark periods in Canadian history, a daily "barometer of hate" measuring hate levels around the world, an exhibit on human rights in crisis, wireless palm pilots for students to record their impressions, and a "virtual museum" to connect the museum to the rest of the world through the internet.

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Dallaire Institute teaches educators how to fight hate

By HAILEY EISEN
Special to The CJN

LONDON, Ont. — Violent acts of hate often begin in the schoolyard and last week high school teachers in London, Ont., were learning how to take the anti-hate battle to their classrooms.

About 40 educators took part in the first bi-annual General Romeo Dallaire Summer Institute for Teaching Genocide and the Holocaust, which was held at the University of Western Ontario (UWO) from Aug. 9 to 13. The institute, one of the first of its kind in Canada, aimed to provide educational tools for promoting the importance of tolerance and human rights.

Sponsored by London's Association for the Elimination of Hate, the week-long institute, one of the first of its kind in Canada, was established to fill a void in a city where organizers say little attention is given to teaching about racism and intolerance in high school classrooms.

"For many, teaching the Holocaust and genocide can be incredibly intimidating," said Amanda Grzyb, a professor of genocide and the Holocaust at UWO and an instructor at the institute.

"Our aim is to prepare teachers to become more comfortable with these materials."

With a focus on Armenia, the Holocaust and Rwanda, the institute not only chronicled some of the most horrific genocides of the 20th century, it also emphasized teaching themes and moral lessons.

"We want to direct teachers towards the teachable moments in genocide history," said program co-ordinator Rich Hitchens. "For example, we want to talk to them about rescue and how that can teach people about the importance of individual responsibility."

Lessons about the Holocaust and genocide were facilitated by university professors, military experts, and community members, and participants were advised on how best to incorporate literature and film resources into their teachings.

"To slap [the Holocaust-themed feature film] *Schindler's List* in for 3½ hours is going to take most of the time teachers have dedicated to the unit, whereas they could show a 28-minute documentary film that will generate three hours of instruction," Grzyb said.

The institute also incorporated lessons gained from first-hand experience.

The institute's namesake, retired Canadian general Romeo Dallaire, met with the teachers and offered his congratulations and support for the community's involvement in genocide education.

Dallaire led UN forces during the 1994 Rwanda operation, where he defied direct orders to evacuate his troops from the troubled area when violence escalated into full-scale genocide. Some 40,000 refugees found sanctuary in his safe-havens. It is estimated that one million Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed within 100 days.

For the past three years, Dallaire has worked with high school and university students to promote awareness and action about areas of international crisis and genocide.

"My aim in this whole education process is to gel Canadian youth into getting into an activist mentality," he said. "So far I'm getting a lot of positive vibes."

In the wake of reports of genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan, many religious and ethnic communities in London have come together to support this education initiative.

At the institute's kick-off event, the Association for the Elimination of Hate announced plans to develop a museum of education and tolerance in London within the next five years.

Grafstein wants to revisit anti-Semitism question

Plans to bring issue before the Senate this fall

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Although the Senate's human rights committee held only one hearing on anti-Semitism before adjourning for the summer, Sen. Jerry Grafstein plans to bring the issue before his colleagues when the Senate reconvenes on Oct. 5.

Grafstein said he would introduce a motion to create a new committee that will take up study of his motion on anti-Semitism, which is based on a resolution adopted unanimously by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

The resolution calls on member states to unequivocally condemn anti-Semitism and to address the growing phenomenon through legislation.

As a member of the OSCE, Canada is obliged to examine the subject and take steps to counter the recent upsurge in anti-Semitism, he said. Other OSCE members, such as the United States and France, have held hearings and issued statements against anti-Semitism. France has even amended its hate laws to ensure prosecutions, he said.

Grafstein, who serves as treasurer of the OSCE's parliamentary wing, said the 55-member organization, at its recent Parliamentary Assembly in Edinburgh, Scotland, passed unanimously a supplementary resolution on anti-Semitism.

In the supplementary resolution, the OSCE agreed that participating states would ensure that their governments acquire the authority and resources to track anti-Semitic incidents and hate crimes; ensure laws are in place to prosecute perpetrators of anti-Semitic acts and hate crimes; and "create mechanisms to help ensure education and training for educators, military forces and law enforcement and judicial officers concerning racism, anti-Semitism and the Holocaust, xenophobia and intolerance… "

In introducing the supplementary motion, Grafstein noted that statistics recently released in Canada showed that more than 25 per cent of hate crimes involved Jews, making them the most-targeted group.

Grafstein said the supplementary resolution continues the momentum created two and a half years ago in Berlin, when the first OSCE resolution to address anti-Semitism was passed. Since then, the OSCE has held a number of conferences and the issue has remained on the organization's agenda. UN Secretary General Kofi Annan credited the OSCE resolution for influencing the United Nations' first conference on anti-Semitism in June, he noted.

Canadian parliamentarians, however, have been slow to take up the issue because they feel no political pressure to do so, Grafstein said. Although Canadian Jewish Congress made a presentation on the single day the Senate held hearings, the Jewish community has failed to indicate they view the Senate committee's work as important.

"The Senate has not received any lobbying to pursue this by the community at large," he said. He contrasted that response to the more than 3,500 e-mails on gay marriage he received in a 10-day span. That kind of public response grabs the notice of legislators, he said.

Grafstein is hoping to keep the issue of anti-Semitism on the Senate's agenda. "We've got a problem in Canada and we have not addressed it. So you have to be relentless," he said.

Government seeks nominations for security roundtable

Nominations are open for membership in the federal government's new Cross-Cultural Roundtable on Security.

"My hope is that the roundtable will give expression to our shared citizenship and common commitment to the protection of security and human rights in Canada's multicultural society," says Justice Minister Irwin Cotler. "Our government is looking forward to engaging Canadians of diverse backgrounds in an ongoing dialogue on national security issues."

The creation of such a body was a key commitment in the government report released in April, *Securing an Open Society: Canada's National Security Policy*.

Cotler and Deputy Prime Minister Anne McLellan will appoint a maximum of 15 members to the roundtable from the nominations. Terms are for one year and may be renewed for a maximum of three terms.

Nominees are required to have:

- an awareness of security matters as they relate to the community;
- experience in engaging diverse and pluralistic communities;
- an ability to facilitate the exchange of information with communities; and
- commitment to building safer communities.

Members must also be Canadian citizens or permanent residents.

More information and nomination forms can be found at www.psepc.gc.ca/roundtable. All nominations must be received or postmarked by Sept. 17.

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Food, Scrumptious Food

Summer salads you can use as a main course

By SUE EPSTEIN
Special to The CJN

With summer underway, who wants to add to the heat by cooking?

Thanks to the ever-versatile salad, you don't have to stand the heat to stay in the kitchen.

A trip to the produce department of most grocery stores will yield a variety of salad ingredients as well as many ready-made salads. Some stores now even have salad bars where you can build your own salad by the pound. Salads are quick and easy, and they can move from being side dishes to being the centerpiece of a summer meal.

And salads aren't just for dieters anymore. Today's salads can be much more than lettuce and a few other fresh vegetables. For a surprisingly delightful meal, be creative and add to a base of fresh greens some of your favourites, things like fresh summer fruits or maybe some cooked beef or chicken or smoked turkey from the deli.

Salads are also the perfect home for some of your leftovers. You can take that extra chicken or steak from last night's grilling and make it the star of tonight's meal.

For a change of pace, try leaving out the lettuce entirely. Create your salad from any of summer's rich bounty of fruits and vegetables. Or rely on some of the sweet, juicy fruits to grace your dressing and provide the perfect finish to your salad.

And speaking of dressings, try adding some fresh herbs to your salad or toss them in when mixing your own salad dressings. Herbs blend well with a lot of summer fruits and vegetables, creating unique flavours. Or you can opt for a pasta or bean salad, which requires a little more work than just the tearing of the greens, but is more than worth it. Most pasta and bean salads are designed to be served either warm or cold, making them great as main dishes or perfect complements on picnics or at barbecues.

Don't be afraid to experiment. Just adding a few of your favourites can turn a boring salad into something special. Add some crusty French bread, and maybe a cold soup, and a summer salad can become a cool, tasty meal. Best of all, salads won't overheat your kitchen (or your temper).

Most of these salads are suitable for main course dishes. The ingredients can be substituted for or switched, according to your tastes.

CURRIED CHICKEN FRUIT SALAD

Sweet, juicy orange segments and grapes give freshness and colour to this salad. Cooked deli chicken or smoked turkey substitutes nicely for the poached chicken if you don't want to cook.

1 lb. boned and skinned chicken breast halves (3 medium)
1/2 cup mayonnaise
1/4 cup apricot jam
1 to 2 tsp. curry powder
2 navel oranges, peeled and cut into segments
3/4 cup pitted prunes, halved
1/4 cup red and/or green seedless grapes
3/4 cups sliced celery
1/3 cup chopped red onion
salt and pepper to taste
4 lettuce leaves

In 2-quart saucepan, cover chicken with cold water. Bring to boil, reduce heat and simmer about 12 minutes until chicken is opaque throughout and no pink remains. Meanwhile, in large bowl, mix mayonnaise, jam and curry powder to blend thoroughly.

Mix in orange segments, prunes, grapes, celery and onion. Drain chicken and cut across the grain into 1/3-in. slices. Add to bowl; toss. Season with salt and pepper. Arrange lettuce leaves on four individual plates or serving platter. Fill each leaf with chicken mixture, dividing equally. Or use as a filling for pita sandwiches. Makes 4 main-dish servings.

CALIFORNIA NEW POTATO SALAD

This is made without mayonnaise or eggs and can be kept without refrigeration for several hours. The potato salad includes artichokes and red peppers. Serve it with cold cuts or sliced turkey breast on a salad plate, garnished with tomato.

1 lb. small new potatoes, scrubbed and halved
1 tbsp. olive oil
1 garlic clove, pressed or minced
2 tbsp. balsamic vinegar
2 tbsp. fresh lemon juice or rice vinegar
1 tbsp. Dijon mustard
1 tsp. dried rosemary, crushed
1/2 tsp.salt
1/4 tsp. freshly ground black pepper
8-oz. can quartered artichokes or 1 jar marinated artichokes, drained
1/2 cup diced red bell peppers
1/2 cup chopped scallions

Put the potatoes in a large saucepan and cover with cold water. Bring to a boil over high heat. Reduce the heat to low and simmer for about 10 minutes, or until just fork tender. Meanwhile, heat the oil in a large nonstick skillet. Add the garlic and cook for 1 minute or just until the garlic sizzles. Remove from the heat and stir in the balsamic vinegar, lemon juice or rice vinegar, mustard, rosemary, salt and black pepper.

Drain the potatoes and add to the skillet. Toss or stir well to coat the potatoes. Transfer to a large bowl. Add the artichokes, red peppers and scallions. Mix well. Store leftovers, tightly covered, in the refrigerator. Makes 4 cups.

CHOPPED SALAD WITH HERB-MUSTARD VINAIGRETTE

For this chopped salad, the greens can be cut into small pieces for easy eating. Combine them with strips of Italian salami, turkey breast and chick peas for an antipasto-like salad. The recipe makes a large amount, but you can reduce the amounts.

Vinaigrette:
1 tsp. minced fresh garlic
2 tsp. minced fresh shallot
2 tbsp. Dijon mustard
1 1/2 tsp. dried oregano
2 tsp. dried parsley
1/2 tsp. ground black pepper
1/4 tsp. kosher salt
1/4 cup red-wine vinegar
1 cup pure, mild-flavoured olive oil

Salad:
1/2 head iceberg lettuce, chopped into in.-wide strips
1/2 head romaine lettuce, chopped into 1/8-in.-wide strips
12 large leaves of basil, chopped into 1/16-inch- wide strips
2 cups (1/2 lb.) dry Italian or other salami, cut into thin strips
1 cup chopped garbanzo beans
4 cups (2 lb.) ripe tomatoes, diced 1/2-in.
3 cups (1 lb.) turkey breast, diced 1/2-in.
2 tbsp. chopped scallions, 1/2-in. pieces

To make the vinaigrette: Process all ingredients except oil in a food processor or blender (or use a whisk in a small bowl). Slowly blend in oil. Set aside in the refrigerator.

To make the salad: Toss lettuces, basil, salami and garbanzos together in a large mixing bowl. Transfer to platter or salad bowl. Surround with a ring of diced tomatoes and top with diced turkey breast. Garnish with chopped scallions. Makes 8 to 10 servings.

שיעור ג'ינג'ו

גידי קורן וחברים

מחשבה לישראלים בקנדה

הגעתם לקנדה מתישהו ויש לכם שניים-שלושה ילדים? הינה מחשבה חשובה עבורכם:

העבודה פחות או יותר בסדר, הבריאות ברוך השם. יש חברים, בעיקר ישראלים. סביר מאוד להניח שאיתכם דתיים ושאיתכם הולכים לבית כנסת ואיכם שולחים את ילדיכם לבתי ספר יהודיים, אתם אומרים לעצמכם שאתם רוצים שהם ילמדו אנגלית וייקלטו. עם יד על הלב-אם בתי ספר יהודיים היו בחינם-הילדים שלכם היו שם תוך דקה (זו איננה ביקורת, כי הלימודים שם באמת יקרים). השנים עוברות. אתם גאים בכך שאתם מדברים עם הילדים בעברית, אך הם ענים לכם באנגלית. אתם חושבים שהם סופגים מֵכֶם את ה"ישראליות" שלכם. אתם טועים בגדול.

ואז יום אחד יביא ארז הביתה את חברתו צ'י מין, או דנה תביא את ג'ורג' האיטלקי. אם זה בסדר לכם-אל תמשיכו לקרוא-הכל-מאה אחוז. אבל קרוב לוודאי שאתם מעוניינים שילדיכם יישארו קשורים לתרבות ולרקע שלכם , וקצת יותר דוגרי-שיתחתנו עם יהודים. רק שלא עשיתם שום דבר במשך עשרים שנה כדי שזה יקרה. תחשבו כמה שזה מוזר ואידיוטי-עשיתם הכל לַבָּן אותם למוסיקה, לספורט, למחשבים, אבל את הדבר החשוב ביותר עבורכם ועבורם הזנחתם.

אז מה עושים?!

יש רק פתרון אחד: תנועת נוער ישראלית. כמעט בחינם, ילדים יהודיים, תוכן ציוני. אני עברתי את זה 4 פעמים בהצלחה של מאה אחוז. יש בטורונטו את השומר הצעיר, יהודה הצעיר, צופים, בית"ר, תנועות דתיות. כל הקשת הפוליטית. אל תחכו, אל תחמיצו, אל תצטערו. ראו, הזדהרתם. ושישאר בינינו.

זהירות-סרטים ישראלים

קוראים ותיקים יודעים שאני ממליץ רק על סרטים שממש אהבתי ולא מביזבז את הטור הצר הזה על דברים שלדעתי לא כדאי לבזבז עליהם זמן. אני גם מנסה לראות, מסיבות ברורות, כמה שיותר סרטים ישראלים. הפעם אני חייב לחרוג מהרגלי ולהזהיר אתכם משני מוקשים רציניים.

בארץ ראיתי את "סוף העולם שמאלה" של דורון נשר. המדעות אמרו ש"סוף סוף סרט ישראלי שיתחרה על האוסקר הזר". דורון נשר עשה "ענג" סרט אירופאי זרוק על קשיי הקליטה בעֲיָרה בנגב של משפחת עולים מהודו והמפגש של ההודים עם המרוקאים. הסרט ולגארי, עם דיאלוגים ברמה של טלנובלה. וכמובן-אין סרט ישראלי, ולא חשוב באיזה נושא,שאין בו סצינת משגל לוהטת ועסיסית. זה כנראה מה שהבמאי הישראלי הממוצע חושב שיעשה את הסרט לאירופאי. בקיצור-יצאנו באמצע.

את הסרט השני, "עלילה" ראיתי כאן. המילה "עלילה" יכולה להתפרש או כמשהו שמעלילים על מישהו, או "עלילה" במובן של "סיפור" או "תסריט". אין בסרט הזה לא עלילה ולא עלילה. ממש כלום מכלום. אוסף סיפורים משעממים של אנשים בַּיְת משותף בשכונה לא טובה בתל אביב. הז'אַנְר של אוסף סיפורים שמתאחדים איכשהו בסוף יצר כמה מהסרטים חכי מופלאים בתולדות הקולנוע. וכאן? אין אף דיאלוג של יותר משלושה משפטים, וולגריות מתמשכת, וכמובן ניחשתם-סצנת משגל בלתי נגמרת. ממש תערדת עניות לעמוס גיתאי שעשה כמה סרטים רציניים בעבר. ידידה קנדית יהודיה שראתה את הסרט לחשה לי: אוי ואבוי, מי שרואה את הסרט הזה מעולם לא ירצה לבקר בישראל. דָּה גוד ניוז: לדעתי הסרט הזה יַרֵד אחרי מאתיים צופים. אני מזהיר אתכם כפי שהיתי מזהיר כל מי שהולך ליפול לבור בלתי מסומן. אבל שישאר בינינו.

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Olympic judo officials gathering evidence in case

Continued from page 1

"I can assure you that we are studying very seriously this question, but we need to have more elements," IJF spokesperson Michel Brousse told reporters on Monday.

"Before talking about sanctions, it is necessary to know exactly what we are talking about. Someone was overweight that is clear, but we do not punish overweight people.

"Someone is innocent until he is proven guilty. So before speaking of sanctions, we have to know exactly why he failed his weight."

Olympic judo officials said on Monday they also need to gather more evidence before any action can be taken against Iran.

Israeli judoka Yoel Razvozov was beaten in the third round of the under-73-kilogram repechage on Monday.

Razvozov won his first bout of the 2004 Olympic Games, beating Cuban opponent Robert Martinez by an ippon within nine seconds.

But Razvozov, the European silver medalist competing in the men's lightweight category, subsequently lost to French opponent Daniel Fernandes by an ippon. In the repechage, Razvozov beat his Chinese opponent in the second round, but was beaten by Brazilian Leandro Guilheiro in the third round.

Swimmer Vered Borochovsky, meanwhile, failed to make the semifinal of the women's 200-metre individual medley, despite winning her heat in a time of 02:20.62. Since her time was ranked 24 out of the 30 competitors, however, Borochovsky did not advance to the semifinals of the competition. Only the top 16 swimmers advanced to the semifinals.

Tennis player Anna Smashnova-Pistolesi lost late Monday morning 6-2 and 6-1 in the first round of the Olympic tennis tournament.

Gal Friedman moved up to the bronze-medal spot after the second day's men's Mistral sailboard race, while Marina Kravchenko downed the reigning European champion to move into the last 32 in the women's table-tennis singles, in an improved second day of competition for Israel.

Friedman, the 1996 Atlanta Games bronze medalist and the 2002 world champion, had finished fifth in the day's first race and third in the second, leaving him in fifth spot overall, but the first race was later cancelled after a mix-up in allocation of lanes. The cancellation of the race leapfrogged Friedman into third place behind Przemyslaw Miarczynski of Poland and Joao Rodrigues of Portugal, while home favourite Nikos Kaklamanakis dropped from first to fourth.

Razvozov wins first bout

Lee Korsitz, Israel's 2003 women's Mistral world champion, finished both of Sunday's races in 15th place and currently places 15th overall.

Israel's sole table-tennis competitor, Marina Kravchenko, who said before the competition that her expectation was to advance one round – on condition that she avoided Asian contestants – on Sunday made it through to the last 32 of the competitors, after beating the former European champion, Otilia Badescu of Romania, 11-6, 11-9, 4-11, 11-3, 8-11 and 11-6.

Kravchenko managed to avoid the Asians in the next round as well, but will play against Tamara Boros of Croatia, the world No. 6 and highest-ranked, non-Asian player in the Games.

"It was a big surprise," said Kravchenko's coach Isaac Cohen. "She played against the European champion who took third at the world championship."

Judoka Udi Vaks won his first match by default on Sunday when his Iranian opponent, Arash Miresmaili, exceeded weight requirements, after saying Sunday that he would refuse to compete against an Israeli.

Vaks then lost his next fight to Amar Meridja of Algeria after conceding a yuko with 30 seconds remaining. Vaks was denied a place in the repechage round after Meridja was downed in his quarter-final bout.

Israel's poor start to the judo competition continued when Michal Feinblatt went down to an ippon from Telma Monteiro of Portugal in the women's under-52-kilogram category.

There was no success for Israel in the pool, either, as Anja Gostamelsky failed to make the semifinals in the 100-metre backstroke event, ending in fifth place with a time of 1:04:06 – more than a second behind her personal best.

Back at the sailing regatta, double-handed 470 class dinghy pair Udi Gal and Gidi Klieger edged up the standing after finishing Sunday's races in 6th and 8th place; they are now 8th overall.

In the women's 470 class, Vered Buskila and Nika Kornitzki failed to recover from their disqualification in the opening race of the Games, and on Sunday came in 16th and then 19th after crashing into the Brazilian dinghy. After four races, they are in 18th place overall.

Israel's sailors remained in the water Monday along with swimmers Borochovski and Anja Gostamelsky. Men's tennis double pair Andy Ram and Yoni Erlich also began their campaign Monday.

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Israel's budget passes despite disagreement

By MOTI BASSOK
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Following a compromise reached between feuding Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz, the cabinet approved the 2005 state budget of NIS 266.9 billion (about $77 billion Cdn) Sunday, by a 17-3 vote.

According to the agreement, the defence budget will be NIS 34.35 billion, which includes a "loan" of NIS 650 million from the 2006 state budget. The arrangement allows the treasury to claim that the defence budget, which was NIS 35 billion in 2004, was cut to NIS 33.7 billion in 2005.

Meanwhile, the budget for educational reform was boosted from NIS 1 billion to NIS 1.7 billion. Planned university tuition hikes were revoked, and the Health Ministry got an additional NIS 230 million.

Industry and Trade Minister Ehud Olmert, Interior Minister Avraham Poraz and Agriculture Minister Yisrael Katz voted against the budget.

In talks in which he criticized Netanyahu, Mofaz had demanded a NIS 1.76-billion increase in the defence budget, rejecting a NIS 1.5-billion planned cut, claiming there was no more room to reduce the scope of the military deployment or the size of the air force beyond those cuts already made. He said that of this year's 4,000 public-sector layoffs, 2,400 came from the defence establishment.

At Sunday's meeting in an exchange between Netanyahu and MKs Mofaz and Olmert, Netanyahu claimed the other two were trying to "win public support… [by attacking him]. Their unfounded claims serve as weapons for our political enemies in their attempts to torpedo the economic recovery plan."

Netanyahu added that "the result is damage to the Israeli economy, to the cabinet's credibility, and to our ability to continue to gain public support for structural change that will bring every Israeli citizen growth and prosperity in the coming years."

Netanyahu called the shrinking public sector the direct result of courageous and responsible economic policy which is "bringing Israel a large economy and a small government."

Netanyahu credited Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and most of the ministers' support with rescuing the country from the economic crisis of 2000-2003, saying they understood the need for difficult and unpopular steps.

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EU says PA is OK

The European Union's anti-fraud unit said it has found no evidence the Palestinian Authority used EU funds for terror. In a statement last week, the unit said an ongoing investigation so far shows no misuse of EU funds. The office began investigating in February 2003 over concerns funds from the EU, the PA's largest single donor, were being used for illegal activity, including terror. The EU stressed in its statement – seen as a rarity while investigations are continuing – that it had worked closely with both Israeli and Palestinian officials. It also said the conclusions are interim findings.

Aliyah figures down

Aliyah was down by seven per cent in the first half of 2004, with 8,500 immigrants arriving, and is down 40 per cent compared to 2002. The 2004 decrease is due to a 14 per cent drop in immigrants from the former Soviet Union. Argentine aliyah is up 60 per cent, with increases also from France, Britain and Ethiopia. Last week, 230 more North American olim sponsored by the Jewish Agency and Nefesh B'Nefesh arrived in Israel.

Iraq threatened Israel: Franks

The threat of a missile attack on Israel was one reason for a pre-emptive strike on Iraq, retired U.S. general Tommy Franks said last week in Washington, D.C. Franks, who led the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, also said he supports the U.S. policy of pre-emption and that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict fuels anti-U.S. resentment in the Mideast.

Café Moment closes

A Jerusalem café that suffered a major Palestinian suicide bombing shut down last Monday, with the owners citing a failure to recover profitability after the March 2002 terror attack that killed 11 people. The closure of Café Moment surprised patrons who returned after renovations repaired damage from the attack.

Gandhi to help Palestinians

Mahatma Gandhi's grandson will head a Palestinian campaign of non-violent protest against Israel. Arun Gandhi was invited by a group of Palestinians from Ramallah interested in non-violent protest against Israel's West Bank security barrier and Israel's military presence in Palestinian areas. Gandhi, head of the Memphis, Tenn.-based M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence, will speak at three rallies planned in Ramallah, Abu Dis and Bethlehem on Aug. 26.

Iran tests missile

Iran said last week it had tested the latest version of its Shihab-3 medium-range ballistic missile, which is capable of reaching Israel. Iran says its missile program is purely for deterrence, but the United States and Israel say Iran is seeking to develop nuclear warheads, which could be delivered by the Shihab-3.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

Canadian Birthright Israel youth give the 'gift of life'

By JENNY HAZAN
CJN Israel Bureau

When 27-year-old Torontonian Ari Pollack arrived in Israel for the first time earlier this month, on a Birthright Israel trip through Canada Israel Experience (CIE), the last thing he expected was to be asked to take part in a bone-marrow test.

"I was a little taken aback because it was sort of a brisk request," he says. "But I was thankful for the opportunity. If my bone-marrow type matches someone in need, I will be happy to help them."

Pollack was in the first 60-member group of Birthright Israel-CIE participants to agree to be tested by the Gift of Life Bone Marrow Foundation at the Caesar Hotel in Jerusalem on Sunday, Aug. 8.

Gift of Life was established in 1991 by New Jersey leukemia patient Jay Feinberg. After being diagnosed that year, he launched an ambitious campaign to recruit bone marrow and blood stem cell donors of eastern European Jewish ethnicity. Tissue type is inherited and the chances of finding a match within one's ethnic group are much greater than finding a match outside one's ethnic group.

Since finding Feinberg's life-saving match in 1995, the foundation, which aims to increase Jewish ethnic representation within the international donor pool, has recruited more than 75,000 potential donors. Although the initiative started as a grassroots effort to save one life, the campaign has facilitated transplants for hundreds of other people with blood-related diseases who were in desperate need of life-saving matches.

But it was only after 36-year-old Feinberg won the inaugural Charles Bronfman Prize – a humanitarian award recognizing his achievements – in April that it occurred to Feinberg, Bronfman, and Lorne Klemensberg, director of Israel programs for CIE, to draw potential donors from Canadian Birthright Israel participants.

Canadian participants on a recent Birthright Israel trip took part in a bone-marrow test in Jerusalem.

"We call Birthright Israel 'the gift from one generation to the next,' so we figured we would give participants an opportunity to give the 'gift of life,'" says Klemensberg. "It's a way for the Canadian Jewish community to pass on the gift."

Like Pollack, 26-year-old Robyn Seidman from Montreal was grateful for the chance to take part in the bone-marrow test. "The fact that we were given the opportunity to help somebody was a reward in itself," says Seidman. "If someone I loved was in trouble and there was someone out there who matched them, I would hope that they would help.

"So I didn't think twice about doing it for somebody else. I was happy for the opportunity. I am only sorry that I didn't do it sooner.

"Besides," she adds, "the test only took a minute."

According to Rafi Freudenberger at Gift of Life, the initial test is quick and painless. Potential donors are given a buccal swab kit, which looks like a Q-Tip, to rub against the inside of their cheeks. The kits, which cost $100 US to process, are then shipped to a lab in North Carolina, where they get tissue-typed.

The results are registered in the Gift of Life database, a participating registry in the World Marrow Donor Association and Bone Marrow Donors Worldwide, and an affiliate of the Caitlin Raymond International Registry, which serves transplant centers around the world.

If a match is found, the donor is asked to take a test that involves drawing blood to confirm that he or she is a match.

If it's confirmed that the donor's marrow matches the recipient's, the donor goes to a transplant center, where one of two methods is used to extract marrow.

The first technique involves the donor being injected with a drug to increase the body's production of stem cells five days before the transplant. Blood is then extracted from the donor through a machine, which filters stem cells from the blood before returning it to the donor.

The second method involves a minor operation in which marrow is extracted directly from the donor's hipbone.

Given the relative intrusiveness of the extraction techniques, Klemensberg says he tells all potential donors what testing could entail.

"The choice to get tested is totally voluntary, and we tell them that if they are not willing to go through with it, then they shouldn't bother with the first stage of testing," he says.

"It's a very hard decision and we want them to donate responsibly."

Nevertheless, Klemensberg intends to continue to ask Birthright Israel-CIE participants to be tested. By the end of the summer, an additional 300 youth will have been asked. "The more help we can offer, the better," he says.

Pollack couldn't agree more. "Given the fact that we were given such a great gift in coming here, it was the least I could do. I was happy for the opportunity to give back," he says.

"This initiative demonstrates the solidarity between Jews, even on a biological level. It makes you think about how related we are to one another. That is one other thing that inspired me to get tested. There is one thing that I have in common with everyone on this bus and that is that we are all Jews."

Supermarkets take on Super-Pharm

By SIVAN KLINGBAIL
Ha'aretz Daily Newspapers Limited

TEL AVIV — Israel's major supermarket chains are trying to muscle in on the traditional product base of Super-Pharm, the country's largest drugstore operator.

Already under attack from cut-price out-of-town megastores, the big grocery players – Supersol, Blue Square and Clubmarket – are trying to win back customers lost to Super-Pharm with special prices and by attacking the drug retailer in its traditional field of pharmaceuticals, toiletries, cosmetics and baby products, sources in the sector say.

In retaliation, Super-Pharm – a 100-outlet chain led by Canadian-born chairman and CEO Leon Koffler – is out to strike special deals with its suppliers, including exclusivity over certain products.

This was clearly the case in a recent spat, when Super-Pharm pulled Materna's baby food products off its shelves as the supplier would not grant it similar deals to other stores. Though no details were released on the dispute, when Materna's products returned to the store's shelves last week, they were under the same special offer seen at competitors such as New Pharm. Someone had clearly flexed muscle, and won.

"Super-Pharm is not out to earn wider retail margins through higher prices, like the food store chains, but by increasing market share," said one of the sources.

Yair Asa'el, vice-president of marketing and trade at Super-Pharm, confirms that competition has heated up, but added that the store has maintained its market share. Some major suppliers, though, say Super-Pharm has been losing out to the large supermarkets and private stores too.

In 2003, Super-Pharm saw 9 per cent growth in sales with revenues of NIS 2.1 billion. It reported 8 per cent growth in cosmetics and drugs and 5.5 per cent growth in toiletries. As a privately held company, Super-Pharm is not obliged to release full results, but it's clear that the 9 per cent boost in sales came at the expense of the major retail chains.

Israel & the Jewish World

Desecrations a wake-up call for New Zealand Jews

By MIRIAM BELL
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — They were deeply disturbing images to wake up to on a mid-winter Friday morning: more than 90 desecrated gravestones, a burnt-out prayer house and two swastikas – one emblazoned on a wall, the other carved into the ground among the fallen headstones.

Analysis

Even more disturbing was the fact the images weren't from Europe or the Middle East, but from normally placid New Zealand, from Makara cemetery in Wellington, the capital.

For a society that prides itself on fairness and tolerance, the attack was a shock that left both Jews and non-Jews wondering how it could happen in a "God-zone."

Rabbi Jeremy Lawrence said many members of his Auckland Hebrew Congregation were distressed by the attack, the second such desecration in weeks.

"It's an incredibly emotive attack on consecrated ground. Every culture understands our ancestors are not to be touched – it violates the whole idea of 'rest in peace.' And it evokes the most terrible memories, especially for the older generation, of the past," he said.

But for many, the most disturbing part may be the realization New Zealand is not immune to anti-Semitism.

"As a Jew here, where people felt comfortable, secure and non-threatened for so long, suddenly there have been a number of not necessarily connected incidents which have made Jews in New Zealand more aware they are Jews in New Zealand," Rabbi Lawrence said.

The desecrations came after the highly publicized convictions of two Israelis who fraudulently tried to obtain a New Zealand passport. With public sentiment already turning strongly anti-Israel and pro-Palestinian, Prime Minister Helen Clark accused the men of being Mossad agents and imposed diplomatic sanctions on Israel, which has refused to confirm or deny that they worked for its intelligence services.

The passport affair followed recent debate over fiercely anti-Israeli – and, some said, anti-Semitic – drawings by a prominent editorial cartoonist, and over whether to let Holocaust denier David Irving give speeches in the country.

(In an interview last week with National Radio, Irving offered a $1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the vandals. He previously said "disordered members" of the local Jewish community might be responsible, a claim repeated by the New Zealand secretary of the right-wing National Front party.)

New Zealand does not have a history of overt anti-Semitism. Lately, however, there has been a noticeable public shift in perceptions of Israel, said John Barnett, a prominent member of the Jewish community.

"This shift can be seen in the media and at government levels, and there is no doubt that for many people, being Jewish is synonymous with Israel," he said.

A film and TV producer best known for the international movie hit *Whale Rider*, Barnett believes New Zealand has changed from a strong supporter and friend of Israel to a country that sees Israel as an aggressor and the Palestinians as Mideast underdogs.

Barnett said "lunatic fringes" may have felt emboldened by Clark's outburst against Israel after the passport affair.

"I don't think Clark thought her words would do any such thing. She's a decent person who doesn't set out to hurt people," Barnett says. "But her comments say to some people that it's fair game to commit acts like this."

There has been much debate about Clark's motives for making her strong statements – speculation ranges from a desire to shows she's a strong leader to trade considerations.

Opinion varies widely, even among Jews. Some say Clark's administration is extremely anti-Israel, while others say Clark used the affair to distract voters from political problems at home.

Natan Sharansky, Israel's minister for Diaspora affairs, blamed Clark's government for the surge in anti-Semitism. "Being anti-Israel lends justification to anti-Semitism, and the connection between the two exists all over the world," he said last week.

David Zwartz, president of the country's Jewish Council and Israel's honorary consul in New Zealand, agreed that Clark's comments may have triggered the cemetery attacks. "There has been a long-term hardening of governmental policy towards Israel, and the government is now less sympathetic than it ever has been."

Zwartz noted a number of diplomatically unfriendly actions on the part of government members recently, including Foreign Minister Phil Goff's visit to Yasser Arafat – Israel has asked world leaders to stop meeting the Palestinian Authority president because of his ties to terrorism — and New Zealand's recent voting pattern on United Nations resolutions relating to Israel.

"The intifadah has not been well-reported here. There hasn't been balanced coverage at all," Zwartz said. "And that has built up a certain amount of antipathy toward Israel and, by extension, the Jewish community here, because people have never been very good at distinguishing between the two."

The result has been a subtle change in the public attitude. After the Aug. 6 vandalism at Makara cemetery, responses were a bit mixed.

Government reaction was immediate, with Michael Cullen, the acting prime minister, calling the attack ugly, unforgivable and "totally unacceptable." Minister for Ethnic Affairs Chris Carter submitted a resolution to Parliament denouncing anti-Semitism, and it passed unanimously.

But a sampling of talk programs and Internet chat rooms reveals darker sentiments about Zionist conspiracies and Jews complaining too much. For some New Zealand Jews, the slowness to comment on the part of some notable social and media commentators – or their outright silence – speaks volumes.

The community itself must become more vocal, said Janine Gaddie, a student at the University of Auckland.

With files from Ha'aretz.

Send Your New Year Greetings to Family and Friends through...

The Canadian Jewish news

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A2

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel
The Israel Family

A3

Ben & Hannah Israel
5730 Leger Avenue
Wish their relatives & friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year

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Mr. & Mrs. Ben Israel
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Balancing work and life

Employers claim to endorse it. Employees yearn for it. It is the hottest topic among stress management experts, but do we really know how to do it? Can we achieve a work-life balance?

Remember the sense of excitement we experienced when we received our first laptop computer, cellphone and pager? We believed that these tools would permit us to achieve more freedom and efficiency, and give us extra time for ourselves.

In hindsight, we see that technology has not only caused an increase in our work hours and reduced the quality – and quantity – of our leisure time, it has also put us at risk for car accidents, heart attacks and burnout. We are never able to "shut off" work.

There used to be a much clearer separation between our work life and our home life. People would go to a workplace, clock their hours and then leave and forget about work until the next day.

To understand how we can make positive strides toward taking control of our work-life balance, we must understand what causes us to feel that our work is never done.

All of us have both external and internal pressures. External pressures come from our peers, bosses, customers, co-workers and suppliers. We can't really control our external pressures, but we can control how we respond to them.

By SHELLEY MILLMAN HERMAN

Internal pressures are the pressures that we bring upon ourselves. Type A personalities continuously seek to accomplish more and more, with a focus on quantity. Perfectionists strive for excellence, with a focus on quality. Type A perfectionists push relentlessly for both quantity and quality.

We are often our own worst enemies. We think negatively, and we set unreasonable expectations for ourselves.

In order to gain more control over how we respond to our external pressures, we need to evaluate the internal messages we give ourselves, and we need to reclaim our time. Some of the possible considerations for change are as follows:

• We must learn to diplomatically use the word "no." It is a very small, yet empowering word that will help us avoid becoming overloaded, stressed and frustrated. Saying "no" does not mean that we are being unco-operative. Saying "no" is merely an acknowledgment of our limitations. The key is to learn to say "no" assertively, yet with kindness, and to consider offering an alternative.

• We should remember that we are more than our job. Our job is what we do to earn a living; it is not who we are, and it is not our life.

• Get a life. Consider how we occupy ourselves when we finally do leave work. Do we enjoy any other part of our life? If not, then the time has come to take up some hobbies and to nurture our important relationships.

• Give ourselves permission to take some leisure time. We usually seek permission from our bosses, spouses, parents, siblings, friends, and even our children. But the real person who needs to give us permission is ourselves. We must rethink our definition of leisure, and understand that it is not a luxury, but a necessity.

• Shut off thinking about work. One way to accomplish that is to change from our work clothes as soon as we get home.

• Taking shortcuts or asking for or paying for help will add some leisure time to our schedule.

For me, regular exercise is a priority. Yet, I also want to spend quality time with my children, and it often seems that I don't have enough time for both. I realized that by doing them simultaneously, I can accomplish both of my goals. So now, when I run outdoors, I take one of my children along on his bicycle.

It's all about balance. By taking a bit more time for ourselves on a regular and consistent basis, we may find that we are even more productive – and content – in our work.

Shelley Millman Herman has extensive industry experience in human resources (HR) management, in addition to providing lifestyle and stress management coaching. She can be reached at sm@shelleymillman.com.

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Honey Cake
Chala
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Chicken Soup & Matzo Balls
Roast Chicken
Roast Brisket of Beef
Lockshen Pudding
Pan Roast Potatoes
Green Beans Almondine
New Dills
Carrots Tzimmes
Cole Slaw
Honey Cake
Chala
Mohn Cookies
Apple Pie
Honey & Apples
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MENU #3 — Low Fat Menu Only 20g Fat per person
Gefilte Fish & Horseradish
Cabbage Borscht
Roast Turkey (precarved) or Baked Chicken Breast
Kasha & Bows
Broccoli & Mushrooms
Candied Yams
Cucumber Salad
Fresh Fruit Salad
Chala
Mohn Cookies
Honey & Apples
$299.00 for 10 people

MENU #4
Gefilte Fish & Horseradish
Vegetable Noodle Soup
Roast Brisket of Beef
Chicken Fingers
Lockshen Pudding
Pan Roast Potatoes
Green Beans Almondine
Pickled Beets
New Dills, Cole Slaw
Honey Cake
Chala
Mohn Cookies
Strawberry Rhubarb Pie
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ADDITIONAL MENU SELECTIONS

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Roast Duck
Cornish Hen
Flunken in Borscht
Meat Loaf
Lemon Chicken
Baked Chicken Breast
BBQ Chicken Wings
Honey Garlic Wings
Honey Garlic Veal Ribs
Chicken Fingers
Knishes - Potato, Beef, Kasha
Kishke

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Vegetarian Loaf
Stir Fry Vegetables
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Potato Latkes
Green Beans Almondine
Broccoli & Mushrooms
Candied Yams
Ratatouille
Round Chala
Handmade Egg Noodles

SALADS
Fresh Fruit Salad
Bean Salad
Cole Slaw
Cucumber Salad
Pickled Beets
Cous Cous
Tossed Salad
Pasta Salad
Humus

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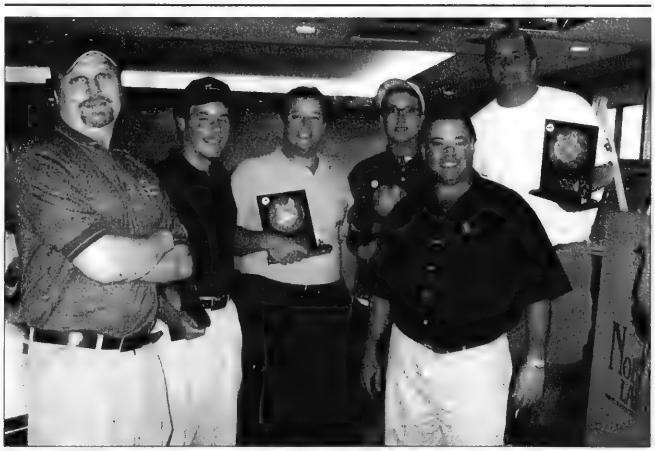

BBYO GOLFS FOR CHARITY: The B'nai Brith Youth Organization's 10th Annual Golf Tournament took place recently at Nobleton Lakes Golf Club. A portion of the money raised was donated to the Colorectal Cancer Campaign in memory of BBYO alumnus Steve Glickman. Winners of the tournament were, from left, Mike Hogan of the FAN 590, Jeffrey Radnoff, Michael Wagman, Gerald Estrin, BBYO golf chair Jeff Wagman, and Les Silverstein.

Back to School

Advertising Feature

Making the Grade after High School: College, University and Beyond

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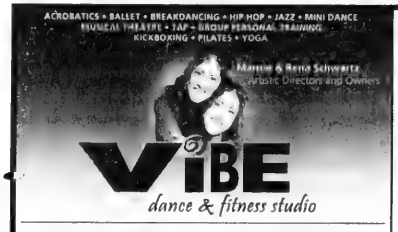
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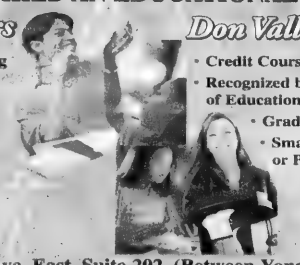

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

ADAM WAXMAN, SON OF AL, MAKES THEATRICAL DEBUT

Toronto native **Adam Waxman**, who recently graduated from the renowned Neighborhood Acting Playhouse Theatre School in New York, made his acting debut recently as Romeo in "Shakespeare By the Sea" in Halifax.

"Halifax is a wonderful change from New York," said Waxman, whose portrayal of Romeo garnered notable mention.

"The chemistry between this Romeo and Juliet is visceral," wrote a reviewer in the Halifax *Chronical Herald*. "The famous balcony scene, a highlight of this production, drew applause on opening night."

Waxman has also taken roles in *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Richard III* and the comic improvised sketches of *Shakespeare's Clowns*. The "Shakespeare by the Sea" productions run successively until Sept. 12.

He has dedicated all his performances to his father, the late **Al Waxman** and his mother, **Sara Waxman**.

* * *

More about Jewish Orphans: Former Montrealer **Judy (Gold) Gordon** has written a second book about two Jewish orphanages in Montreal. *400 Brothers and Sisters: Their Story Continues* adds many new historic details, anecdotes and photographs, and contains appendices about Jewish orphanages in Toronto and Winnipeg. **Judy Gordon** is married to Montefiore Home alumnus **Myer**, a major source of information. The Gordons are available for talks. To order the book ($20), contact them at 14 Alonzo Rd., Toronto Ont. M2R 1T5. 416-221-3161.

* * *

Names in the News: Ontario Jewish playwright **Jodi Miller** is author of the play *Playing*, which premieres this month at the Edinburgh Festival 2004.

Playing is about a newly cohabiting couple who run out of conversation and embark on a voyage of sexual discovery, but find it's harder than they thought to transform their relationship through sex. Miller's previous award-winning play, *Vladeck*, a production part of which was filmed and aired on MTV Muchmusic, is being made into a full-length feature film. Miller has been commissioned to write the screenplay. After Edinburgh, her play *Playing* transfers to the Arundel Fringe festival in West Sussex, England.

* * *

Celtic Celebrations: Black Creek Pioneer Village rounds off the summer with the Celtic Sounds and Celebrations Festival. This lively weekend, which promises to set your toes a-tapping and your hands a-clapping, features some of Canada's finest Celtic musicians as well as Irish and highland dance performances, bagpipe workshops, an activity centre for kids and more. Adults $11, seniors and students $10, children $7. Parking $6. 1000 Murray Ross Parkway, south of Steeles Avenue, east of Jane Street. Aug. 28 and 29. 416-736-1733. www.blackcreek.ca

* * *

Summerfolk in Owen Sound: The Summerfolk Music & Crafts Festival marks its 29th year with a line-up of dozens of performing artists and crafts people in Owen Sound, Ont. While music takes the spotlight, the festival has built a strong reputation around its crafts presentations as well as its storytelling. Aug. 21 to 23. For further information, contact the Georgian Bay Folk Society, 519-371-2995.

* * *

Out of Town

• Catch **Shakespeare's** *As You Like It* at Heritage Park on Kempenfelt Bay, Barrie, now until Sept. 4.

• "Modigliani: Beyond the Myth," a major retrospective of the works of the Italian Jewish painter, continues at New York's Jewish Museum through Sept. 19. 1109 Fifth Ave. 212-423-3271.

• After 37 years of nomadic existence, Israel's national classical ballet company has acquired a fitting home in the heart of Tel Aviv, Israel's cultural capital. The **Rose Cooper Israel Ballet Center** will house the 35-dancer company and its school. "It's going to make us dance better than we ever have before," co-founder **Berta Yampolsky** told the *Jerusalem Post*.

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Travel Talk

By BILL GLADSTONE

CANADIANS RETURNING TO ISRAEL IN DROVES

During the first six months of 2004, Canadian tourism to Israel was up 69 per cent over 2003 and 70 per cent over 2002, according to a report from Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics and the Tourism Ministry.

By the end of June 2004, Israel welcomed more than 20,000 Canadian visitors, compared to 11,500 during the same period in 2003.

"We expect that an estimated 1.4 million tourists will visit Israel this year. This positive upward trend should continue, as tour groups from Canada and around the world really discover the country's treasures," said Dani Shahal, director of the Israel Government Tourist Office in Toronto.

Similarly large increases in tourism to Israel were reported from France, the United States, Great Britain, Russia, Germany, Singapore and Korea.

* * *

Rochester Package: Four Rochester-area museums have joined together to offer a package for Canadian visitors called Museums of the American Experience.

The four museums are the Genesee Country Village & Museum, a reconstructed 19th-century village; the George Eastman House, a colonial revival mansion built by the founder of Kodak in 1902; the National Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls; and the Susan B. Anthony House, home of America's most famous suffragist.

The Canadian Roadtripper package offers a variety of suggested itineraries. The three-day package includes accommodations for two nights in one room and admission to all four museums. The price is $139 (Canadian) per adult, $19 per child under 18. It's being offered through Oct. 31, depending on availability. 800-834-2216.

* * *

Israel and Jordan: Archeologists Dan Rahimi of the Royal Ontario Museum and Dudi Mevorah of the Israel Museum are the guides for a two-week Tekun tour of Israel and Jordan that begins Oct. 8 in Amman. The focus is on rose-coloured Petra, the Nabatean spice route through the Negev, the Lower Galilee, Masada, the Dead Sea and Jerusalem (including a unique tour of the Israel Museum). Mostly five-star hotels; limited to 16 people; $4,650 US. Lindan, 416-457-3038. E-mail lindantoole@ca.inter.net

* * *

Uniworld Offerings: David Freudmann of Uniworld Travel and Tours is offering several BWIA flights from Toronto to St. Kitts combined with stays at the new luxurious St. Kitts Marriott Resort and Royal Beach Casino. Five departures: Labour Day weekend Sept. 1 to 5, Thanksgiving weekend Oct. 6 to 11, Canadian Golf Tournament weekend Nov. 10 to 14, and two holiday weeks departing Dec. 20 and 27.

Uniworld also offers kosher cruises aboard the Lirica from Fort Lauderdale, to the eastern Caribbean Jan. 24 to Feb. 4, 2005, and to the Panama Canal, Feb. 4 to 15. The company's Passover packages to Israel fly El Al and promise a good selection of hotels, April 19 to May 2, 2005.

The company also offers outside and verandah cabins on various luxury Oceania cruises of European ports, the Western Caribbean and South America including Antarctica. Contact Freudmann at 416-493-3322, ext. 356. E-mail, david@uniworld travel.com.

* * *

Jewish Heritage in India: Tourcan Vacations of Toronto is offering Jewish Heritage Tour of India, departing Canada Nov. 10 and returning Nov. 26. Itinerary includes New Delhi, Agra, Jaipur, Calcutta, Mumbai (Bombay), Cochin and Goa. Tour escort is Toronto journalist Barbara Kingstone. Cost is $6,495 per person (twin).

Tourcan is also offering a 15-day, Kingstone-escorted Jewish Heritage Tour of South Africa that departs Sept. 8. 416-391-0334.

* * *

Minyan Needed in Myanmar: The Jewish community of Yangon, Myanmar (AKA Rangoon, Burma) is looking for a few good men and women to join them in celebrating Rosh Hashanah. "So far, we have eight men and seven women, but we need 10 men to make a minyan," writes Howard Elias (of the Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival), who has organized a kosher stay at the Yangon Traders Hotel. Services take place at the 107-year-old Musmeah Yeshua Synagogue. For details, contact Elias at 852-9102-5410, e-mail info@hkjewishfilmfest.org

* * *

Jewish Heritage Tours: Toronto-based tour operator, AAST Inc., has organized a series of Jewish heritage journeys to China, Morocco, Turkey and other destinations, led by rabbis and historians. The 18-day trip to China departs Oct. 15. The company's founder is Ms Yue Chi, born and raised in Harbin; general manager David Roth has travelled to more than 80 countries. 416-322-6508 or 1-866-564-1226. www.asiaadventures.ca

* * *

Canadian Travel Notes

• The Green Tourism Association has launched a green tourism map of Toronto, highlighting heritage and cultural sites, green businesses, parks, gardens, conservation areas and other eco-friendly ventures. Visit www.greentourism.ca for details.

• The Southern Ontario Travel Guide provides details on attractions, accommodations and points of interest in the geographic area from Niagara to Windsor to Tobermory. Free. 800-267-3399, www.SouthernOntario.org

• Festival des films du monde brings films from more than 70 countries to Montreal, Aug. 26 to Sept. 6.

* * *

International Travel Notes

• The Books & Periodicals Agency of New Delhi, India, is a prime source for books and periodicals from the Indian subcontinent, including many new titles and rare books on Jewish subjects. Website, www.bpagency.com

* * *

Israel Travel Notes

• Dublin Tourism offers the Dublin Pass, a passport to more than 30 popular attractions at reduced rates. www.dublinpass.com

• Institutional Investor magazine recently named the Tel Aviv David Intercontinental Hotel as the best hotel in Tel Aviv and one of the 75 best hotels in the world. The Tel Aviv David Intercontinental appeared on the list for the third consecutive year.

A week of New Yiddish Culture

Ashkenaz is back.

The Festival of New Yiddish Culture returns to Harbourfront, Toronto from Aug. 31 to Sept. 6.

In that week, you can experience Ethiopian-Israeli-Canadian theatre, Argentine klezmer, Polish film, music from Holland and France, and international photography.

Generations can come together over Yiddish humour and bagels, discover history through papercutting, dance along with a French-Canadian Gypsy band or drum with Middle Eastern percussionists.

Some of the highlights are pianist Marilyn Lerner performing her original score for the 1923 silent comedy *East and West*. Film fanatics are offered a rare opportunity for comparison and contrast when the film is re-screened with improvised music by Klezmer en Buenos Aires.

Local and international klezmer acts such as the Pomegranate Squad, Beyond the Pale, Khupe, Klezmatics Ot Azoj, Hu Tsa Tsa , Stempenyu's Dream and the Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band are just some of the musical highlights.

For movie buffs, there are lots of classic Yiddish movies including *The Golem* (1936) and the musical gem *The Singing Blacksmith* (1939).

Theatre afficionados will thrill to such diverse offerings as *The Yiddish Radio Hour* and the one-man show *S'brent, It Burns*, based on the stories of Shalom Aleichem.

There's also a series of lectures, a literary program, visual arts and special events for children.

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Arts & Travel

Ruth Gruber's Haven *released on DVD with little fanfare*

By LARRY ANKLEWICZ
Special to The CJN

It is fascinating how some films and videos seem to fly under the radar. They get lost in the shuffle and are never released theatrically or are given only a limited release before finding their way onto video and DVD.

Even then, some titles are released on video so quietly that no one knows they are available. Recently, I came across several of those videos.

Haven is the true story of Ruth Gruber's attempts to provide sanctuary in the United States for some 1,000 Holocaust survivors. It is a heart-rending television mini-series, produced by Alliance Atlantis, here in Toronto, and was telecast throughout North America in February 2001.

Ever since then, I have been watching for *Haven's* release on home video. Last May, this title was released with little fanfare or notice, and I only became aware of it when I spotted the DVD in a local music store. Even some of my favourite video specialty stores knew nothing about the title or its recent release. As a result, few stores have stocked it and even fewer people know it's available.

Gruber was a special assistant to former secretary of the interior Harold Iches during World War II. In 1944, Iches asked Gruber to fly to Naples and escort a group of refugees, most of whom were Jewish, to the United States. It was a rare humanitarian gesture by the Roosevelt administration.

The mini-series follows the refugees on the voyage across the Atlantic and to their temporary settlement at a former army base in Oswego, N.Y. The refugees lived there for 18 months while Gruber fought to have them given more freedom to leave the camp and to allow them to remain in the U.S. after the war.

The TV movie stars Natasha Richardson as Gruber, Colm Feore, Henry Czerny, Bruce Greenwood and Sheila McCarthy, with special appearances by Anne Bancroft and Martin Landau as Gruber's parents.

It should be pointed out that the description on the back of the DVD box is incorrect. It says there were 100 survivors. The group saved by Ruth Gruber actually numbered about 1,000.

Haven can be found at some video and music stores or can be ordered by them. The video or DVD, on the Alliance Atlantis label, can also be ordered through the Internet at www.amazon.ca.

A second DVD release few people know about is *Dummy*, a film that appeared at the Toronto International Film Festival last September and then disappeared. It was scheduled to be released theatrically in Toronto earlier this year, but problems cropped up and it came out on video in February.

Dummy, on the Alliance Atlantis label,

Adrien Brody and Milla Jovovich star in *Dummy*.

features Adrien Brody as Steven Schoichet, a young Jewish man who lives at home with his strange parents and sister. He has a dead-end job and life is not very promising, until he decides to become a ventriloquist. He buys a dummy and begins working the small-time comedy circuit.

This is a funny, romantic comedy. It is not a brilliant film, by any means, but is certainly worth watching, if only for Brody's performance.

The film has an impressive cast, including Milla Jovovich, Illeana Douglas, Vera Farmiga, Jessica Walter, Ron Leibman and Jared Harris. Those interested in the film can find it on video or DVD. Check with your local video store or go to www.amazon.ca.

Finally, a film starring Al Pacino was recently released on video. *People I Know*, also on the Alliance Atlantis label, has been in the can for quite some time and finally received a limited theatrical release.

It tells the story of a burnt-out Jewish press agent whose clientele has practically disappeared. In an effort to promote civil liberties and improved black and Jewish relations, he sponsors a benefit evening and tries to induce the movers and shakers from both communities to attend.

The film loses its way quickly as the emphasis shifts to drugs and murder. As a result, it's easy to see why the film received little attention, but for those interested, it is now available on video and DVD.

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The synagogue in Oudtshoorn

The museum in Oudtshoorn [Kathryn Kates photos]

South Africa's Garden Route a sensual feast

By KATHRYN KATES
Special to The CJN

There are plenty of sights to see and things to do on South Africa's coastal Garden Route, which stretches from the Eastern Cape's Port Elizabeth, once a small British settlement on the Indian Ocean, to Cape Town, the country's capital in the Western Cape.

A great way to start off your Garden Route journey after your long trip from Canada to Port Elizabeth is with a safari and spa experience. Just slightly more than an hour off the route toward East London is a private oasis called Shamwari Game Reserve. It offers a number of luxury accommodation options, including the Bayethe Tented Lodge.

I was scheduled to stay at the Eagles Cragg lodge, but was bumped in order to accommodate actor John Travolta and his large entourage. The Shamwari reserve boasts two spas, including the Lobengula Lodge, which offers an array of esthetic treatments, including romantic couples' massages, both in-room and outdoors. (Golfer Tiger Woods became betrothed at the lodge – must have been a good massage!)

Back on the Garden Route leaving Port Elizabeth, I enjoyed the spectacular foliage that includes more than 22,000 species, with 10,340 types of daisies and 150 different geraniums.

We travelled over the Stormsriver Bridge to the Tsitisikamma National Coastal Park, the only coastal park in the country. Here, bird life is abundant and you can see it first-hand, along with lots of other wildlife during a Stormsriver Adventure tour such as blackwater tubing or mountain biking.

You might also try a canopy tour, which sounds innocent enough until you realize what it means – gliding 30 metres above the forest floor in a cabled harness from one tree top platform to another. The operators swear that octogenarians have enjoyed the experience, but for people who have sore backs or are just plain chicken, a tandem ride with a guide is advised.

Continuing on the Garden Route, you will come to Knysna, a charming seaside town that attracts the rich and famous of South Africa and Europe. A great way to see the famous Knysna Heads, the two cliffs at the entrance to the Knysna laguna, is from the water, be it in a rented canoe or motorboat, or in a sunset paddleboat cruiser.

Many artisans have been drawn to Knysna because it is surrounded by forest, water and mountains. Ask the locals about George Rex, who came to the area in 1804 and founded the town. Rex is reputed to be the illegitimate son of George III of England, and his first born. If this is true, it means the real British royal family lives on the beaches of Knysna, not in Buckingham Palace.

Leaving Knysna, travellers have a choice of staying on the coastal highway and passing farmland or heading toward Cape Town on the scenic route through the Outeniqua Pass to the Klein Karoo, a narrow semi-desert adorned by river valleys.

In the Klein Karoo, you will find the town of Oudtshoorn, the world capital of the ostrich industry. You can actually go on a guided tour at the Safari Ostrich Farm and sit on one of these not-so-friendly critters. You can even ride one, if you dare.

Oudtshoorn, a town in the Klein Karoo, has a synagogue at 83 Baron van Reede St. Built in 1888 by architect George Wallis, it includes a Hebrew school and rabbi's house. Up the road is the museum, which has an Israeli flag hanging outside and a miniature replica of the town's synagogue inside.

Other attractions in the area include the Cango Wildlife Ranch, where for an extra fee you can pet a cheetah, and the Cango Caves, a series of limestone caverns below the mountains of the Swartberg Range.

On the road to Cape Town, you will pass through Worcester and come across Kibbutz El Shammah. Built by Israelis, it's the only kibbutz in South Africa. Next en route is the famous Winelands, including Paarl and Stellenbosch, the second-oldest town in South Africa, which is famous for its university, historic buildings and imported oak trees that line the streets.

Also in the region is Franschoek, where the Huguenots – French Protestants – settled in the 17th century after fleeing persecution in Europe.

Getting to your Garden Route holiday is easy, although it's a long trip. South African Airlines flies from New York to Johannesburg and offers frequent domestic connections to Port Elizabeth.

Kathryn Kates was a guest of TOPAC (Tour Operators Promoting Africa in Canada), South African Tourism and South African Airways. For more information on South African holidays, contact TOPAC at 416-591-7783 or visit www.topac.org.

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Books & Authors

A sober examination of contemporary anti-Semitism

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Ron Rosenbaum, the editor of *Those Who Forget the Past: The Question of Anti-Semitism* (Random House Canada), admits that the longest hatred flummoxes him.

"After nearly two decades of reading the literature of anti-Semitism, I have yet to find a satisfactory explanation for its persistence," he acknowledges in the introduction. "Not a single-pointed answer, anyway."

Rosenbaum, whose previous book was *Explaining Hitler*, an exploration of his twisted psyche, delves into religious and racial-based anti-Semitism. But he comes to no definite conclusions. "The explanations multiply and contradict one another," he writes.

Having reached a dead end, he throws up his hands in exasperation and observes, "The reasons, the origins, no longer matter. At this point, anti-Semitism has become so embedded in history... that it will always be there... "

The fact that anti-Semitism is an enduring and generational phenomenon gives Rosenbaum a licence to examine it under a microscope.

He does so in *Those Who Forget The Past*, a bracing collection of essays that deal with all facets of anti-Semitism.

Rosenbaum's lengthy introductory essay sets the tone.

He claims that the Internet is the "new frontier" of contemporary anti-Semitism, which blends traditional forms of anti-Semitism with antagonism toward Zionism and Israel.

On the web, a surfer will inevitably stumble upon *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, the malign Russian forgery whose impact on the Arab world is more keenly felt since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in the United States and the multiplicity of anti-Semitic conspiracy theories they hatched.

The first essayist, Jonathan Rosen, an American novelist and journalist, confronts this problem head-on by stating that European anti-Semitism has joined hands with Arab anti-Israel propaganda and found a home in Muslim lands.

In her essay, Canadian columnist Barbara Amiel, citing a notorious incident in which a French ambassador described Israel as "that shitty little country," while casting aspersions on Jews, warns that open expressions of anti-Semitism have made a comeback in respectable European circles.

Addressing the widely believed myth that the Mossad planned the Sept. 11 atrocities, Harold Evans, the former editor of the London *Sunday Times*, says, "The story got legs because it fitted the story line of Jewish masterminds and because very few people in the media regarded it seriously enough to take note of, still less, eviscerate."

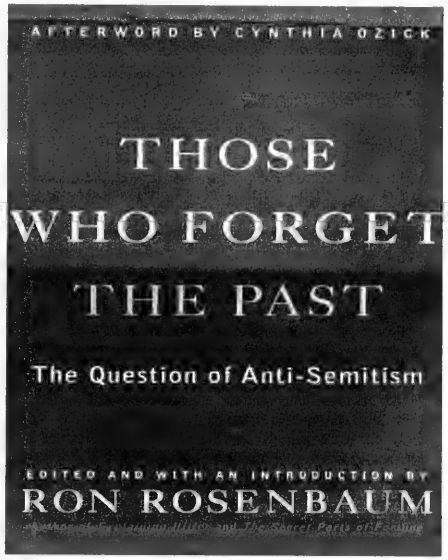
Evans correctly rejects legitimate criticism of Israel as being synonymous with anti-Semitism.

But it is easy to cross the line, he suggests.

"It *is* anti-Semitic to vilify the state of Israel as a diabolical abstraction, reserving tolerance for the individual Jew but not the collective Jew. It *is* anti-Semitic to invent malignant outrages. It *is* anti-Semitic to consistently condemn in Israel what you ignore or condone elsewhere. It *is*, above all, anti-Semitic to dehumanize Judaism and the Jewish people, so as to incite and justify their extermination."

Lawrence Summers, the president of Harvard University and the former U.S. secretary of the treasury, levels a formidable accusation.

"Serious and thoughtful people are advocating and taking actions that are anti-Semitic in their effect, if not their intent," he charges in a reference to attempts to single out Israel for divestment.


AFTERWORD BY CYNTHIA OZICK
THOSE WHO FORGET THE PAST
The Question of Anti-Semitism
EDITED AND WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY
RON ROSENBAUM

Robert Wistrich, a Hebrew University professor of history who has devoted his career to the study of anti-Semitism, contends that "a culture of hatred" permeates the Arab world in a way that has not been seen since the heyday of Nazi Germany.

The Arab-Israeli conflict is but a contributory factor, he believes. "The ideological anti-Semitism that characterizes Islamic thinking is driven by... an irrational belief that history itself is determined by the evil machinations of the Jewish people. In this respect, the Islamists seem to be directly following the Nazi model, with its fixation on a mythical Jewish power that strives for global hegemony."

According to Wistrich, Islamic fascists and Nazis share several traits: militarism, the glorification of force and a nihilistic cult of death.

Anti-Jewish rhetoric in our new millennium tends to be Islamic, anti-globalist and neo-Marxist rather than Christian, conservative or neo-fascist, he adds.

In a similar vein, Gabriel Schonfield, senior editor of *Commentary*, the neo-conservative American magazine, observes that the venomous language used against Jews and Israel these days is drawn from "the vocabulary of the Holocaust."

Leon Wieseltier, the literary editor of *The New Republic*, urges readers to be careful about assessing anti-Semitic threats.

The conflation of the Palestinians with the Nazis is grotesque, he says. In a reference to the 2002 suicide bombing in Netanya that killed 30 civilians, he writes, "Only a fool could believe that the Passover massacre was a prelude to the extermination of the Jews of Israel; a fool, or a person with a particular point of view about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict."

Ruth Wisse, a Harvard professor of Yiddish and comparative literature, takes a harder line.

As she puts it: "Anti-Zionism has absorbed all the stereotypes and foundational texts of fascist and Soviet anti-Semitism and applied them to the Middle East. Every stratum of Arab society, from top to bottom, has been nourished on the myth of Israel's illegitimacy, and has been encouraged to express its loyalties through aggressive hostility to the Jewish people and its land."

Furthermore, she writes, Arabic translations of major works of European anti-Semitism have been supplemented by a new body of original literature defaming Israel and the Jews.

Fiamma Nirenstein, an Italian journalist, claims that Israel has been transformed into "the classic evil Jew."

Echoing Rosenbaum, Simon Schama, a professor of art history at Columbia University, writes: "We certainly shouldn't be surprised that [anti-Semitism] has... survived both the reasonings of modernity and the testimony of history."

In a bleak warning, Schama urges Jews not to underestimate the power of anti-Semitic websites.

"If there's anything we've learned from this peculiarly delusional moment in our history, it is that today's media fantasy may indeed turn into tomorrow's cultural virus."

The American novelist and essayist Cynthia Ozick has the last word. "Anti-Semitism feeds on itself from continent to continent. It scarcely requires Jews."

On this pessimistic but realistic note, *Those Who Forget the Past* comes to a sober close.

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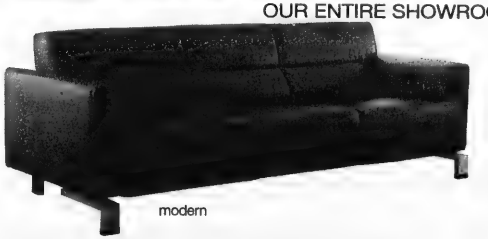
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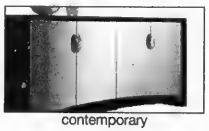
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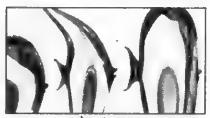
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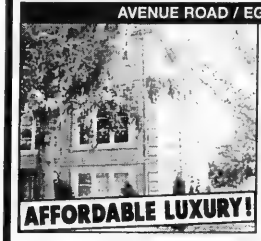

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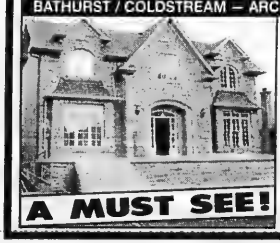

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ORMSBY CRESCENT $2,395,000
Handsome large tudor style residence, fabulous kitchen/breakfast. Ravine! Gary Mitchell** 416-488-2875

19 VERWOOD AVENUE! FABULOUS 5+1 BDRM, 5 BATHS!
$779K! Bathurst S/Sheppard! Dare to Compare! Main fam+lib+lau +2pce! Rare 66x102'! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

LESLIE/YORK MILLS! PRIME LOCATION!
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78 ALEXIS BLVD! INCREDIBLE 40 X 161'!
$689K! Bathurst S/Sheppard! Exec 4+1 bdrm, 4 baths w/sep studio bldg at rear of property! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

REDUCED! MANOR BUNGALOW REDUCED TO $329K!
3 bedrooms, hardwood, separate basement entry, 2 baths, 2 kitchens, needs a handyman! Terry Sulley* 416-226-1987

BAYVIEW/NORTH PROPERTIES

74 MONTRESSOR DRIVE! NOW $769K!
Bayview/York Mills! Vendor says Sell! Reno 4+1 bdrm, 3 baths! Main Fam+lib+lau+2pce! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

PRIME THORNHILL JUST $449,000
SOLD
Immaculate 4 bedroom home, 3 baths, main floor den, family room +laundry room. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

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$434,900. Spacious family home, huge family room w/fireplace, sep breakfast, 3 baths, double garage. S. Merrick* 416-488-2875

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Only $399,000. 3+1 bedrooms, hardwood floors, finished basement, separate entrance. Lana Solovieva* 416-785-1500

NEW PRICE! DON MILLS/FINCH $349,000
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3+1 BDRMS, REN'D CAPE COD SIDESPLIT
81 Snowshoe Cres, Thornhill. $50,000+ in upgrades! Walk to school, Synagogue, Church. Linda Murphy* 416-226-1987

CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

FABULOUS NEW LUXURY CONDO $759,000
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FABULOUS EXECUTIVE PENTHOUSE IN FOREST HILL!
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FOREST HILL VILLAGE CONDO!
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"THORNHILL WOODS" - CHOICE OF 2!
Absolutely gorgeous detached 4 bedroom homes, finished lower level, loads of upgrades. From $434,900. *Sarah Tamin

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BAYVIEW & JOHN - BAYVIEW FAIRWAYS
On fab 55'x175' lot! 3 bdrm home, double garage, main floor family rm, on quiet dead-end street. Motivated vendor! *Ted Waxman

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BATHURST-WILSON ON 40X130 FT. LOT
Beautifully renovated 3 bdrm bung, fin bsmnt, suitable for large fam. In the heart of the Jewish neighbourhood, within walking distance to parks, schls, synagogues & shopping! *Perry Walsglass

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CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

100 ANTIBES DRIVE
3 bedroom corner unit with 2 baths, large kitchen. Move in condition, immediate possession. *Susan Shainhouse

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BATHURST-STEELES "PRIMROSE"
Exquisite main floor condo, hardwood, new appliances, new broadloom, renovated & painted throughout! Plus 2 car parking! Must be seen! *Ted Waxman

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BATHURST-DREWRY
Immaculate 2 bedroom condo, 1½ baths, steps to bus and subway, walk to shuls! *Helen Winer

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5 HOUSES FOR SALE

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8 bedroom triplex, 5 baths, two 3-bedrooms & one 2-bedroom, good condition. Good investment for the future.
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30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

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35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

80 Antibes, 3 br. 2 full bths, all parquet, corner unit, kit., bay window. 416-661-1665.

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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10 HOUSES FOR SALE

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15 HOUSES FOR RENT

Near Yorkdale Mall, 5 bdrms., 2 baths, 2 kits., prkg., hrdwd flrs., a/c, htng., newly renov., spac. backyard, $1,800 + util./mo. Call 416-910-7478 or 905-842-9976.

UPPER FOREST HILL
$4,595 Recently renovated 5 bdrm w/mstr ens, mn flr fam rm, new kit., 4 baths, fin bsmt, new hdwd, 2 car garage, great yard, Sept. 1.
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Sutton Group Rlty. Inc.
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30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

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PLAZA DEL SOL (Steeles/Bathurst) $209K. (New Price) 2 Bdrms, 1 Bath, 1 Parking, 1,023 sq. ft. Facing east, Motivated Vendor. View at www.rpt.ca/steeles401
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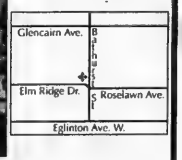

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Lake Simcoe/Belle Ewart, secluded winterized 4 bdrm, waterfront, open plan, mod kit, renov 4 pce. bath, cedar cath ceiling, skylight, marine rlwy. No Agents. 416-860-2600 or at cottage 705-456-6037.

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Muskoka Listings

Lake Muskoka Cottage 3600 sq. ft. $634,900. 6 bdrms., fplc., sand beach, s/exp., level lot, 2 slip boathouse, 2 bdrm. guest cottage, 2 car garage.

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125 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE

PRIVATE SALE, Land of the Presidents. WPBeach, approx. 2400 sq. ft. Envoy. 3 bdrm., corner unit, hrdwd. flrs., built-ins, wrap-around balc., fully furn'd, immaculate! $369,900 US$. 416-256-4211 or 416-471-7463.

130 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT

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BOCA RATON/Century Village, fully furn., 2 br, 2 bth. Lake view. Kosher kit., lr/dr. Den. 1 bl. from 2 shuls. Brand new appl., painting, carpeting & DR furniture. $2000/mo US for season 301-907-0019 or ellyn@taxlawyer-cpa.com

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Hallandale, 1 bdrm. convertible, 1 1/2 baths, avail. Jan. 5, 4 wks, non-smokers, $500/wk US. 416-781-7241.

Miami Beach, Arlen House E., lux. condo, 1 bdrm, 1 1/2 bath. from Feb. 1, $1600/mo US. 416-322-6650 evenings.

Palm Aire, 2 bed., 2 bath, grdn. apt. $1700/mo US. Dec. 1-Apr. 1/05. 416-488-7888 or 416-496-2900, ask for Steve.

135 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT/SALE

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The successful candidate will be a professional who is flexible, motivated and detail oriented with excellent oral and written communication skills. Excellent computer skills, including Microsoft Word, Outlook and Excel are essential. Non-profit and fundraising experience is helpful as is knowledge of Raiser's Edge. An interest in Israel and social justice issues is a strong asset.

Please forward your resume to
Minda Davis, Executive Director
The New Israel Fund of Canada
801 Eglinton Ave. W., Suite 401
Toronto, ON M5N 1E3
Fax: (416) 781-7443 – email: info@nifcan.org

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280 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Rosh Hashana Greetings
Sept. 15
in
The Canadian Jewish news

Future of Jews in Russia remains unclear

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

MOSCOW — In a tidy and cheerful building in central Moscow, children mill about, play with colourful toys, watch television, and dream about a life of normalcy, free from the abuse, drunkenness and neglect of their parents.

Described in English as an orphanage, its Hebrew name, Beit Yeladim (children's house), more accurately represents its nature. Housing 40 youngsters ranging in age from four to 18, the two-year-old home is a refuge from a life that for many kids was one of unrelieved horror.

Beit Yeladim's director, Dany Belak, and his wife, Yael, serve as surrogate parents for the children, who look to other residents as their brothers and sisters.

Belak, 29, a native of Dniepropetrovsk, said most of the children in the facility had lived in desperate circumstances. "Each story is a horrific story," he said. "There are still parts of the Jewish population that lives in conditions that Jews in the West don't understand."

The examples he cites are chilling. About four years ago, a desperate grandmother approached Rabbi Yitzchok Gorelik in Kazan, asking for advice about her grandchildren. Her daughter, she said, lived in Nazer Badneh, a small town near the Tatar capital, and the condition of her grandchildren appalled her. Her daughter had been abandoned by her Russian peasant husband and she had turned to the sex trade to make ends meet. Her children lived on straw strewn on the floor, were barely fed and subsisted on berries they picked themselves and scraps from garbage bins. The mother numbed her hungry children to sleep by feeding them alcohol.

Since that meeting, the oldest boy, nine-year-old Natan, has been adopted by a Moscow Jewish family, while his sister resides in the Beit Yeladim.

Other children have similarly horrific stories to tell. Belak points to two brothers, Dany and Ilyusha, six and seven respectively, who arrived in the home from a state orphanage. An older brother has already been placed with a family, while the younger sister will move into Beit Yeladim next year when she is old enough.

Their non-Jewish father was often drunk and abusive. He beat their mother, once even stabbing her, and broke his children's teeth.

Removed to Beit Yeladim, the boys "couldn't speak and were completely confused with fear," Belak said. "They never smiled. Every time something fell, they blamed themselves. They had stomach, gastro-intestinal problems."

Neither of the boys saw a piece of fruit until they moved to Moscow. After about one month, they began "normalizing," he said.

Aided by a psychologist and supported by the love of the Belaks, the boys began to make progress. Today, Ilya speaks fluent Hebrew, while Dany is advancing at a somewhat slower pace, Belak said.

Were it not for the Beit Yeladim, "more of the children would be in the street," he added.

Beit Yeladim is one of 10 homes like it across the former Soviet Union (FSU). Altogether 500 Jewish kids reside in the homes – many from isolated communities – and there are plans for 10 additional facilities to be opened in the next two years. Russian oligarch Roman Abramovich has been one of the facilities' benefactors, while Chabad Lubavitch provides the programming.

The orphanages are part of a vast network of new Jewish facilities established across the FSU by the Chabad Lubavitch movement, said Rabbi Avraham Berkowitz, executive director of the Federation of Jewish Communities (FJC), an umbrella organization of Chabad-related Jewish organizations created in 1998.

They are symptomatic of a renewal of Jewish life in the FSU that followed the collapse of the communist regime. A window of opportunity exists today to revitalize Jewish life and Chabad has moved into Russia to take advantage of the opportunity, he said.

Fifty summer camps are being prepared for 10,000 youngsters, Jewish schools are opening in centres large and small and in Moscow and St. Petersburg, home to the largest Jewish communities, and religious and cultural life is blossoming, he said.

In Moscow, the $12 million (all figures US) Jewish Community Centre (JCC), which houses the Marina Roche Synagogue, reopened with much fanfare, as Russian President Vladimir Putin made a widely publicized appearance.

Synagogue in Moscow can hold 2,000 worshippers on High Holidays

The synagogue in the seven-storey building can accommodate 2,000 worshippers during the High Holidays. The building is also home to a 400-seat amphitheatre, an Internet cafe, administrative offices and a kosher restaurant.

Although the FJC relies on local philanthropists for support, much of their funding stems from two main sources, the Ohr Avner Foundation, created by Israeli businessman Lev Leviev, and the U.S.-based Rohr Family Foundation.

The two foundations were the primary sponsors of the $2.5-million purchase of the Spartak recreation centre in Moscow, which has been redeveloped as the Machon Chaya Mushka, a women's college and residence that is associated with Moscow State University and that offers degrees in Jewish studies.

St. Petersburg, Russia's second city, is home to an estimated 100,000 Jews. As in Moscow, the city now supports Jewish day schools, cultural centres, a home for the elderly, a soup kitchen and Jewish newspapers – a Jewish infrastructure unheard of only 15 years ago.

Yakov Tsukerman, editor of *Ami*, the first Jewish periodical to be established following the dissolution of the Soviet Union, said there are now 300 Jewish newspapers in the the republics of FSU.

St. Petersburg supports eight Jewish schools, including those operated by Chabad and the Jewish Agency. In addition, there are eight kindergartens, religious and secular, a Jewish university, cultural societies, and a Jewish museum.

A key issue facing the community is ameliorating the plight of pensioners, who subsist on $50 to $60 a month and rely on the soup kitchen and other assistance to get by, he said.

* * *

Pavel Felgenhauer is a Moscow-based columnist who specializes in military and strategic issues. Opinionated and cocky – something of a Russian Eric Margolis – Felgenhauer acknowledges that Jewish life has changed markedly over the past 14 years. In 1990 and '91, shortly after the Soviet Union broke up, the Chorale Synagogue in Moscow would attract not much more than 60 people, mostly elderly Russians and visiting foreigners. There were few families or young people, he noted, but if you attended services today, it and all Moscow synagogues are packed. "It's shocking," he said. "There were 17 seders in this building [the JCC]."

Steve Rosenberg, the BBC's Moscow correspondent since 1991, recounted a story of being shown a synagogue by a Russian visibly frightened to be seen near the place of worship. "Contrast that with now. It's amazing," he said. "Putin actually opened this community centre. That's a huge leap from what it was before."

With Putin's public signal, attitude to Jews has changed, Felgenhauer agreed. "It is a bit cool to be a Jew now, since Putin likes Jews."

The Chabad movement has drawn close to Putin, and one of Russia's chief rabbis, Berel Lazar, has been seen often with the Russian leader, even receiving the People's Friendship Medal.

Russia's other chief rabbi, Adolph Shayevitch, has the support of a rival organization, the Russian Jewish Congress, which was headed by oligarch Vladimir Gusinsky, a political opponent of Putin. While Chabad currently has the support of Putin, that situation could shift on a dime if there was a change of government, Felgenhauer said.

Beth Knobel, Moscow bureau chief for CBS, pointed out that Russia's 1993 constitution gave the president enormous unchecked powers.

"No one could see Putin coming," said Rosenberg, Knobel's husband. "No one knows who will be next."

Russia has no independent judiciary and parliament has a limited role, added Felgenhauer. Russia's "civil society" consists primarily of its bureaucracy, where policy is formulated and discussed. "There are a lot of people who are real anti-Semites in that bureaucracy. They know now that being an open anti-Semite is not good."

Many in that civil society don't like Jews and believe their Zionist masters on Wall Street want Russian assets, he said. "So when Putin moves against Jewish oligarchs, the bureaucrats say that's good, as they represent Jewish power."

Felgenhauer suggested Putin believes Chabad can be an asset to him as a lobbyist in the United States, perhaps in pushing for the removal of the Cold War-era Jackson-Vanik Amendment, which restricts trade with Russia.

Russia's influence on the Arab-Israeli conflict is negligible, with the country having limited leverage in the region. While many in the bureaucracy dislike Jews and Arabs equally, Russia's interests point the country to a more pro-Arab side, since it is believed "more money is to be made with that slant." Arabs are spending a lot of money to gain influence, Felgenhauer said.

Knobel suggested another attitude is at play. "Russians have a patriarchal attitude to Russians in Israel. They're still thinking about them… Russians refer to them as 'ours,' our people," she noted.

Paul Lungen was recently a guest of Chabad Lubavitch in Russia.

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Canadian to officiate at Olympic tennis tournament

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

In 1999, at the tender age of 21, Brian Laski was invited to work the lines as an umpire at the most prestigious tournament in tennis, Wimbledon.

John McEnroe, who owned Wimbledon back in the 1980s, was already well past his prime and Laski was not able to savour the unique pleasures of having the left-handed phenom hurl a choice, "you can't be serious," at him.

Still, he did manage to officiate at a McEnroe match on the Seniors Tour, but that game passed uneventfully.

In his brief but storied career, Laski has seen some of the greats close up and sweaty. He has videotape of a match between Peter Sampras and Andre Agassi in Toronto where he worked as line umpire, and he worked as chair umpire in one of Patrick Rafter's last matches before he retired.

With that kind of experience, which also includes six U.S. Opens, it's a good bet that when he makes a call in Athens, it won't be because he's in awe of the players.

"Players do try to intimidate you so the next call is in their favour," he said prior to flying to Greece to officiate in the Olympics tennis competition. "But in tennis, the ball is moving so fast, you have no time to see whose shot it is."

Laski, now 26, has known since February that he'd been tagged to work as a line umpire in the Olympic tennis competition. For the past four years, international tennis officials have been screening prospective umpires, evaluating their performances and determining who would best perform in the pressure cooker of Athens.

To be considered for the Olympic umpire roster, Laski submitted his name to the International Tennis Federation, and Tennis Canada later endorsed his application.

Brian Laski

Based on his performance in each tournament he worked, and taking into account his top-15 finish among North American umpires in 1998 and 1999, when he worked the world doubles championships, Laski made the cut.

Tennis officials consider accuracy of calls, the absence of problems on the court and how well players respect you, Laski explained.

"I'm very excited," he continued. "It's a huge thrill, probably a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

Laski is not particularly nervous about the on-court competition. "It's the same players I've seen in other tournaments," he said.

In his brief but action-packed career, Laski has worked at six U.S. Opens, the Canadian Open, three Ontario university (OUAC) championships, Wimbledon, and numerous regional competitions.

As a youth, Laski enrolled in the Ontario Tennis Association's junior development program, "but I was never good enough to do very well." A multi-sport athlete, in 1991, he was on the Toronto team at the regional youth Maccabi Games in New Jersey, where he won two swimming silver medals in the individual medley relay and the freestyle relay.

In 1996, when he was 18, he applied to be a ball boy at the Canadian Open in Toronto. He was disappointed to be told he was too old for the job, "but they suggested an on-court position."

As Laski found out, tennis bodies, including the ATP and WTA, have been trying to recruit younger officials for the past 10 years. He signed up for a training seminar through Tennis Canada "and they stuck me on the court at a junior event at the Richmond Hill Country Club. I knew what to do… Officiating came easy."

After serving as line umpire at two or three regional events, he advanced right to the Canadian Open. At 18, he was making calls in the Open's qualifying tournament and for the first half of the tournament itself.

The alumnus of Associated Hebrew Schools and the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto then went on to work 10 professional tournaments, including the U.S. Open in 1997 as a 19-year-old line umpire.

"I thought I was the youngest and I was shocked when I wasn't," he said.

To Laski's surprise, one of his colleagues was only 18.

Still, "as a student job, I couldn't find anything better. To travel, to get paid in U.S. dollars, it was pretty good."

He learned quickly that it's important to act professionally and assuredly. "If you don't sound confident, or you sound nervous, the players really eat that up."

While there are some chair umpires who make tennis a full-time career, Laski remains a part-timer. He is enrolled in the dentistry program at the University of Toronto and plans to graduate next year.

Iraqis say they won't avoid Israelis at Games

By ORI LEWIS
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Iraqi athletes are ready to put politics aside and compete against Israeli opponents if the occasion arises at the Athens Olympics, the leader of the Iraqi delegation said in an interview published shortly before the Games began.

"I want to send a clear message to the Israeli people… It does not matter if you are Israeli, Palestinian or Iraqi, each one of us has the basic right to live," Iraqi Olympic committee president Ahmed al-Samarrai told *Yediot Achronot*. "We have no problem meeting the Israelis. This is sport, not politics," he said.

In past Olympics and other major sporting events, competitors from Arab countries have pulled out of clashes against Israelis.

Israeli wrestler Ya'akov Manshirov only made it to the Olympics after an Iraqi wrestler refused to fight him at the last world championship, giving him a bye to the quarterfinals and a ticket to Athens.

36 Israeli athletes embark on quest for medal glory

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

ATHENS — Judoka Arik Ze'evi, perhaps Israel's best hope for a gold medal, was given the honour of carrying the country's flag at the opening ceremonies of the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens last week.

Ze'evi, a three-time European champion in the under-100-kilogram category, marched at the head of an Israeli delegation that is widely considered the best the country has ever sent to the Games.

A total of 36 Israeli athletes in 15 disciplines are competing in the Games, and Israel Olympic chairman Ephraim Zinger expects the delegation to bring home three medals, including a first-ever gold.

Since it first competed at the 1952 Helsinki Games, Israel has won a total of four medals. Judoka Yael Arad was the first to claim honours for Israel with a silver in 1992 in Barcelona. Oren Smadja added bronze in the men's judo event.

Gal Friedman claimed bronze four years later in Atlanta in the mistral surfboard, and Michael Kalganov earned Israel's latest medal, a bronze in the 1,000-metre kayak in Sydney four years ago.

Friedman and Kalganov are once again expected to challenge for medals, with the windsurfer marked as one of Israel's gold medal hopefuls along with Ze'evi, Greco-Roman wrestler Gocha Tsitsiashvili and pole vaulter Alex Averbukh.

Veteran shooter Alex Danilov was the first to go for Israel last Saturday, competing in the qualifiers of the 50-metre pistol. He was hoping to erase the memory of his early disqualification in Sydney with a place in the finals later the same day.

Next in action was swimmer Vered Borochovsky in the qualifying heats of the 100-metre butterfly. Borochovsky, who also competed in the 200-metre individual medley, said her aim was to break the Israeli record and, with a bit of luck, gain a place in the final.

Other Israeli athletes include judoka Gal Yekutiel, gymnast Pavel Gofman and women's table tennis player Marina Kravchenko. World and European bronze medalists Nika Kornitzky and Vered Buskila are vying for Olympic medals in the women's 470 class double-handed dinghy.

In the men's 470 event, Gidi Klieger and Udi Gal, the 2001 European silver medalists, also began their quest for glory on Saturday. Since winning the European silver, Klieger and Gal came close to medals at both the European and world championships, but failed to mount the podium on each occasion.

Last Thursday, 11 of the Israeli athletes who had yet to arrive in Athens joined their teammates after an early morning flight from Tel Aviv. The athletes had an unpleasant surprise when the terminal was evacuated after a bomb scare, but it failed to dampen their spirits.

Tennis double pair Any Ram and Yoni Erlich were upbeat about their chances of pulling off a surprise in Athens. "We are in great shape and have had some fantastic results in the past month," said Ram. At the Tennis Masters event in Toronto earlier in the month, the duo advanced to the doubles quarterfinals.

Our kinship to one another is what bonds us

Dear God,

I went to Israel and stood before the holiest sites in the history of Judaism and felt dead. I stood before ruins that are thousands of years old and witnessed the tragedy and survival of my people – the Jewish people – have experienced, and I felt nothing. Not a stir in my stomach, not a flutter in my heart, nor an ache in my soul. God, what happened?

BY SANDIE BENITAH

I am a Sephardi Jew living in Ashkenazi Toronto. That means that all my life I've always been the "good one" to my secular friends, turning down Friday night parties for Shabbat dinners and turning away cheeseburgers for fish. I listen to You, I believe in You and I talk to You. And yet, it was those same secular friends who felt touched to their core when they touched the Western Wall in awe, while I stood there and didn't shed a single tear. God, where were you?

But really, where was I?

I was on a 12-day organized tour of the country with about 40 other young Jewish Canadians. It was my first time in Israel and I thought this would be a great way to experience it. So many of my friends who came back from a similar trip raved about the spiritual awakening they experienced. "I'll never date a non-Jewish boy again," one of them pledged.

God, I'm so jealous.

Let's face it. It's been awhile now that I've been starving for a spiritual kick in the butt to make me head in the right direction. I'm at an age where I should be settling down. Being Jewish and raising a proud Jewish family is what I want. It's important to me, but my friends have yet to hear me pledge anything.

You didn't fail me. I failed myself.

It's true that I went to Israel with high expectations for an enriching learning experience. Instead, I found myself immersed in mindless fun, laughing with roommates all night long and dancing with everyone. But although I was surrounded by Jewish people and Jewish life, I kept looking for something more, something deeper. I was looking for something that would make me serious about my religion. It never came.

What kept coming to me was a single question – What does it mean to be Jewish? I always believed it meant taking an interest in the Torah and making a connection with the religion.

A friend once told me that it was important to distinguish between the religion and the people who represent the religion. I thought he was so smart, but now, in retrospect, I think he's a fool. Without Jewish culture, secular or not, the Jewish people would have no pride, and our religion would be meaningless. Much of the Torah is about honouring our history and our plight as a people. We celebrate Passover to remember our suffering at the hands of others. We celebrate Shabbat to reflect on the holiness that has always marked our people. Religion isn't what bonds us, our kinship to one another does.

I'll always remember one Friday night of our trip, when, after some coaxing, the guys put on their kippot and sang, rather than recited, the Kiddush. There it was, the flutter in my heart. Who would have guessed that my spiritual kick in the butt would come while staring at the faces of my most secular friends?

It hurts that I no longer have the bragging rights about being the "good" Jew in our group. They've had it right all along, God, and going to Israel is what made me stand up and take notice.

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1 tblsp. vanilla
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Sift together all dry ingredients. Melt chocolate and butter, then cool. Beat in eggs, one at a time. Beat in honey and vanilla. Stir in dry ingredients and nuts.

Butter an 8"x8" pan. Bake at 375°F for 30 minutes, making sure to test for doneness. Top with whipped cream.

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About Life

Dear Ella,

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The problem is my parents. They now have six grandchildren, including Emily, but they act like they only have five. I know that her being Asian is an issue. They don't want to have to explain this grandchild to their friends.

At family gatherings they ignore Emily. They hug and kiss and play with all the other kids, but avoid her. Nobody has really noticed yet, except for my husband and me, but soon the other kids will notice, and, worst of all, so will Emily.

They can't treat her like this, I won't allow it. What's my next step?

Acceptance Please

Dear Acceptance Please

Mazel tov on your new little daughter. Bringing an Asian child into a Caucasian family can have its challenges as well as its rewards.

We always look for and expect support from our own families. Not having the support of your parents is difficult. There are still people who believe only a genetic relationship is valid.

You and your husband have made a major decision to make Emily part of your family. You have opened up your lives and your hearts to her, and you are reaping the rewards on a daily basis. Unfortunately, you can't expect everyone to feel the way you do.

Your parents need time to really get to know Emily on a one-to-one basis. They will see that Emily is developing similar talents, tastes and interests as their other grandchildren. Given that time, she is bound to win them over. They need the chance to interact with her regularly. This will help them get past the newness of the situation and the fear of explaining her to their friends. Once they clear that hurdle, it will give them the opportunity to concentrate on Emily, rather than on what their friends will say.

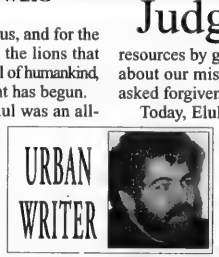
You schedule the times and let Emily do the rest. Have faith in your parents and in the abilities of your little girl.

Readers may submit their questions to Ella at The CJN., *email: eb@cjnews.com. But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional.*

Judgment in the month of Elul

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

The month of Elul is upon us, and for the ants that walk our sidewalks, the lions that amble through the jungles, and all of humankind, the process of divine judgment has begun.



When I was in yeshiva, Elul was an all-encompassing month of introspection. We would wake up early in the morning and say special tfillot – Slichot – sometimes an hour or more before regular davening. I recall how ominous the days felt, as though we had grown wings so we could fly closer to God and a silky and finely woven cover of beauty had wrapped itself around us.

We sensed the holiness in the air. I think in images and recall seeing God open the gates of heaven just a tad more than usual, for our prayers to slip through and reach her ears. We prayed fervently. We heard the shofar. We reached deeper into our meagre allowances to do what Judaism says is just – sharing our resources by giving tzedakah. We wondered about our misdeeds of that year and freely asked forgiveness of those we hurt.

Today, Elul is different. I am 44 and am no longer surrounded by the consistent reminders of this month. I have great difficulty with prayer and wonder incessantly about praising God after witnessing unforgivable suffering. The task of asking slichah – forgiveness – is now so much harder, because humbling myself as an adult collides with my ego much more so than when I was young and saying sorry was simpler.

But Elul is still ominousness and I can sense the shift in consciousness when it arrives, as I still do when Friday becomes Shabbat. And my chest still puffs out with the pleasure of a farmer completing his harvest every time I hear the sound of the shofar.

What a superb tradition. How interesting that we use this ancient instrument, as Joshua did when he entered Israel, to physically and spiritually wake up our people.

If you live near a shul, listen very carefully in the morning. Hear the call of the shofar, because it is mighty, bold and brash. It is universal, historical and futuristic.

Last year, I led the High Holy Day services at the Danforth Jewish Circle. One of the highlights of the services was a shofar duo between Richard Chardash, a founding member, and myself.

I put my tallit over my head, and Richard and I established fierce eye contact, knowing we were the congregation's spiritual musicians, blowing a song that had been played in the desert following the Exodus, in the Temples in Jerusalem and in Europe when Jewish communities thrived with erudition and brilliance.

It's Elul. If used wisely, it will make your Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur richer and more meaningful. Use it. Be courageous and ask forgiveness of those you hurt, regardless of how bad your misdeed was. Life is so short. Be generous with the funds that God has advanced us and exaggerate the amount of tzedakah you give because Judaism says it is just – not right or good, but just. Look deeply into your own neshamah (soul), and forgive your foibles and craziness, and celebrate the beauty and greatness that lies within you as creations of God.

Elul begins Aug. 18. Make it rock!

"I am often overcome... [that] we are building castles of sands and any moment a wave will come and wipe out everything. But God who is there, after man sins... whispers in our ear that Jerusalem is surrounded by mountains – one must do much climbing... to climb the mountain so as to be able to reach Jerusalem.

– Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik

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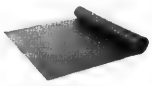
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This Week

National

CIJA takes stock after its first year. *Page 6*

Ashkenaz Festival celebrates our Yiddish heritage. *Page 18*

Jewish Community Focus

In spite of all the squabbles, we are there for each other. *Section B*

On Campus

CHAT grads edit eclectic literary magazine. *Page 32*

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Arsonists attack community centre in Paris

French security guards stand outside a Jewish community centre in eastern Paris that was gutted by arson over the weekend. *[RNS/Reuters photo]*

By AMIRAM BARKAT
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

PARIS — Arsonists burned a Jewish community centre in eastern Paris before dawn Sunday, leaving behind graffiti with anti-Semitic messages such as "Jews get out," police said.

No one was hurt as flames tore through the centre located on the first floor of a six-storey building. The centre, a meeting place and cafeteria for the elderly and disadvantaged, was gutted, rescue officials said.

Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin and other top officials visited the centre, the latest target in a years-long wave of anti-Jewish attacks in France.

"I came here today to say that France cannot accept a trivialization of anti-Semitism," Raffarin said.

He noted that the maximum sentence for such crimes is 20 years behind bars. "Prosecutors will request the maximum sentences," he promised.

In a statement, President Jacques Chirac condemned the attack and pledged solidarity with the Jewish community. The government is "determined to find the perpetrators of this unacceptable act so that they can be tried and convicted with the greatest severity" that the law allows, Chirac said.

Firefighters were called to the scene at about 3:30 a.m. local time and had extinguished the flames by early morning. The centre's wooden doors were gnawed by flames, while the walls inside were blackened. The apartments upstairs were not affected.

Continued on page 36

Israel's bronze medalist

Israeli judoka Arik Ze'evi won Israel's first Olympic medal of the Athens Games last Thursday, defeating Dutch opponent Elco Van Der Geest for the bronze in the men's 100-kilogram judo competition. *Please see related story on page 50.* *[Israel photo]*

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Iran may get uranium from South Africa — please see page 35

News in Brief

CANADA

Killers Denied Parole

TORONTO — The two men who killed Dmitri (Matti) Baranovski in 1999 were denied parole earlier this month by the Ontario Parole and Earned Release Board. It said the behaviour of Meir Mariani and William Cochrane, both 21, had declined and both smoked pot while in jail, even after completing drug abuse programs. They were convicted of manslaughter for killing Baranovksi, 15, in a dispute over cigarettes in a park. They were sentenced last December to two years less a day after getting eight years credit for four years in pre-trial custody. They became eligible for parole after serving one-third of the time.

Schwartz Drops Bid

TEL AVIV — Gerald Schwartz, chairman and CEO of Toronto-based Onex Corp., has dropped the bid he was leading through Onex to buy a majority stake in the Israel Discount Bank (IDB) from the Israeli government, which owns 57 per cent of Israel's third-largest bank. Schwartz backed away because of demands by U.S. regulators that Onex restructure its U.S. holdings if it wants to acquire Israel Discount Bank of New York, the business newspaper *Globes* reported. Schwartz and fellow Canadian Matthew Bronfman were named last month as two of the five foreigners bidding for IDB.

WORLD

Graves Vandal Held

PARIS — A man has admitted to vandalizing some 60 Jewish tombstones with swastikas and Nazi symbols in Lyon earlier this month. The French national is in custody after giving himself up on Aug. 14. Police said he may have daubed the stones as part of an initiation rite linked to a U.S.-based far-right group that requires members to commit a "Phineas Act," often of a violently racist or anti-Semitic nature. The man said he was the mysterious figure who painted "Phineas" on three stones and attacked a Muslim in a Lyon suburb.

Missionaries Target D.C.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Jews for Jesus is bringing 600 volunteers to the Washington, D.C.-area to win converts among the city's 220,000 Jews. The "Behold Your God" campaign was to begin Saturday and end after Rosh Hashanah. Since 2001, it has targeted 38 other cities worldwide that have more than 25,000 Jews, including Toronto.

Final Deadline for Property Claims

LONDON — Britain has set an Aug. 31 deadline for remaining claims to the Enemy Property Claims Assessment Panel. Later claims will be assessed on an ad hoc basis.

The panel was set up in 1999 to receive compensation claims for assets of victims of Nazi persecution confiscated by Britain during World War II. Under the "Trading With The Enemy" act, Britain confiscated assets of residents of enemy nations, including Nazi-occupied countries. Many were taken from people who became Nazi victims. After the war, assets were released to victims, but not all were returned.

To date, 1,121 claims have been filed and £16.2 million paid to 377 successful claimants worldwide.

For details and a database of confiscated assets, visit www.enemyproperty.gov.uk.

Aide Denies Charges

NEWARK — A former aide to James McGreevey has denied reports he is blackmailing the New Jersey governor, saying he isn't gay and only defended himself against McGreevey's advances. Golan Cipel, an Israeli who was McGreevey's homeland security adviser and later his liaison to the state's Jewish community, is suing McGreevey for sexual harassment. Earlier this month, McGreevey admitted to an affair with a man and resigned.

Reinstatement Upheld

PARIS — A French court earlier has upheld the reinstatement of two 11-year-old boys, described as being of North African origin, who were expelled for attacking a Jewish boy at Paris' prestigious Lycée Montaigne last year. The Education Ministry had appealed a lower court decision that reinstated the boys and awarded them damages for what it called exaggerated punishment. One was expelled for assault, while the other was expelled for assisting the attack and for anti-Semitism. But the appeals court said they shouldn't have been expelled without warning.

N.Z. Jews Honour Dead

WELLINGTON — Some 300 Jewish New Zealanders paid homage Aug. 15 to those buried in Wellington's Makara Cemetery, about a week after 113 headstones were toppled and a prayer hall destroyed by fire in a nighttime attack there. Meanwhile, activists at an Aug. 14 anti-racism meeting faced extremist protesters handing out anti-Israel placards outside the hall where they met. The extremists are members of the National Front, whose Oct. 23 rally is being countered by the anti-racists. Inside, some activists spoke out against the inclusion of New Zealand Jewish leader David Zwartz, saying Israel is a racist state.

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CIJA officials look back on first year

Survey results shock officials

By PAUL LUNGEN.
Staff Reporter

In the lead up to the creation of the Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) slightly less than one year ago, leaders of the new advocacy organization commissioned a survey of Canadians' attitudes toward Israel and the Middle East. They were shocked when the results came in and showed Canadians were woefully ignorant about the State of Israel.

As CIJA co-chair Steven Cummings recalled, the polling showed that "Canadians did not understand that Israel was a democracy with an independent judiciary, [with] freedom of religion, women [had] full and equal rights and gays [had] full and equal rights."

Instead, they equated Palestinians and Israelis and placed equal blame on each party for the conflict between them.

In devising a strategy to address these findings, CIJA determined that education was the key and it would begin by targeting Canadian leaders – whether in politics, in non-governmental organizations or labour unions, as well as other opinion makers, Cummings said.

Steven Cummings

Brent Belzberg

Since implementing their strategy, CIJA's senior officials believe the long, hard struggle to turn the corner on public support for Israel is well underway, with a number of initiatives undertaken to inform Canadians about Israel's democratic nature. And they believe headway has been made in creating a more comfortable atmosphere on campus for Jewish students who support Israel.

In a review of CIJA's first year of activities, Cummings and CIJA co-chair Brent Belzberg said the organization had allocated substantial new sums to Jewish advocacy organizations and has invested many resources in bringing influential Canadians to visit Israel.

Despite the growing influence in Canadian politics of the expanding Mideastern population, the Jewish community can retain support in Ottawa by stressing Israel's shared values with Canada, said Belzberg.

CIJA's board, which consists of prominent Canadian businesspeople, "has the ear of those who make decisions," Belzberg said.

To build on those relationships, CIJA has funded a number of missions to Israel, including three consisting of corporate CEOs; it has sponsored meetings with newspaper editorial boards and corporate luncheons by *Jerusalem Post* editor Bret Stephens; it has met with senior political leaders; and it has provided Canadian Jews with the resources and information to enable them to intelligently make the case for Israel when they discuss the Middle East with colleagues.

Cummings said visitors to Israel immediately get a different impression of the conflict when they see the country first-hand and meet local experts. CIJA-sponsored missions are designed to introduce visitors to Palestinian Authority spokespeople, so visitors "do not feel they are being propagandized," he added.

Since it has been in operation, CIJA has more than doubled the number of individuals visiting Israel on missions.

What's more, said Belzberg, the leaders being taken to Israel are more influential than ever before. (Last spring, one of the CIJA-inspired missions was led by former Ontario premier Mike Harris and former Newfoundland premier Brian Tobin.)

More than $200,000 has been spent subsidizing the visits to Israel of campus leaders, said Belzberg, while CIJA has worked with the Canada-Israel Committee (CIC), the

Continued on page 21

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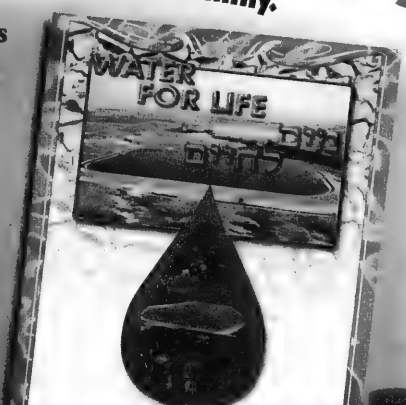

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Marvelling at artists

From the editor's desk

Most of us can more easily recognize art than define it. That, of course, is part of art's universal appeal: its exhilarating, highly personalized, even liberating, subjectivity.

Ludwig Lewisohn, the noted German-born American writer, novelist and essayist of the early 20th century, once wrote that "wherever deep experience attains intense expression, there is art."

Despite Lewisohn's mental acuity and legendary facility with words, this powerfully aphoristic statement is catchier than it is definitive, more anecdotal than it is prescriptive.

All of us, during the course of our lives, have deep experiences of one sort or another. And we are all capable of intense expression in one form or another. But the expression of those experiences do not necessarily yield art, per se. They may indeed yield memorable moments or pleasant keepsakes. But can we always define that as art?

In one sense, of course, Lewisohn was absolutely correct. Art is indeed always at the meeting place of experience and expression. And when we have the occasional good fortune of venturing upon such a meeting place, we marvel.

Tovah Feldshuh

We also marvel at the artists.

Recently, while in New York, I happened to gaze upon, marvel at, appreciate and be moved by the rare talents of two artists: Tovah Feldshuh and Amedeo Modigliani.

Feldshuh is currently starring in the play *Golda's Balcony* at the Helen Hayes Theatre in Manhattan.

The play is a compelling, one-person tour de force. Written by William Gibson, it tells the story of the founding of the State of Israel through the heroic, heart-breaking and very human life of Golda Meir.

Gibson deftly weaves the personal issues and crises of Golda's private life with the life-and-death policy issues and crises of Golda's public life as Labor party activist, cabinet minister and prime minister.

The play begins at the calamitous outbreak of the disastrous Yom Kippur War. Golda confronts and struggles with the horrible, nightmare possibility of the destruction of the state. The military quandaries are of a piece with the moral ones she faces.

From that foreboding, dark precipice of the Yom Kippur War, Golda recounts the details of her life from the early frightened days as a child hiding from the Cossacks in Russia, through her headstrong teenage years in Milwaukee, to the heady, idealistic days as a young pioneering Zionist.

Feldshuh forcefully lays bare the heart-wrenching agony of Golda's immense responsibility as prime minister during the war even as she sweeps us up into the swirling emotion of the larger-than-life epic that was Golda Meir. For an hour and half, Feldshuh commands the stage entirely by herself, a table and chair, a pitcher of water and the occasional cigarette her only props.

She brings us to tears and to laughter. She entertains and she educates, she inspires and she instructs. She reminds us of the great burdens that so many people have carried on our behalf. She makes us aware that, when all is said and done, the lines of history are carved by human hands into the stones we often cast at each other.

Feldshuh was superb.

Amedeo Modigliani

Some 50 blocks north of the theatre, at the Jewish Museum, I saw a remarkable art exhibit titled *Modigliani: Beyond the Myth*. The full range of the artist's work as a painter and sculptor was on display. Curator Mason Klein has compiled an arresting, eye-opening, provocative showing of the Italian Jewish artist.

The myth of Modigliani's life was actually grounded in fact, namely, that he was a wildly passionate, brooding, womanizing, penurious but ultimately brilliant artist. Many of us are familiar with Modigliani's sensuous, elegantly elongated portraits and paintings in stunning shades of ochre, orange, brown and other earthy hues.

However, Klein's exhibit and insightful accompanying text reveal much more about the artist. Klein offers a new view of Modigliani "as a secular Jewish artist through the filter of his Italian Sephardic heritage."

"I am Modigliani, Jew," the artist would often say to the people he met in Paris. Through the exhibition that Klein has curated, we feel as if the artist was also saying that to us. The exhibit comes to the Art Gallery of Ontario on Oct. 23.

Of those who are able to make experience and expression meet as art, Marc Chagall once wrote. "The artist must penetrate into the world, feel the fate of human beings, of peoples, with real love... One must be interested in the entire realm of life." After seeing Tovah Feldshuh perform on stage and Amedeo Modigliani perform with sculpture and with paint, I have no doubt of the truth of Chagall's manifesto. —*MBD*

SeeJN

YOUNG CANADIANS IN ISRAEL: On a recent mission to Israel, participants in the Canada-Israel Committee and United Israel Appeal Federations Canada's Young Leadership Israel Advocacy Initiative are seen in front of the menorah at the Knesset, with a delegation of Canadian members of Parliament. The Young Leadership Israel Advocacy Initiative is designed to teach young Jewish leaders to interact with Canadian parliamentarians and senior government officials to advocate for Israel. Applications will be available in September for next year's program. For more information, contact David Cooper at the Canada-Israel Committee at davidcooper@cicweb.ca.

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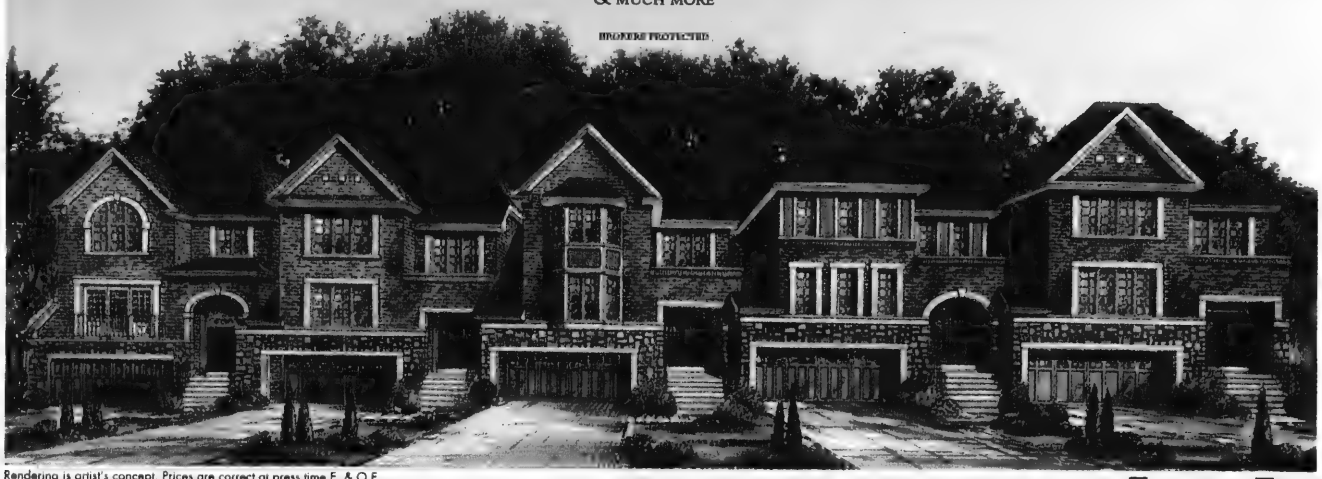

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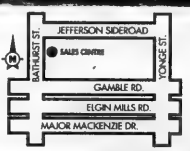

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Greater Toronto Area

Jewish Palestinian scholar calls for binational state

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Jasmin Habib, an Israeli-born cultural anthropologist, has written a book that will doubtless draw sharp criticism from most Jews and Arabs.

"It's a book both communities will respond to in a way that's not necessarily sympathetic," she said last week in a reference to *Israel, Diaspora, and the Routes of National Belonging*, which the University of Toronto Press will publish in September.

The majority of Jews will find it discomforting and disagreeable because Habib adopts a post-Zionist position in which she calls for a binational state encompassing Israel and the territories.

Similarly, many Palestinians will reject her book because they will think it legitimizes the attachment of the Jewish people to Israel.

Habib, an assistant professor at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, will thus please neither side, finding herself somewhere in a twilight zone that is usually the lot of bicultural individuals like her.

A personable and articulate woman of 40, she is an anomaly, at once a Jew and a Palestinian, both an "insider and an outsider," as she puts it.

Habib's Jewish mother was born in Mandate Palestine. Her maternal grandmother escaped the horrors of the Holocaust, but the Nazis murdered almost her entire family.

Her father, a Greek Orthodox Palestinian, was born in Beit Shean. His family was displaced by the strife that convulsed Palestine in the wake of the 1947 United Nations partition plan. As a result of the fighting, the Habibs lost their property and became "internal refugees," first in Nazareth and then in Haifa.

Married in Cyprus in 1962, Habib's parents were members of Israel's Communist party, where they met. He was a cabinetmaker and she was a lawyer.

They decided to leave Israel after the 1967 Six Day War, having concluded that their children, Jasmin and her brother Rami, would not be able to lead "normal" lives in Israel.

"They didn't want us to suffer," said Habib, whose Israeli birth certificate and identity card classified her as a Jew.

Her father immigrated to Canada in 1969 and settled in Ottawa. Habib and her mother and brother followed three years later. She was six years old when she landed in Canada.

Since then, Habib, who speaks Hebrew better than Arabic, has returned to Israel practically every year to visit her relatives. Although she defines herself as a Jew and a Palestinian, she feels closer to her Jewish relatives

A graduate of Trent University, Habib began working on the book a decade ago, a year after the launch of the Oslo peace process. "It was a moment of creative dialogue between and among Jews and Palestinians in North America," she observed.

She conducted field work in Toronto, among other places, participating in public events at Jewish community centres, synagogues, libraries and schools. She also went on organized tours of Israel.

The topic was not exactly new to her. She had often discussed it with her parents and brother at home, and at Trent University, she discovered that her Jewish friends were deeply attached to Israel without particularly knowing too much about it.

In her book, she writes: "My underlying objective is to consider ways of thinking outside of – and perhaps even beyond – the dominant paradigms that link identity to territorial nationalism."

Habib acknowledges that her family's unconventional history infuses *Israel, Diaspora, and the Routes of National Belonging*.

She found that, for Diaspora Jews, Israel is "the unifying symbol" of Jewish survival. "Thus, when Diaspora Jews imagined Israel, they were also reflecting on their collective history and the continuity of their community, the nation of Jews."

She was frankly surprised by her findings. "I had mistakenly conceived of Diaspora Jews as mainly a political community, especially in the context of the Israel-Palestine conflict. I was unprepared for the strength of their emotional commitments to one another as Jews, as a collectivity."

Habib claims that their bond with Israel is emotional rather than exclusively territorial. "The territory itself meant less to them than the survival of their kin."

Which brings Habib to her post-Zionist proclivities.

Habib fervently believes that Israeli Arabs, a branch of the Palestinians, will never achieve full cultural and national equality as long as Israel defines itself as a Jewish state.

In a binational state, however, that would not necessarily be the case, said Habib, who has been influenced by Israeli Jewish academics and journalists such as Tom Segev and Amira Hass.

Speaking as a Jew, she said, "Do we need a space – Israel – to be exclusive to be safe? I don't think so."

Nor does she think that a two-state solution is the answer. "Israeli Arabs will always remain second-class citizens in a Jewish state."

Habib realizes that her advocacy of a binational state will win her few friends and admirers in the Jewish community. "I understand why people don't want to hear that."

But she argues that compelling demographic factors – namely Israel's one million-strong Israeli Arab minority, with its much higher birth rate – will not allow Israel to be a Jewish and a democratic state in the future.

"We are moving toward a binational state, whether we like it or not."

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'Some progress,' no suspects in Ryerson hate case

By JESSICA HELLEN
CJN Intern

Police are "looking into some persons of interest" in their investigation of the recent anti-Muslim hate incidents at Ryerson University.

Det.-Sgt. Neil Corrigan of Toronto Police 51 division said that "there's been progress [in the case] to some extent," but there are no suspects. He would not comment further on any possible leads.

He said the police hate crimes unit is working with campus security to examine physical evidence, such as fingerprints, and reviewing the school's security tapes.

Letter-sized flyers purporting to be from Jewish groups, one of which called on Toronto Jews to "fight back against Muslims and Arabs who wish to cause harm to us," were discovered recently in prominent locations on campus.

"We ask Jews everywhere in Toronto not to be fearful of the Muslim parasites," the flyer says. "We ask that whenever you spot a Muslim no matter who it is, Man, Woman, Teenager, Black Muslim, that you beat them and cause harm to them. Kill these Islamic infidels and don't be ashamed to be a Jew."

The poster, which was signed by a previously unknown group calling itself the Full Blooded Israelis Brigades, concluded with the words "God is Great!"

After the flyers appeared, the Muslim Students' Association found a letter in its campus mailbox threatening the group's president, Ahmed Arshi.

Corrigan said he does not know if the perpetrators are from Ryerson. "The potential is that it is more likely someone from within the [university]… but there is no direct evidence for this."

He said the language used in the flyers "is being examined for any investigative lead. Obviously there's been a lot of comment on this because of some of the text of the messages."

Bernie Farber, executive director of Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region, said "the language in no way suggests that these flyers would have been put up by Jews.

"We simply do not have the word 'infidels' in our lexicon. 'God is great' is not part of the Jewish lexicon. Jews just would not engage in this kind of language. I've never seen anything like that before," Farber said.

Campus security increased

"That's why I don't think it's someone from the Jewish community or from the Ryerson community. It's someone just stirring up trouble within the two ethnic communities, and they've failed because it's drawn us closer, not driven us apart."

Farber said "it was such an obvious and stupid attempt to pin it on Jews. It didn't carry any weight at all. Anyone who saw it knew it right away."

Another poster, signed by a group calling itself The FBC Ridaz, took responsibility for a June 23 incident in which the words "Die Muslims Die" and Stars of David were spray-painted on the walls of the school's multifaith room.

The group warns Muslim students that "we will continue to send messages and that this incident is only the first of many. We want to let them know that no Muslim student will be safe and that security isn't going to stop us."

Ryerson spokesperson Dana Yates said campus security and awareness efforts have been increased.

Two community information sessions organized by the school after the posters were found were "really good, supportive" meetings, Yates said.

"It was an opportunity for student groups and various offices on campus to come together with the Ryerson community. The main message was that this won't be tolerated and this won't divide the community."

She said about 50 students, staff and faculty attended the first session and about 35 came to the second.

Yates said the school's discrimination and harassment prevention office, which has ongoing campus campaigns, is "putting on an extra push" as a result of the recent incidents.

Ann Whiteside, a discrimination and harassment prevention officer at Ryerson, said the office is putting out a "Help Stop Hate" poster, as well as continuing to meet with student groups and planning various speakers to talk about conflict, culture and racism.

Whiteside said the purpose of the programs is to "maintain a work study environment that is positive for everybody – positive and respectful."

Whiteside also said a multifaith day is being organized for Sept. 15.

"Everybody's being really vigilant overall," she said. Students, staff and faculty are making sure to "keep their eyes open" in hallways and pay attention to school bulletin boards.

"This is a horrible thing that's happened in our community. But the student groups are right on the money in terms of their reaction."

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Sounds of silence (1)

"But the small Israeli team – 36 athletes competing in 14 sports – was met with quiet so complete it was shocking." That was how Christie Blatchford of the *Globe and Mail* described the scene as the Israeli delegation entered the Olympic Stadium during the opening ceremonies two weeks ago in Athens.

It was heartbreaking and infuriating to read.

The Israelis deserved better. They deserved the respect accorded to all the athletes competing in the games.

But the response of the audience in Athens is typical of the responses of most audiences throughout Europe now where Israel is concerned. Israel has been vilified and demonized even in Athens, even under the glow of the supposedly universalist five-ring symbol. Rather than basking within the olympic ideal of athletics and fellowship, Israel has been tossed the jagged shards of the modern-day ostracon.

What the propaganda-soaked Europeans do not see, we must show them. And when they do not extend to the Israeli athletes civility and respect, we will.

Sounds of silence (2)

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency reported last Friday that the world governing body of judo declined to penalize Arash Miresmaeili, the Iranian athlete who refused to compete at the Olympics against his Israeli counterpart, Udi Vaks. Despite earlier pronouncements by Iranian officials that Miresmaeili would not fight Vaks on Aug. 15 because of Iran's political boycott of Israel, the International Judo Federation (IJF) accepted Miresmaeili's claim that he did not fight simply because he was overweight.

"As the IJF has no rule for penalizing overweight athletes, the IJF executive committee decided not to take any sanction against Arash Miresmaeili," the federation said in a statement.

No one has been fooled by the Iranian's pitiful ploy.

The shameless transparency of Miresmaeili's excuse was underscored by the equally shameless suggestion by the chairman of the Iranian Olympic delegation, Nassrollah Sajadi, that Miresmaeili ought to still receive the $150,000 prize reserved for all Iranian medal winners. Indeed Iran's president Mohammed Khatami praised Miresmaeili's inability to maintain his weight as heroic.

If the IJF is too craven to do the right thing, what about the International Olympic Committee (IOC)? Why have we not heard from them? Can they not see the truth? Can they not see that the integrity of the Games has been compromised?

In Washington, Senators Tom Daschle and Harry Reid have urged the IOC to strip the Iranian delegation of its credentials if it fails to rebuke Miresmaeili.

Similar sounds should emanate from Ottawa.

Let not the silence from Ottawa match that from the IOC.

UN has no moral authority to judge

Morris Sosnovitch's letter to *The CJN* ("Criticism of ICJ Overstated," Aug. 5) reflects the dangerous cloak of legitimacy that the International Court of Justice opinion gives Israel's critics. Sosnovitch states that I, together with "other pro-Israel commentators," overstate the case by "labelling the court indifferent to Jewish lives." The ICJ's indifference is a product of its deafening silence on the issue of Palestinian terror and its inevitable effects on Israel's decision-making, and not of my or any other "pro-Israel commentary."

Sosnovitch suggests that Israel might have received a fair hearing had it recognized the ICJ's jurisdiction to render an advisory opinion. This suggestion ignores the advisory role of the ICJ and the evidentiary rules of the court. The advisory opinion was rendered in response to a question posed by the United Nations General Assembly. Israel was not a party to the case and did not bear the burden of proving why it has chosen to defend its citizens from murderous Palestinian terrorism.

As noted by Judge Thomas Buergenthal of the United States in his dissent, Israel's decision not to take part in the hearing may not have been wise, but the ICJ had a duty to gather and consider all of the relevant evidence, instead of drawing sweeping conclusions in a vacuum.

There is one point on which I agree with Sosnovitch: "Given the question posed to it by the United Nations General Assembly, the court could hardly have reached any other decision." The question Sosnovitch should be asking is why a General Assembly that counts dictators, thugs and monarchies among its members has the moral authority to question and judge Israel and its brave citizens. The answer is that it does not.

Ben Archibald
New York

* * *

Values were indeed betrayed

Gil Troy's article,"Fence abstention betrays Canadian values" (*CJN*, Aug. 12), is right on target, and I believe we can do what he recommends while, at the same time, following the basic principles and advice of the "expensive pollsters." We can "talk Canadian" with a passionate voice. But we must speak out. Letters, faxes, e-mails and phone calls to our elected representatives have to politely, but forcefully, correct, or commend, where applicable, their actions.

Frances Hellen
Toronto

* * *

Debating God's will

The information in Martin Lockshin's article regarding the debate in the Israeli Orthodox community on the disengagement issue is interesting and encouraging ("Jewish theology and the Gaza withdrawal," *CJN*, Aug. 12). It is, however, important to recognize that Orthodox Jewry is only one of many forums where such a debate is taking place. For the majority of Israelis, as well as the world at large, the issue is not between God and the people of Israel, but between Israel and the Palestinians.

The debate Lockshin applauds is still among people who believe that God's will should determine the fate of the settlements. Luckily, they have begun to question the main premise of this approach, namely that we can know what God's will is.

Baruch Rand
Toronto

* * *

Scotch not newsworthy

I was disappointed with your article, "Single malts the toast of kiddush clubs" (Aug. 4). The article was not newsworthy and certainly not worthy of front-page coverage. Will *The CJN* continue with a series on the virtues of gambling and the best brands of cigars?

Melech Tanen
Thornhill, Ont.

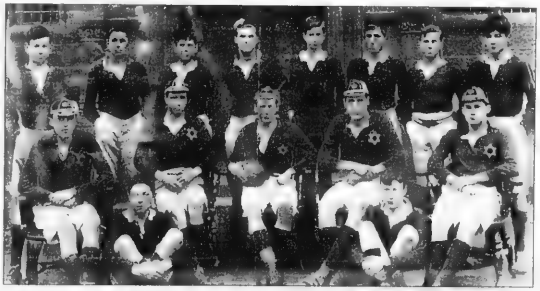
* * *

Photo ID?

The Saint John Jewish Historical Museum in Saint John, N.B., has been contacted by a gentleman living in Scotland who was looking for information about an apparently Jewish football team photo taken in a community called Perth. He believed the photo to have been taken in Canada. He thought it might be New Brunswick, where there is, indeed, a community of that name, but one that does not have a Jewish population. I am writing in the hope that someone among your readership might be able to identify the photo in some way. The team photo dates from around 1918 to 1920, based on the dates on the players' caps.

Please contact the Museum at 29 Wellington Row, Saint John, N.B., E2L 3H4, telephone 506-633-1833, fax 506-642-9926 or e-mail sjjhm@nbnet.nb.ca.

Katherine Biggs-Craft, Curator
Saint John Jewish Historical Museum



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By AVNER MEIRI

The *terrorist hunter*

Last year, a remarkable memoir, *Terrorist Hunter: The Extraordinary Story of a Woman Who Went Undercover to Infiltrate the Radical Islamic Groups Operating in America*, was published in the United States. The author was listed as "Anonymous," but was later revealed to be an Iraqi-born woman, Rita Katz.

The book tells the story of a Jewish woman who was born into an affluent Jewish family in Basra, Iraq. Her father had a successful business with strong ties to many of the Muslims governing the country.

During the Six Day War, the Iraqi government sent two army regiments to fight against Israel. Both were defeated in battle, and 10 Iraqi fighter planes were destroyed on their way to the front. For the Iraqi regime in Baghdad, this was considered a shameful disaster.

The Iraqi government sought a way to avenge this military defeat, and the author's family was the perfect scapegoat. Her father was arrested and accused of spying for Israel. A mock trial was held in Baghdad in 1969 without allowing him any defence. He was sentenced to death and hanged together with eight other Jewish men, who were also accused of spying for Israel. The remaining members of the family – the pregnant mother, two sons and the daughter – were held under partial home arrest, in isolated small rooms, guarded by the Iraqi police in Baghdad.

One Friday after evening prayer, the mother prepared coffee for the guards, as she did every day, but this time, the coffee was spiked with a large dose of valium. The family managed to escape into a waiting van while the guards slept. Then, with the help of Kurdish smugglers, the family succeeded in crossing the border into Iran and subsequently to Israel.

In Israel, after a year in an absorption centre during which she took lessons in fashion design, the author's mother opened an apparel shop in Tel Aviv and raised her four children, as a single parent. When the daughter was eight years old, she adopted the name Rita.

Rita ultimately studied at Tel Aviv University, where she met her future husband, Russian-born Leo Katz. A few years later, Rita and Leo Katz left Israel for the United States. Leo Katz found work in the engineering field and Rita was accepted at an institute that did research on the Middle East.

Rita's first duty was to translate into English articles that appeared in an Arabic newspaper in the United States and other parts of the world. While doing research on a Middle Eastern organization, she noticed that for Arab and Muslim groups, it was fairly easy to become designated as a charitable organization in the United States, and, at the same time, be exempted from paying taxes.

Dozens of these "charity organizations" were found in the United States collecting funds to help "the poor Palestinians refugees" or "to support the widows and their children, victims of the Israeli occupation."

In her memoir, Katz reveals that most of the funds raised were sent to terrorist organizations such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

In trying to expose these groups, Katz used to dress in the *abaia*, the traditional Arab woman's clothes, covering her body and head, and attend Friday prayers at mosques or go to the annual meetings of these organizations, held in major American cities. Under the *abaia*, she hid a recorder that taped the speeches and sermons given by imams (Muslim clergymen) and other distinguished Arab guests. She was fully aware of the danger she could be in if she was caught.

In 1995, one visitor to the United States for a speaking engagement was Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri, at the time a representative of the Kuwaiti Red Crescent. Al-Zawahiri was Osama Bin Laden's chief deputy and personal doctor, and the ideological architect of Al Qaeda. He was sentenced to death in Egypt for his role in the Egyptian Islamic Jihad. However, while in the United States, he collected half a million dollars for a "charitable cause." He later used the money to bomb the Egyptian Embassy in Pakistan.

When the U.S.S.R. invaded Afghanistan in the late 1970s, Muslims and Arabs from all over the world joined the jihad against the Soviets. In 1979, Bin Laden, then just 22 years old, graduated with a degree in economics from the university in Jedda, Saudi Arabia. He and his nine brothers ran their father's business, which specialized in building tunnels. In the same year, Bin Laden joined the mujahedeen in Afganistan and used his experience to build bunkers in the mountains of Afghanistan.

In the beginning, Bin Laden had a small group of loyal men, called the followers of Al-Masada. They later became Al Qaeda.

Under its new name, Al Qaeda became a global organization, establishing cells in the United States, Spain, Germany, France, Saudia Arabia and Iraq. In the United States, it was involved in several terrorist attacks, including the 1990 murder of Rabbi Meir Kahane, leader of the far-right Kach party, and the 1993 World Trade Center bombing.

The FBI mistakenly dismissed all these early terrorist attacks as isolated incidents. The FBI claimed there was no reason to worry about the Kahane murder by a fanatic Muslim who killed "one crazy Jew."

Katz and her organization repeatedly wrote letters to the FBI, the CIA, the U.S. Immigration Department and even the White House, attempting to convince them that there was a conspiracy by murderous terrorists involved in these operations. All their warnings were in vain, as the FBI left "a trail of criminal negligence all the way from the World Trade Center bombing in 1993 to the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001" Katz writes in *Terrorist Hunter*.

"There's fierce competition among the agencies. Instead of collaboration with the mutual aim of hunting down terrorists, some agencies are obsessed with prestige and credit. Who gets the gold star?"

Another terrorist group, Al-Muhajiroun, based in the United Kingdom, also had a branch in New York City. It held a rally in front of the United Nations building on April 28, 2001, just a few months before 9-11.

Kamran Bokhari, the head of Al-Muhajiroun in New York, said: "We are only a few here, but we have a billion Muslims behind the jihad. One day, we will liberate all Muslim lands. One day, you will see the flag of Islam over the White House!"

When the recording of this rally was submitted to U.S. government representatives, they said Bokhari's words were well within the reasonable limits of freedom of speech.

On Sept. 24, 2002, U.S. President George W. Bush announced his plan to go after groups who fund terrorists. Four days before Bush made his announcement, a government official had asked Rita Katz for information about at least 60 charitable organizations and businesses run by Arabs and Muslims in the United States. Bush's address included information from Katz's report, word for word.

To protect herself, Katz intended to publish *Terrorist Hunter* anonymously. But shortly before the book appeared in June 2003, she was interviewed, also anonymously, by *60 Minutes*. Some of the organizations accused in her book sued her, claiming her information was incorrect, and her identity as the author was revealed just before the book was released. She has said in subsequent interviews that she stands by every word she wrote and continues to fight terrorism in her work.

Avner Meiri lives in Toronto.

Osama Bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri
[RNS/Reuters photo]

Living far but keeping close

I flew home from Boston last Monday night. I had gone there on Sunday to babysit my grandchildren. They only needed me for seven hours. Everyone – except my daughter – told me I was crazy.

Norma Baumel Joseph in Montreal

Even I knew that, rationally, the trip did not make any sense. Their regular babysitter was available. So why did I take up two precious days when I have so much work to do? Because I am committed to being an active part of my children's and grandchildren's lives.

I know there are many new ways of maintaining such a presence. We all use the phone, e-mail, instant messaging, computer or digital movies, etc. (Does anyone still write letters?) But nothing compares to a real hug. So, like many of my friends, I work at it. My parents and in-laws were not able to be here frequently, and we went to visit only once or twice. But that's not enough. I am driven by my own personal need to be with my grandchildren, not just their need to have me there. So I go frequently, even if it's only for 24 hours.

Waiting for the plane, I thought about my own compulsion to maintain a strong relationship with my descendants. And I contemplated the biblical models of extended family life. I am not promoting living with all of one's kin – an impossible and even unappetizing idea. But submerged in many of those stories is a lesson for us today.

I understand Ruth and Orpah refusing to leave Naomi; Abraham's difficulty in removing Hagar and Yishmael; Jacob's distraught reaction to his sons' departure; even Laban's tight control over his daughter's place of habitation. On the other hand, women often shifted locations from paternal to spousal, from mother to mother-in-law. I wonder at the difficulty and loneliness. Perhaps Rachel wanted her sister to live with her. Although there are many other issues in the above stories, they do affirm the intensity of the familial connection. Perhaps I'm being romantic, but I would dearly love to live within easy reach of my extended family.

With the High Holy Days fast approaching, we should examine our efforts at maintaining familial relations. With all of our modern complications, keeping close is a challenge. As the family expands, there are other families and work conditions to consider. So I cannot counteract my yearning with the placebo that we will all be together for the holidays. Those large get-togethers are great, and I derive great nachas from watching the multi-generational interactions. But they can't replace the consistency and security of a real and regular presence – not for me and not for them.

Stay close and work at it, for their sake and yours.

It's a beautiful world

There can be few more intense moments in our lives than when we hear the cry of a newborn. As grandparents to be, we spent an anxious night waiting for our first grandchild, and at about 6:30 a.m. on Sunday, Aug. 15, our 39th wedding anniversary, we heard that blessed sound.

A new neshamah has been added to the people of Israel.

That weekend was even more fraught with meaning, since it was also the anniversary of my father's passing. Remembering him as I wrote last month's column, I never thought the advent of his great-grandchild would begin on the day of his yahrzeit.

Jean M. Gerber in Vancouver

When I was born, my father was told to go home and sleep. Husbands at that time had only two choices – pace the hospital floors or go home and wait. Now, they are active participants, and my son-in-law was amazing, doing everything but panting and pushing. We, the grandparents-to-be, were the ones pacing around a quiet hospital as the night wore on.

We had just arrived home after a havdalah ceremony on the occasion of a bat mitzvah when the phone rang. In a few minutes, we were at the hospital to begin our night of waiting. I thought of the blessing we give our daughters – "May God make you as Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah" – which alludes to the fruitfulness of a mother's womb. I prayed that my daughter would emulate their joys, and be spared their sorrows.

Our matriarchs suffered greatly to bring their children into the world. Their yearning for children consumed them. Our tradition assigned them the mission to bear the children who would create a people dedicated to the service of an invisible and demanding God, one who combined infinite mercy with awesome justice when needed.

They were to give birth to a nation that was expected to complete the creation, mending where it was torn by strife and healing where it was wounded by hatred and war. Fixing the world – that's a big challenge for anyone, least of all for a squirming infant and her exhausted parents.

Looking at the sunrise as we left the hospital, the world looked pretty good. Vancouver's blue sky was pink with dawn, the noisy streets of her Saturday night were clean and quiet on the Sunday morning. So many possibilities, I thought, for this luminous new life. As a Jewish woman, so many opportunities and blessings await her.

How much the world had changed in its offerings to this newest soul. My husband tells that, on the occasion of his brother's circumcision, their grandfather sighed, "Now the whole world is his enemy." For the immigrant generation, the birth of a child was wrapped in the shadows of the pogroms they had so recently fled and bound by the terror of the Holocaust that had not abated when their grandchildren began to be born.

Is the whole world the enemy of our children?

On that bright blue morning, I could not believe it.

In her short story *The Tornado Watch Cookbook* (in *Shaking Eve's Tree*, edited by Sharon Niederman), Carol K. Howell imagines a mother and daughter on the cusp of reconciliation as the daughter reveals her pregnancy. They struggle to speak to each other across gulfs only mothers and daughters can create. The daughter views her child with anxiety, the grandmother with longing. "What do YOU believe?" the daughter challenges her mother.

"To tell you the truth, I don't know what I really believe or what I partly believe or what I just want to believe," the mother responds. "It's tradition, it's how I remember, it's what connects me to the past. Jews don't think about heaven – we think about history. We just don't pop into a vacuum, you know."

No, Jews don't just pop into a vacuum. Our coming into the world, just like our leaving, is part of a tradition that continues to argue with itself even as it unfolds.

I don't believe the whole world is the enemy of this new life. Today, I believe Sheyna will be as beautiful as her name, and will find beauty in her world.

That's my blessing to her. May the world see her as beautiful, and may she add to the fine beauty and repair of that world in return.

Beyond left and right

Guest Voice

When it comes to politics in Israel, left and right rarely agree. But there is one issue that should unite all Israelis and their American supporters: the need to foster opportunity and equality for Israel's 1.2 million Arab citizens.

Ami Nahshon in Jerusalem

At a time when Israel faces profound challenges, some may question whether this issue belongs at the forefront of the nation's agenda. For a growing number of Israeli leaders on both sides of the political divide, however, Jewish-Arab coexistence and equality are beginning to get the attention they deserve. Improving living conditions in the Arab sector and reversing the growing alienation between Israel's Jewish and Arab citizens are necessary steps towards building a more stable society.

Although living standards for Arab Israelis have improved steadily over the past 15 years, disturbing socio-economic gaps still exist between the Jewish and Arab communities. By all measures, Arab Israelis lag far behind their Jewish peers. Infant mortality is twice as high for Arab citizens, while average wages are 40 per cent lower. In education, Arabs also fare poorly, with larger classes and fewer resources. Although Arabs comprise 18 per cent of the population, only five per cent of Israeli college graduates are Arab. The picture is equally grim in housing – since 1995, Israel's government has built nearly 340,000 public housing units for Jews and only 1,000 for Arabs.

Conditions like these, coupled with a string of broken promises from several governments, are fuelling alienation and anger within the Arab community. In October 2000, sparked by the resurgence of the Palestinian intifadah, violence between Israeli Arabs and the police erupted in the Galilee. Thirteen Israeli citizens – 12 Arabs and one Jew – died. The riots, along with the emergence of Islamic fundamentalism in Israel and the involvement of a small number of Arab Israelis in terrorist acts, have created a new level of fear and mistrust among Israeli Jews. On the other side, provocative public rhetoric and calls by some Jewish political figures for the transfer of Arab citizens from Israel have added to the tension.

Israelis and their American friends must tackle these issues head-on to halt the further fragmentation of Israeli society and build a culture of coexistence based on the values of mutual respect, equality and shared citizenship.

Education will play a major role in achieving these objectives. Israel's few experimental bilingual schools have been a success among students and parents.

Next January, a pilot project in Haifa will mandate the study of conversational Arabic and Arab culture in 25 per cent of the city's Jewish elementary schools. This program will give Jewish children a window into their neighbour's culture and send a much-needed signal of respect and inclusion to Arab Israelis.

Schools are only one institution that must undergo fundamental change. More than three years after the Galilee riots, relations between Arab Israelis and the police remain strained. Many Jewish police officers lack sufficient knowledge to effectively serve Arab or ethnically mixed communities.

To counter this, the Israel police and the Abraham Fund initiatives, with the support of the UJA-Federation of New York, have implemented a project to transform relations between Arab Israelis and the police. Through education and training, recruitment of Arab Israeli officers and volunteers, and improved communication, the project is raising awareness among police in the region and reducing the chance of violence.

Major institutional changes such as these must be accompanied by tangible government efforts to improve infrastructure, close spending gaps and expand opportunities for Arab Israelis in education and employment.

The goal of creating a more just and equitable society is a Jewish value that transcends traditional notions of left and right. That is why former president Yitzhak Navon and other leaders from all of Israel's major political parties are advocating for change. They recognize that social security is as important as physical security, and that Israel's future will rest in part on a more complete integration of the Arab minority into the economic, social and cultural mainstream of Israeli life.

Ami Nahshon is the president and CEO of the Abraham Fund Initiatives, a New York- and Jerusalem-based not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing coexistence and equality among Israel's Jewish and Arab citizens.

The Kirshner File

PA torn by chaos as Arafat reigns supreme

Ten years ago last month, Yasser Arafat, the perennial symbol of the Palestinian national movement, returned triumphantly from exile in Tunisia. Crossing the Rafah border point into the teeming Gaza Strip, Arafat was the man of the hour as his convoy of vehicles was hailed by tens of thousands of applauding, cheering and whistling Palestinian well-wishers lined up along the route from Egypt.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Thanks to the Oslo accords, signed a year earlier by Israeli and Palestinian negotiators after almost a year of intense secret talks sanctioned by Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's prime minister, Arafat and his colleagues emerged from banishment in Tunis, and were poised to assume control of the newly formed Palestinian Authority, based in Gaza.

In accordance with the provisions of the Oslo agreement, Israel had pulled out of much of Gaza, leaving an archipelago of existing Jewish settlements for itself and the balance – designated as the Palestinian autonomous areas – to Arafat, the head of the PLO. For the first time in 26 years, since his flight from the West Bank in the wake of the Six Day War, Arafat set foot on Palestinian soil.

For Israelis who supported the Oslo process, which was supposed to have ended Israel's historic conflict with the Palestinians, Arafat's return ushered in a new era of fruitful coexistence. To many Arabs in Gaza and the West Bank, the formation of the PA was the harbinger of Palestinian statehood and, with it, the promise of prosperity and stability.

A decade on, the respective dreams of Israelis and Palestinians have crumbled into dust. Hopes have turned into fears and sober assessments have supplanted dewy-eyed illusions as mutual trust has been swept away in a bitter tide of mutual recrimination.

The turning point, of course, was the second Palestinian uprising, which erupted toward the close of September 2000 after Ariel Sharon, then leader of the Likud party, visited the disputed Temple Mount in the company of hundreds of police.

The rest, as they say, is history.

Pent-up tensions flared as Palestinian demonstrations broke out. Shots were fired and people were killed. Oslo was gutted and the prospects for peace quickly faded as terrorism took hold.

But the intifadah, with its fearful loss of lives, has not been the only sour note to mar developments since 1994.

Much to their disillusionment, the Palestinians of Gaza and the West Bank have learned that the PA has not lived up to their expectations.

The PA, in terms of providing effective and corruption-free governance, generating economic opportunities and producing security, has been an abysmal failure. In light of these facts, the Palestinian leadership is largely to blame for its internal problems. But Israel is hardly blameless. Its continuing closures and raids to flush out terrorists have had a profound and devastating impact on the PA's infrastructure, viability and ability to govern.

Several months ago, prior to the recent crisis that sparked the temporary resignation of PA Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia, his chief of staff, Hassan Abu Libdeh, observed darkly that the collapse of the PA was " a real possibility." In sombre tones, Libdeh warned that its dissolution could lead to "a lawless situation" that might well strengthen radical groups such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

More recently, the United Nations' top envoy to the Middle East, Terje Roed Larsen, declared that the PA was gripped by "paralysis" and " deep distress" and was heading toward collapse, and that Arafat lacked the political will to follow up on promised reforms and to stem anarchy. (Larsen, a key figure in the Oslo process, rapped Israel on the knuckles, too, criticizing it for overly aggressive military tactics and the expansion of settlements in the territories).

Larsen's cri de coeur was, to say the least, prescient. Within days of his statement, which earned him Arafat's enmity, the PA was torn by some of the worst chaos since its inception a decade ago.

The crisis, which in part was a power struggle among competing Fatah factions nominally loyal to Arafat and in part a reaction to Israel's planned withdrawal from Gaza, broke out in mid-July with the kidnapping of Ghazi Jabali, the commander of the PA police force in Gaza and a man often accused of corruption. It escalated when his aide, Khaled Abu Ula, and four French aid workers in Khan Younis, were abducted by masked gunmen.

The uncertainty deepened when Arafat, confined by Israel to his compound in Ramallah for the past two years, appointed his nephew, Musa Arafat, to command one of the PA's main security bodies. The appointment enraged Palestinian reformers – who view Musa Arafat as hopelessly corrupt and venal – and touched off a firefight in Rafah that wounded 18 Palestinians.

From his office in Ramallah, Arafat declared a state of emergency. Not having been consulted, Qureia resigned. He was the second PA prime minister since Mahmoud Abbas – who lasted 130 days – to step down before his term of office had ended.

The cause of both resignations was identical: Arafat's obsessive concentration of power in his own hands and his stubborn refusal to consolidate the PA's dozen or so security forces into three distinct forces and transfer their authority to an empowered prime minister.

Israel and the United States, which severed ties with Arafat in 2001 and 2002 respectively, have called for consolidation. Their overriding objectives are twofold: to centralize the PA's security agencies under the auspices of a prime minister not beholden to Arafat, and to marginalize Arafat himself.

Ultimately, Arafat ceded control over some of the security agencies to Qureia, who thereupon retracted his resignation. Arafat simply could not resist the mounting pressure exerted on him by Palestinian reformers such as Mohammed Dahlan, the former director of PA security forces in Gaza, as well as Egypt, which is working with Israel to implement Prime Minister Arie Sharon's disengagement plan in Gaza, and the European Union, which has propped up the PA with generous donations.

Yasser Arafat

Yet Arafat – the ultimate survivor who lived through an airplane crash in the Libyan desert in the early 1990s and who has weathered a succession of crises since his takeover of the PLO in the late 1960s – essentially remains in charge of the PA. He controls the most important security forces and exercises veto power over security and political issues.

Basically, Palestinian reformers are pushing to entrench fundamental precepts taken for granted in Canada – the rule of law and an independent and honest judiciary. As well, they want to elect a new legislative council that truly reflects the pluralism of Palestinian society.

Dahlan, one of the most vocal reformers and Israel's putative candidate to rule Gaza after an Israeli withdrawal, has said that untold millions of dollars in foreign assistance have disappeared into black holes. (Dahlan's rivals dismiss him as a corrupt "foreign agent.") The mismanagement of funds has been a source of discontent for years. An internal 1997 PA report spoke of dishonest and inept administrative and financial practices and estimated that $326 million (US) in public funds were stolen or misused in 1996 alone.

The story, though given prominent play abroad, was ignored by the PA-controlled media, and an independent TV station that investigated the matter was summarily closed. Arafat has little patience for western concepts pertaining to the media. Soon after he returned to Gaza from Tunis, he shut down the cantankerous newspaper *al-Nahar*. A year later, he ordered the arrest of Mahir al-Alami, the editor of *Al Quds*, because he ran a piece about Arafat on page 8 rather than on page one. Since then, there have been a series of disquieting incidents in which the press has been muzzled.

Arafat also keeps the courts on a short leash. When he or his associates dislike a judicial decision, they ignore it.

And his stewardship of the economy has been shaky. Unemployment runs high and the gross national product is in free fall. Due to the persistence of terrorism, only a small percentage of Palestinian workers are allowed into Israel. As a result, living conditions in the PA have worsened considerably.

Although Arafat runs the PA like a "one-man show," to quote Palestinian legislator and human rights activist Hanan Ashrawi, the masses adore him. Even his Palestinian enemies rarely attack him directly, fearing that his demise would create a dangerous vacuum advantageous to Israel and, possibly, spark a ruinous civil war.

At 75, Arafat is the living, breathing face of Palestinian nationalism. And though he tolerates corruption and has been personally linked to it, he is widely regarded as an ascetic and untouchable leader with clean hands.

Still, the government he administers, the PA, is hardly a model of transparency or democracy.

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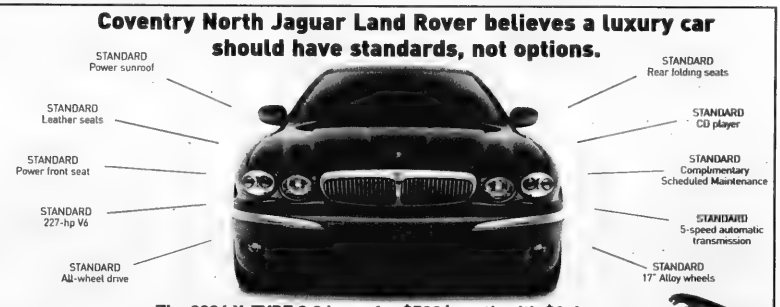

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Greater Toronto Area

Ve'ahavta offers food and fun for the homeless

By CARA EDELL and JESSICA HELLEN
CJN Interns

It may have been raining, but the second annual Great Escape Island Adventure was definitely not a washout.

Hosted by Ve'ahavta: the Canadian Jewish Humanitarian and Relief Committee, the Aug. 13 event at Centre Island was a day of refuge, food and fun for Toronto's homeless.

Robyn Tousson, one of the event's organizers and manager of Ve'ahavta's volunteer programs, said although a rain date was set, she did not want to change the original plans.

"I was disappointed with the weather. But one of the clients came up and thanked me, saying 'I'm happy it's on a rainy day because those are the hardest days for me. This is the best day I've had in so long.' That was a really cool moment," Tousson said.

About 80 homeless people, mostly teenagers, and more than 20 volunteers gathered under a pavilion for hours of leisure activities during the substance-free day.

With activities ranging from arts and crafts to a spa station and a reading corner, participants were "reminded of how wonderful and joyous life can be," said Darryl Borden, Ve'ahavta's director of homeless initiatives.

The activities, planned by volunteers Danielle Kuczynski and Elias Parker, also included a watermelon eating contest, a juggling workshop, massages, henna tattoos and sports.

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A talent show featuring singing, dancing, stand-up comedy and balloon twisting allowed participants to showcase their abilities.

"It broke the ice and created a comfort level," said Tousson. She said one of the guests gave a speech about how the organization has inspired him to return to school.

The show's 10 participants, as well as the spectators, received prizes during the afternoon. The biggest giveaway was a new bicycle donated by a Toronto family. Other freebies included CDs from HMV and Penguin Music; Cineplex Odeon movie gift certificates; instant cameras from Kyoto Photo; 64 comic books from Third Quadrant; a knapsack, t-shirts and hats from a sporting-goods store; and a $25 gift certificate from Pages bookstore.

For food, What-A-Bagel donated 19 dozen bagels, six rye breads and a few hundred danishes, which were set up on picnic tables in a buffet. Drinks, chips, chocolate bars, candy, fruit, pasta salads, condiments and deli meats added to the lunch selection.

"People were so so generous," said Danila Bloomberg, a Ve'ahavta volunteer who has been helping the organization for a few months. "I live downtown, so [the homeless] are part of my community. If we try to integrate them as much as possible, hopefully they'll see what they're missing and will be motivated to come off the streets."

All of the guests were given free cotton candy and tickets for the midway. They spent the rest of the day on the rides and left with goodie bags and books.

"They live outside society and, as we can see, they are desperate to come back in," said Borden. "They're waiting on the side of the road for Ve'ahavta or any loving kind individual to reach out and say, 'Come and join us.' And they came and joined us."

One of the participants, who didn't want to be named, has been living on the streets for eight months. He said he was recently offered a job by Toronto Hydro and is saving money to rent an apartment. After being handed a flyer about the event, he decided to bring some of his friends to the island.

"I think [Ve'ahavta] is great. It's good to get out of the city," he said. "I'm excited and happy to be here and I would come out again."

Another participant, a teenage girl, said she heard about the event through her shelter. She signed up to sing Usher's *Caught Up* in the talent show and said she knew most of the people in attendance.

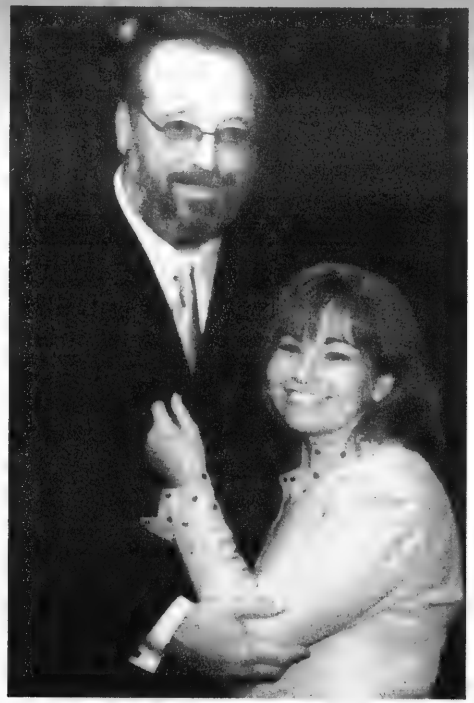
Participants took part in a range of activities ranging from arts and crafts to a spa station and a reading corner.

Borden said two of last year's homeless participants came off the streets after experiencing the carefree day of laughter and entertainment. He credited this year's group for taking the initiative to join the "adventure."

"Eighty per cent of the people here are living out of society," he said. "You can imagine how difficult it was for them to come here today – to keep to the schedule, meet us at the docks and take the ferry. It should be something recognized as an incredible accomplishment.

"We recognize that the real results of [the great escape] will come days, weeks, months from now. We planted the seeds of life. We'll see how they grow.

"I'm getting a lot of *nachas*, a lot of good feelings. Even on a rainy day like this, it's beautiful."



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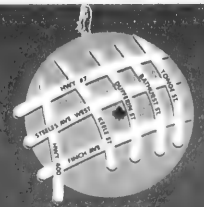

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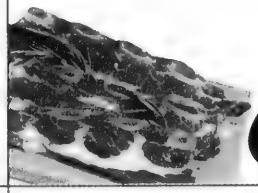

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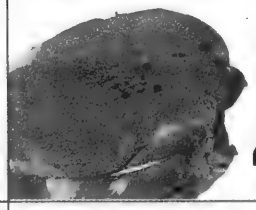

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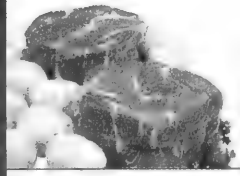

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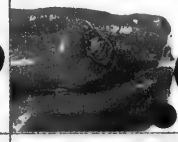

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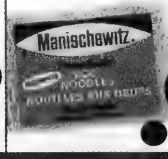

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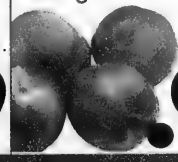

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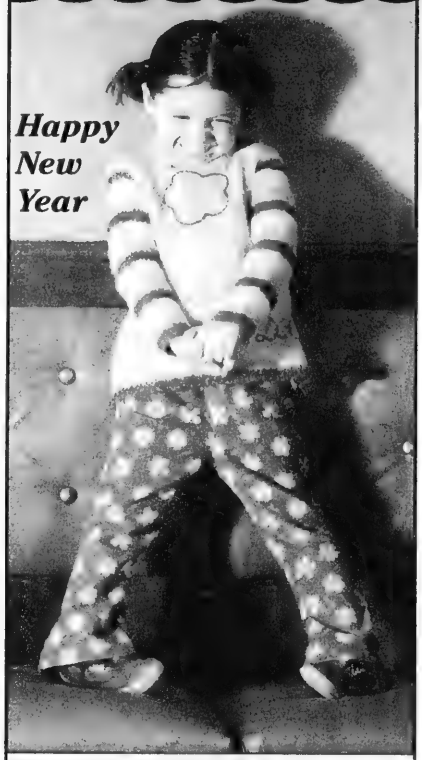

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Jewish Life

Bezmozgis is one to watch

Books
Bernard Baskin

Natasha and Other Stories **by David Bezmozgis, HarperFlamingo-Canada, $24.95.**

It took me about four hours to read the seven linked short stories that comprise this debut collection by a 31-year-old Torontonian. The following afternoon I read several of them again to recapture something of their spare beauty and emotional power.

These partially autobiographical stories have been widely praised and published in such career-making magazines as *The New Yorker* and *Harper's*. They concern Roman Berman, his wife and his son who emigrated from Latvia to Canada in 1980 with no connections or linguistic facility.

The father is a former Soviet athletic trainer who aspires to be a massage therapist. His son Mark, a first-grader, grows up over the next two decades that the stories span and serves as narrator of his Jewish family, painfully trying to assimilate into an unfamiliar but exciting environment.

In the story *Tapka,* six-year-old Mark and a cousin are put in charge of dog-sitting a Russian neighbour's much-loved Lhasa apso. The carefree children give the dog freedom from its leash, and it dashes into busy traffic and suffers a near-fatal injury. Mark appeals to the owners who are swaying in their grief. "I love Tapka. I meant her no harm. I want to be forgiven."

"The swaying replied: There is reality and then there is truth. The reality is that Tapka will live. But let's be honest, the truth is you killed Tapka. Look at Rita; look at Misha. You see, who are you kidding? You killed Tapka and you will never be forgiven."

In the story *Roman Berman, Massage Therapist*, the family, eager for help, is invited to dinner at the home of wealthy Dr. Kornblum, who has shown concern and sympathy for Russian immigrants. It turns out that what most interests him is how Jews suffered in Russia. He wallows in horror stories. He solicits tear-jerking testimony.

When he asks the Bermans if they had been refuseniks, Mark relates, "My mother hesitated a moment and then admitted that we had not been refuseniks. She knew some refuseniks, and we were almost refuseniks, but we were not refuseniks."

Baffled and humiliated, pawns in a callous game of faux superiority, the family makes its way home, disposing of the gift they had brought, a cake the Kornblums had rejected. Although the Kornblums "sometimes took their kids to McDonald's, they kept kosher at home. So although it smelled wonderful, unfortunately they couldn't keep it."

In *An Animal to the Memory*, 15-year-old Mark is a reluctant and truculent student at Hebrew school. "I kept to myself, glowered in the hallways, and, with the right kind of provocation, punched people in the face." Some of his friends congratulate him, saying, "You're the toughest kid in Hebrew school."

When the school observes Holocaust Remembrance Day, Mark attacks a taunting fellow student. Rabbi Gurvich is outraged. "How is it that all of this doesn't mean anything to you, Berman? Can you tell me?"

The rabbi forces the sullen boy to proclaim that he is a Jew. "He tightened his grip on my shoulder until he saw it hurt. I was convinced he was gong to hit me. The last thing I wanted to do was start crying, so I started crying.

"I'm a Jew! I shouted into his face.

"My voice rang off the walls, and off the sculptures and the pictures and the candles. I had screamed it in his face wishing to kill him, but he only nodded his head. He kept his hand on my shoulder and waited until I really started to sob… I wanted to sit down on the floor, or lean against a wall, something. Anything but stand in the middle of the hallway… Halfway out, before closing the doors, Gurvich looked back to where I hadn't moved.

"Now, Berman, he said, now maybe you understand what it is to be a Jew."

Bezmozgis, somewhat extravagantly, has been compared to a number of classic short-story writers. This kind of hype is unwarranted; after all, his entire oeuvre consists of just this one thin volume. But his talent is unquestionable and his future seems bright.

The civilizing effect of the Jews

Guest Voice

By RABBI AVI SHAFRAN

Hershel Shanks, editor emeritus of *Moment* magazine, recently raised the tantalizing possibility that the Iraqi city of Fallujah may be identical to the Babylonian Talmudic centre known as Pumbedita.

Citing a 19th-century scholar, Jacob Obermeyer, he suggests that the two names (by way of the Syriac rendering, Pallughtha) are linguistic equivalents. Babylonia, of course, overlaps largely with contemporary Iraq, and Pumbedita, in fact, lay on the banks of the Euphrates River, as does Fallujah.

Pumbedita was for centuries a centre of Jewish religious and intellectual activity. It hosted one of the major academies when the Babylonian Talmud was completed at the beginning of the sixth century CE and continued to be a centre of Jewish study throughout most of what is known as the Gaonic period.

Today, Fallujah is widely considered one of the most violence-prone areas in Iraq. A hotbed of Wahabi tribal emotions, it has a long history of bloodshed, and it was there that four American contractors were brutally murdered earlier this year. Not a pretty or peaceful place. Even its Syriac name, Pallughtha, implies strife. While some see the word referring to a "split" there in the river's flow in ancient times, it can just as easily be translated as "dispute."

Yet, if Fallujah is indeed Pumbedita, it certainly seems to have been quite hospitable to Jews – as was Babylonia in general – 1,500 years ago. It was there, and in other Babylonian cities such as Sura and Neherda'ah, that Jewish scholars recorded much of the Oral Law that Jews had studied and transmitted from generation to generation since biblical times; and it was where subtle points of the Torah's law were studied and taught, examined, contemplated and debated.

The famed psychiatrist Carl Jung put forth the intriguing idea that places have power, that lands have effects on their inhabitants. "The soil of every country," he wrote in *Civilization in Transition* (1918), "holds some such mystery… just as there is a relationship between mind to body, so there is a relationship of body to earth."

Whatever the merit of Jung's notion, Babylonia's conflict-ridden roots do in fact run deep. One of the Torah's first narratives is about the Tower of Bavel, identified with the capital of what would become Babylonia. When, in early human history, the populace there joined to build a structure whose top would "reach to the heavens" in order to "make for ourselves a name" – to in some way challenge the Creator, as the rabbinic commentaries explain – seeds of discord were divinely sown among them, in the form of different languages, and the diverse perceptions of things they reflect. The people, until then unified in their undertaking, came to disagree, to argue, to fight, and eventually to disperse to lands far and wide.

Could Jung have been right? Might Babylonia, so deeply unsettled a place to this day, have some power to evoke fractiousness?

If so, it is interesting that when Jews made Babylonia their home, they too engaged in disputes – holy, sublime ones, over the fine points of Jewish religious law. Such discussion is even referred to in rabbinic literature as "milchamta shel Torah" – "the war of Torah."

In fact, that is precisely what goes on in every contemporary yeshiva beit midrash, or study hall. The din in such places can be overwhelming, as students lock mental horns, fighting to the finish with their minds. When it is time for lunch, though, the battle ceases, and the disputants resemble the amiable partners they were all along. Their "fighting" was never personal, but rather a joint venture in the cause of a higher truth. As the Talmud puts it: "[Torah scholars] become like enemies to one another [when they engage in dialectic] but then become beloved friends" (Kiddushin, 30b).

It has been suggested that the effect of the Jewish people on history has been to tame the barbarism that is part of the human condition, that Judaism has helped to civilize the world. No less a thinker about Jews, and barbarian, than Hitler captured it well when he expressed contempt for what he characterized as the "effeminate ethics" of the Jew.

Perhaps the ancient Jewish academies in Babylonia were a reflection of that very civilizing effect, of how true holiness can mediate, even sublimate, strife.

Rabbi Avi Shafran is director of public affairs for Agudath Israel of America.

Jewish Life

Jewish software for your Palm Pilot

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

You CAN take it with you.

That is, if the "it" refers to a Jewish calendar, news about Israel, commentary about this week's Torah or a game or two to teach Hebrew basics. Since I first wrote about Jewish and Hebrew software for the Palm Pilot a few years ago, hand-held devices have evolved from being toys for geeks to ubiquitous productivity tools for businesspeople, students – and geeks, too. And along the way, programs and content designed for Jewish consumers have mushroomed. Today, I'll tell you where to look if you want to load up your Jewish Palm.

But first a couple of notes. Most of the sites mentioned today refer to the Palm, but you should also be able to find Jewish software for other handhelds, such as Windows Pocket PCs. While some of the software mentioned today is free for downloading, other programs are commercial or shareware, both of which you are allowed to try before you buy. If you continue to use shareware, you are expected to do the right thing and pay for it.

Rather than point you in the direction of several sites that offer Jewish software for your Palm, just visit PilotYid. **[www.pilotyid.com/]** Ari Engel has done a masterful job in scouring the web for programs that you can download onto your Palm. Here are just a few of the programs he links to. You can:

- find kosher restaurants around the world;
- convert dates between Jewish and secular calendars;
- read Flavius Josephus' *The Wars of the Jews;*
- learn a new Hebrew word every day;
- keep track of how long you are *fleishig* and when you are permitted to eat dairy again.

And for links to downloads for your Pocket PC, check out Ulrich Greve's website. **[www. tichnut. de/jewish/windowsce. htm]**

One of the most useful features for your handheld is AvantGo. **[http:// avantgo.com/]** After you download this free program, you can subscribe to hundreds of "channels" (usually free), such as the *New York Times*, the CBC or the BBC. Each time you HotSync your Palm, the latest news stories are automatically downloaded.

As for Jewish and Israeli content for AvantGo, Aish HaTorah offers a weekly selection of provocative and thought-provoking articles. This week on my Palm, there are articles about pulling the plug on TV, one woman's obsession with the mikvah and some dating advice. **[www.aish.com/Avantgo/get_aish. com_on_handheld.asp]** Ohr Somayach offers a similar service with its "Ask the Rabbi" feature and a look at this week's parshah. **[http://ohr.edu/yhiy.php/ ohr_somayach/ohr_on_your_pda/]**

Other AvantGo channels include Fact sOfIsrael.com **[http://tinyurl.com/3u5 f3]**. For more Jewish AvantGo channels, check out this page. **[www.pilotyid. com/collection.php?cat=17]**

Those are some of the basics. If you want to learn how to read Hebrew on your Palm, visit the Moadon at Penticon Technologies. **[www.penticon.com/moa don.html]** And if you want to join the Israeli community of hand-held software aficionados, take a look at the Hebrew-language Palmi site. **[www.palmi.co.il/]**

Now that you have loaded all that Jewish software onto your Palm, treat your high-tech gadget with the new respect it deserves. Rabbi Ephraim Zalmanovitz, spiritual leader of Israel's Mazkeret Batia community, studied the Palm Pilot and has issued a high-tech halachic ruling. According to the rabbi, someone who has "holy" software installed on a Palm, and drops it, must kiss it as one does a holy book, such as a siddur or other sacred book. **[www.geocities.com/mayefeld/ press.html]** On the other hand, the rabbi at Ohr Somayach says that you can take a Palm with Jewish material stored in it into the bathroom. Just don't display the text on the screen at the time.

* * *

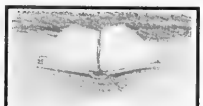
Olympic addendum: Corina Eberle wrote to me after my article about Jewish Olympians to remind me about the incredible achievements of Bobbie Rosenfeld. As part of the Canadian track team, Rosenfeld picked up a gold and a silver medal at the 1928 Amsterdam Olympics. Rosenfeld also excelled in basketball, softball and hockey. Read more about the athlete on the web at the Jewish Women's Archive **[www.jwa.org/ exhibits/wov/rosenfeld/]** or in Anne Dublin's book *Bobbie Rosenfeld: The Olympian Who Could Do Everything.* **[http://tinyurl.com/555zn]**

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

Rashi says: Crime doesn't pay

By RABBI REUVEN TRADBURKS

The Torah requires us to be honest in the use of weights and measures. (Deuteronomy 25:14). You cannot have a pound weight in your pocket that is 17 ounces and one that is 15 ounces, so that when you want to buy a pound of flour you pull out the 17-ounce one and when you want to sell a pound of flour you pull out the 15-ounce one. You can't cheat someone else in weight or volume measurements.



In fact, the Torah says you can't even possess the inaccurate measures – you can't have them in your pocket or in your home. Having them around becomes too tempting – you will want to pull out the inaccurate measures, or may even do so accidentally. So just to be safe, don't keep them around.

Now, to be fair, this mitzvah does not assume we are all crooks. In the normal wear and tear of life, it is possible that my weights have become worn down or my measurements have become chipped or altered. (I am just trying to give people the benefit of the doubt, despite the Torah's rather obvious condemnation of what seems like outright theft).

But Rashi is bothered by a couple of extra words in the way the Torah presents this fairly simple and straightforward mitzvah, and he mines these words for a beautiful lesson.

The Torah actually says (Deuteronomy 25:13), "There will not be to you in your pocket stones and stones, big and small."

Rashi comments: "If you do this, you will have nothing."

Now, Rashi speaks in a kind of code, but what he means is quite beautiful. Crime doesn't pay. If you think that you will gain by cheating people with inaccurate measurements – a small pound, a heavy thumb on the scale, or any other kind of deception – well, you won't.

If you put the comma in the right spot in the verse, that's what it says: There will not be to you in your pocket, (those of you who have) stones and stones, big and small.

Rashi's comment is a principle of faith that we all have. When we are honest in business, when we pay our taxes, when we pay an honest full price for what we are purchasing, we don't think we are losing out, we think we are gaining.

Now, it could be that at this moment I have a few less shekels in my pocket because I paid my taxes honestly. But honesty brings blessings in other areas. The Master of All will give me a few more miles on the car before it breaks down. Or He will prevent a pipe from bursting in my house. We will never really know what bad things have been prevented from happening to us, so we will never know what expenses we were saved by virtue of those honest weights and measures. Who knows how many things almost happened to us, or were about to happen to us, or things that we barely avoided. We are oblivious to these "almosts" because we never know that they nearly happened.

Rashi mines a beautiful lesson from a grammatical twist in the verse – that crime doesn't pay. Using uneven weights and measures or taking advantage in business won't leave you with more in your pocket. Rather, honesty will certainly bring with it greater Divine blessings – whether we see it or not.

Rabbi Reuven Tradburks is spiritual leader of Kehillat Shaarei Torah in Toronto.

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Board of Jewish Education reviews school compliance

Committee plans ongoing reviews

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA Federation

UJA Federation's Board of Jewish Education (BJE) is ensuring that its day schools are adhering to requirements established by UJA Federation for status as funded schools.

The BJE struck a committee in the fall of 2003 in order to review compliance in all 13 affiliated day schools over the past school year.

Members of the Affiliation and Compliance Committee were also charged with the responsibility of approving affiliation and funding for new applying schools.

Five of the schools assessed were found to be in complete compliance with funding requirements, there were financial concerns at three of them, and the other five did not satisfy the compliance requirements.

"UJA's Board of Jewish Education, in this instance, is representing the very best values of both the affiliated schools and the organized Jewish community," says Dr. Seymour Epstein, UJA Federation's Senior Vice President for Jewish Education and Identity. "The schools in full compliance can assure their parents that they are meeting the standards in all four areas that the community sees as required for the viability of a school. From the perspective of the Federation, this is an exercise in accountability for institutions receiving community funds."

The day schools were reviewed on four areas of compliance. They are:

- Governance: Qualifying schools are required to have a democratic board, which operates as a governing body.
- Educational Programs: The schools must adhere to high educational standards with regular monitoring, and they must make available to parents, their curricula and their teaching philosophy.
- Financial Viability and Accountability: BJE affiliated schools must ensure that they are operated in a fiscally prudent and responsible manner.
- Community Identification: They must identify with the mission of UJA Federation in terms of community participation and identification with Israel.

Through its Affiliation and Compliance Committee, the BJE is about to apply the same process for its supplementary schools during the upcoming school year.

BJE affiliated day schools were recently assessed for compliance.

A taste of Israel in the heart of Toronto

On Sunday, August 29th more than 5000 people are expected to converge on Suydam Park, deep in Toronto's Spadina Village, for the third annual Shuk in the Park.

Co-sponsored by UJA Federation, the event – created to celebrate the spirit of Israel right here in Toronto - is a free outdoor festival featuring a marketplace brimming with Israeli wares, live music, and kosher food. The festival runs, rain, or shine from noon until 6:00 PM. Net proceeds from the event will go to Orr Shalom, an Israeli non-profit organization that provides residential and therapeutic services for more than 350 at-risk children, aged 5-18, who have been removed from their homes due to severe abuse and neglect.

"Shuk in the Park is a great way to spend a summer afternoon while celebrating Israel," says Vivian Ringwald who came up with the idea. "With over 40 vendors and community booths retailing everything from body art to burgers, there is something for everyone and for all ages. By bringing Israeli culture to Toronto we help strengthen the community and raise some money for Orr Shalom Children's Homes."

An event for the whole family, participants can stroll the marketplace for authentic Israeli goods, enjoy falafel while playing shesh besh (backgammon), jam in the drumming circle with Living Rhythm, practice belly dancing, and experience Middle Eastern culture. Shuk in the Park will feature live music from Bais Groove, The Russell Leon Band, and Touch of Klez.

Ephraim Shoham, Israel's Trade Commissioner to Canada will also be on hand to bring greetings and congratulations.

"Torontonians have a wonderful opportunity to show their support for Israel's economy by attending the Shuk in the Park," says Shoham. "People will see that Israel offers a large variety of quality products, and to further strengthen Israel's economy, we encourage everyone to choose products made in Israel."

Shuk in the Park is co-produced with Kolel: The Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning, and Olive Branch for Israel, a group of young women who were inspired to promote awareness of Israeli products being boycotted in Europe.

Other sponsors include Creed Solutions, MBE, Magen Boys, Canadian Jewish News, Flight Centre, and Alexandroff Real Estate Limited.

More than 40 vendors will be selling Israeli goods at Sunday's Shuk in the Park.

Holocaust Centre partners in annual summer institute

In the wake of several antisemitic incidents in the Greater Toronto Area, UJA Federation's Holocaust Centre of Toronto has teamed up with the Association for the Elimination of Hate for an annual summer institute to educate teachers about the dangers of intolerance.

More than 50 London teachers, together with members of the public, recently took part in the inaugural General Romeo Dallaire Summer Institute on Teaching the Holocaust and Genocide, at London's University of Western Ontario.

The Association for the Elimination of Hate (AEH) - which contacted Professor Adam Fuerstenberg, the director of the Holocaust Centre with the idea - is a London, Ontario-based, non-profit organization dedicated to eradicating hate-motivated violence and discriminatory practices. The AEH provides support, information and referrals to victims of hate-motivated crimes, as well as public education.

"I knew that the Holocaust Centre of Toronto is the premiere institute on the Holocaust in this part of the world, rich with experience and expertise, which is invaluable to organizations like us, which are trying to launch new initiatives," says Rich Hitchens, programming coordinator and public educator with AEH. "We were fortunate enough that the Centre extended its hand to us across the 401."

General Dallaire, the man for whom this important event was named – and the keynote speaker at the Institute - was the commander of the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Rwanda preceding and during the genocide that took place there. Not only did the United Nations ignore warnings from General Dallaire about the impending genocide, it prohibited him from-intervening to help prevent it.

Dallaire feels that there is a strong need to educate our teachers – and by extension, our students – about the importance of tolerance and acceptance.

"Where exactly are we (Canada) going to be in regard to the changing nature of our society," asks Dallaire. "And what are the elements that we need to work on to prepare for the significant influx, over the next decade or so, of non-white non Judeo-Christian immigrants who are going to be the core of our future?"

Professor Adam Fuerstenberg, (left) director of UJA Federation's Holocaust Centre of Toronto greets General Romeo Dallaire.

"It was a privilege to be able to participate in this very important educational initiative," says Fuerstenberg. "Education is at the forefront of battling antisemitism and racism. The opportunity to reach out to 50 teachers in the London area was a wonderful chance to extend the educational reach of the Holocaust Centre of Toronto. We look forward to becoming a full annual partner of the summer institute with the Association for the Elimination of Hate."

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Gillerman senses change in UN attitude towards Israel

Israel's ambassador to UN keynote speaker at UJA Campaign Launch 2005

By REBECCA GLUCK SOBERMAN
UJA Federation

Two important developments - Israel's construction of its security fence and the disengagement from Gaza - are positively influencing the public's perception of Israel and its role in the Middle East, according to Dan Gillerman, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations.

Israel's Ambassador to the UN Dan Gillerman

In a recent telephone interview, Gillerman, keynote speaker at UJA Federation's upcoming Campaign 2005 launch this Monday, praised Israel's "courageous" and strategic maneuvers. "The disengagement from Gaza was very brave of Sharon. Israel is not just reacting or rebutting but taking initiative politically, creating more stability and bringing down terror substantially," said Gillerman.

The other key move by Israel, and one surrounded by much debate, according to Gillerman, is the security fence. "It has become a very heated issue but it must be understood how effective it is," he said. "Since its construction began, suicide bombings and terror attacks have been reduced by 95 percent; these are dramatic figures."

Gillerman, who has served as Israel's UN ambassador for the past 2 years, has endured what he describes as a roller coaster of emotions.

He enjoyed a sense of tremendous accomplishment when UN Secretary General Kofi Annan made a commitment to fight anti-semitism following the Berlin Conference.

"This was a very important event because of the reaction from the United Nations," said Gillerman. "They called a meeting because the conference was held. This indicated a very positive step in light of the UN's traditional attitude toward Israel and related issues."

Gillerman also praised the US for defending Israel. "The US position is starting to gain wider acceptance. Many see the UN abusing its time and resources and we detect a readiness of European countries to be more accepting at the upcoming General Assembly." For one thing, Gillerman expects less anti-Israel resolutions.

Conversely, Gillerman found reaction to the International Court decision in the Hague, against the security fence, to be worse than expected. "The European Union and the other countries had originally asked for an advisory opinion of the court but eventually accepted the ruling." In general, he says, the European Union has displayed much bias but Gillerman is optimistic that the attitude can change. "I have met with the European Union ambassador and with this dialogue we are bound to bridge the differing attitudes."

As for Canada's "dubious" positioning at the UN when it comes to Israel, Gillerman was very quick to praise Canada's ambassador Allan Rock as one of the most eloquent and impressive. "I believe he is personally a friend of Israel. Even with Canada's many abstentions, I appreciate that it is not the same as voting against us. I also appreciate what the Canadian Jewish community is doing to properly inform its different levels of government and am hopeful that we will soon see a true friend in Canada."

The UJA Federation Campaign Launch at which Gillerman will be speaking takes place Monday, August 30 at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel. Tickets are available by calling 416-631-5700 or visiting www.jewishtoronto.com

Toronto donation spurs on other communities

UJA Federation campaign funds recently purchased a fire engine for the Eilat Fire Brigade. Before the arrival of this crucial vehicle, capable of reaching high-rise buildings, Eilat firefighters were forced to rely on a truck from Be'ersheva, more than 200 kilometres away. Now firefighters will be able to handle incidents at Eilat's largest hotels and tallest structures. Since the donation by the Toronto community, other communities across North America have stepped up to the plate and another five fire engines have already been donated.

GA mission a chance to promote Toronto for 2005

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA Federation

At least 200 members of Toronto's Jewish community are expected to attend the General Assembly (GA) of United Jewish Communities in Cleveland on November 14, and their presence there will be twofold.

Besides taking part in the world's largest assembly of Jewish leaders including Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, the Torontonians will be in Cleveland to promote Toronto, which will be hosting the 2005 GA.

By taking part in the upcoming UJA Federation mission to Cleveland, participants will become Toronto's personal ambassadors.

Representatives from Tourism Toronto will also be in Cleveland to promote the city.

"Since Toronto will be hosting the GA in 2005, we are planning a major presence in Cleveland to highlight our city as a world-class destination and our Jewish community as a North American leader," says Marilyn Maierovitz, Toronto GA coordinator.

Plans are well underway for Toronto's GA, chaired by Peter Ekstein and Debbie Kimel, which will be held in November 2005. Both Ekstein and Kimel will be aboard the mission to Cleveland.

"This mission will be a wonderful opportunity for Torontonians to play a major role in the success of the 2005 GA in their own city," says Ekstein who is looking forward to making the trip to Cleveland. "This is a chance to really promote our city and our own incredible Jewish community – a community that really is one of the strongest and most committed in the world. This is an opportunity not to be missed."

"It's so important now, as we see signs of a rise in antisemitism around the world and in our own city, that we – as Jews – come together, showing strength and solidarity, and make our presence known in Cleveland," says Kimel. "Toronto Jewry has such a great reputation around the world, let's show that spirit this November in Cleveland."

For more information, please contact Mariyln Maierovitz at 416.635.2883 extension 732 or via e-mail at mmaierovitz@ujafed.org

Any questions concerning information or photos that appear on these pages should be directed to jewishtorontonews@ujafed.org

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Ashkenaz Festival celebrates our Yiddish heritage

BY CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Ashkenaz: A Festival of New Yiddish Culture, running Aug. 31 to Sept. 6 at Harbourfront Centre, gets people to focus on the importance of maintaining our Yiddish culture, says the festival's artistic director.

"We still have not realized the wealth of our history in terms of Yiddish heritage. This is the week to do that," says Mitch Smolkin.

The festival, this year themed "Migration," has run every two years since 1995. It features international artists from around the world including Yossi Vassa from Ethiopia, Les Yeux Noirs from France, South America's Klezmer en Buenos Aires and Ot Azoj from Holland.

Highlights of the week include an all-star Yiddish concert at Beth Sholom Synagogue; a klezmer concert for children; dance, fiddle and papercutting workshops; a Yiddish humour brunch with Avrom Lichtenboym; and performances by such groups as the Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band, the Pomegranate Squad and Shtreiml.

A centerpiece of the festival, Smolkin says, is an exhibit on Yiddish radio from the '30s to the '50s. "With a new radio program and theatre performance directed by Theresa Tova, Ashkenaz celebrates the forgotten geniuses and important recordings of this often overlooked chapter of the Canadian experience.

"While researching Yiddish radio, we came across documents from the '30s just sitting in boxes in people's homes. For us, this was a magical experience."

A small but important part of the festival is a tribute to the late writer Avrom Karpinovitsh, who was known for recording the language of the people in the streets of Vilnus, Smolkin says. "I had the chance to meet him in Lithuania, and since his death, we have essentially lost part of our history."

The "Reel Ashkenaz" film series includes screenings of the 1923 silent film *East and West*, the French-Czech horror classic *The Golem*, and the musical *The Singing Blacksmith*, starring Cantor Moishe Oysher in the role of a hard-drinking, womanizing blacksmith struggling to resist temptation. In the 1949 film *Catskill Honeymoon*, a Jewish resort hotel celebrates a pair of longtime customers' 50th wedding anniversary by staging an old-fashioned Borscht Belt show.

Also featured at the festival are a literary program and visual art exhibits, including the touring exhibit "And I Still See Their Faces: Images of Polish Jews," which calls on the public to look into the eyes of Poland's Jews before the Holocaust to see the scientists, poets, artists, doctors, lawyers, rogues and adventurers they might have been, and to contemplate the human promise that was lost, Smolkin says.

Participatory events are an important part of Ashkenaz festival, says Smolkin. Patrons can march along with hundreds of artists, musicians and stiltwalkers in the Ashkenaz Pageant created by Shadowland Theatre, or partake in a spiritual Havdalah ceremony.

Some events require tickets. For more information, call 416-973-4000 or visit www.ashkenazfestival.com.

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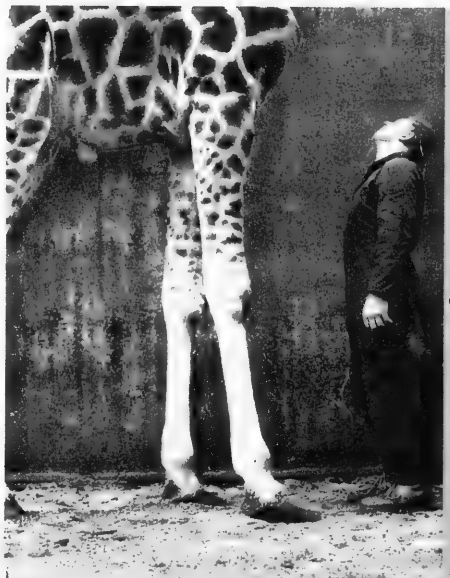

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A taste of Israel in downtown Toronto

Celebrating the spirit of Israel, the Shuk in the Park is a free outdoor festival that features a marketplace of Israeli goods, live music and kosher food.

The Shuk, now in its third year, takes place on Sunday, Aug. 29, in Suydam Park in Spadina Village, at Spadina and Strathearn roads, and will be on, rain or shine, from noon until 6 p.m.

One can stroll the marketplace shopping for authentic Israeli goods, gorge on falafel while playing *shesh besh* (backgammon), jam in the drumming circle with Living Rhythm, practise belly dancing or smoke exotic tobacco with a hookah at the Nargila Café.

Shuk in the Park features live music by Bais Groove, the Russell Leon Band and Touch of Klez, all presented by Magen Boys High Energy Entertainment.

Ephraim Shoham, Israel's trade commissioner to Canada will be in attendance.

According to event spokesperson Vivian Ringwald, "Shuk in the Park is a great way to spend a summer afternoon. With over 40 vendors and community booths retailing everything from body art to burgers, there is something for everyone and for all ages.

"By bringing Israeli culture to Toronto, we help strengthen the community and raise some money for Orr Shalom Children's Homes."

Orr Shalom is an Israeli non-profit organization that provides residential and therapeutic services for more than 350 at-risk children, aged five to 18, who have been removed from their homes due to severe abuse and neglect.

The Shuk is the brainchild of Olive Branch for Israel, a group of young women who were inspired to promote an awareness of Israeli culture in Toronto.

The event is co-produced with Kolel: The Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning and Kolel's Reviving Eden. Reviving Eden provides an opportunity for young Jews – affiliated and non-affiliated – to learn more about Jewish traditions and culture and find ways to fit Judaism into their lives.

The Shuk's sponsors include Creed Solutions, MBE, Magen Boys, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, *The Canadian Jewish News*, Flight Centre and Alexandroff Real Estate Limited.

Visit www.shukinthepark.com for more information.

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JWI weekend focuses on violence against women

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

A weekend for women in Niagara Falls, Oct. 22 to 24, sponsored by Jewish Women International of Canada, will focus on the issue of violence against women.

Titled "The Voice of Women… One Voice Many Choices" the weekend will feature talks on domestic violence and women's human rights and issues.

JWI/C director Penny Krowitz said that addressing domestic violence has always been a priority of her organization, but it is also doing research on violence in the workplace, as well in sports, hospitals and on campuses.

"We plan to discuss what is happening out there and determine the needs of women.

"Our goal is to do the initial research, and then put together task forces with people in various areas. From there, we will gather a body of knowledge and set out some initiatives," said Krowitz.

A keynote speaker is Amy Robbins Ellison, a cardiac anesthesiologist and a survivor of domestic abuse. "She will set the tone of the conference. We want to impress that there is no stereotypical abused woman," said Krowitz.

Also on the program is educator Channa Sargon, who will discuss the achievements of Jewish women in history; Ruth Flicker, president of RRF Human Development Consultants Inc., who will conduct a session on strategies for the future; and Marylou McPhedron, a lawyer who has fought for women's rights. There will also be wen-do self-defence workshops.

The weekend, chaired by Pat Wolfson, is open to women of all ages. "[By participating], we have the opportunity to learn a great deal, make a difference, be part of social change and correct social injustices," said Wolfson.

The event, which will be held at the Renaissance Fallsview Hotel, costs $395 based on double occupancy. For information, call 416-630-9313 or www.jwicanada.com.

OSCE urges freer trade for Middle East

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) has adopted a resolution that urges its constituent states to foster economic prosperity in Arab countries of the Mediterranean, in part by pushing for expanded and freer trade.

The resolution suggests free trade agreements with Middle Eastern nations would help modernize their economies while laying the groundwork for political reform.

"Small concrete immediate steps can be taken to build a 'freer trade' zone in the Middle East that can only offer opportunities and help to foster a modernizing economic environment that can lift the economic plight of all states and in the process transform the political climate for all citizens in the Middle East," said Senator Jerry Grafstein, the OSCE parliamentary assembly's treasurer and sponsor of the resolution.

Grafstein said Canada, which has concluded free trade agreements with the United States, Mexico and Israel, should be a leader in convincing Mideastern states to reform their economies.

He said Canada was in the process of entering free trade talks with Jordan and parliamentarians from Mediterranean countries like Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Egypt did not object to the OSCE initiative.

"I think this is a tremendous opportunity to bring the political reformation and modernization of the Middle East," he said.

"Modernizing the Middle East will bring greater stability" while reducing security costs in North America, he added.

While hopeful that progress may be made in opening Mideast economies to trade, Grafstein acknowledged that many of the region's governments retain their grip on power through top-down control of the economy.

The OSCE trade resolution was adopted at the organization's recent meeting in Edinburgh, Scotland. Follow-up discussions will be held in Rhodes, Greece, in late September.

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'A real effort [was made] to find a dialogue with the [political] left'

Continued from page 3

community's advocacy arm on Israel, to strengthen its outreach efforts.

Before CIJA's creation, advocacy organizations including Congress, the CIC and national campus organizations subsisted on a combined allocation of $5.3 million. Since then, the agencies' combined budget has grown to $10.4 million, while the dollar amount spend on administration has not grown, said Belzberg. In addition, CIJA has distributed "venture capital" sums to grassroots organizations with programs that meet CIJA's goals, he said.

In the last year, "a real effort [was made] to find a dialogue with the [political] left," while outreach efforts have focused on the Chinese, Sikh and Italian communities, as well as a number of churches.

On the campus front, CIJA has funded the hiring of seven advocacy experts in seven Canadian cities, who assist local student groups and address anti-Israel agitation on campus. CIJA has also recruited Jewish Agency shlichim (emissaries) who provide students with information, education, resources and someone to talk to when they experience difficulties. Professors at various schools have agreed to act as advocates in confronting anti-Israel colleagues, said CIJA CEO Hershell Ezrin.

"I would not say we've solved the problem, but I'd say there's a slightly higher level of comfort on campus," he added.

Even at Montreal's Concordia University, Jewish students are experiencing "a more reasonable environment where [they] don't fear expressing themselves as Jews and discussion is more civilized," said Ezrin.

At York University, where a student slate unseated an pro-Palestinian student government, CIJA "helped create a better environment for all students" and "empowered" Jewish students to get involved in politics, Cummings said.

> ***'It's up to the indvidual to get informed and get involved'***

Before the recent federal election, CIJA's affiliated organizations, CIC and CJC, met with the three national party leaders to discuss issues of concern to the Jewish community and CIJA encouraged its political action committees (PACs) to become politically involved, regardless of the party each PAC member supported. During the campaign, CIJA's website experienced 100,000 hits a day.

"The ultimate goal of CIJA PAC would to be act as a partisan entity that would support candidates," Ezrin said.

Changing public perceptions of Israel will take a multi-year effort and a substantial financial commitment. "The first tranche is to influence the influencers and to educate the broader *amcha* [community]. But it is not something that can be done overnight," Ezrin said.

Relationships that were taken for granted, with labour, with those in the academic world, will be the subject of renewed focus, said Cummings.

Each member of the Jewish community has a role to play in advancing Israel's cause, said Belzberg. "We provide the resources, but it is up to the individual to get informed and get involved and do something."

The Israeli cat is back

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Laura Elliott has been reunited with her Israeli-born cat Lily after a six-week separation.

Lily, the stray cat Elliott adopted and brought with her from Israel, escaped in late June from a cage in the cargo hold of an El Al passenger jet and bolted to freedom when ground crew opened the hatch to retrieve passengers' luggage.

Lily lived by her wits on the grounds of Pearson International Airport until she was trapped earlier this month in a construction compound on the airport grounds.

In a letter to John Meehan, an official with the Greater Toronto Airport Authority (GTAA), which operates Pearson, Elliott said "I am eternally grateful [to GTAA staff] for all their time and effort in helping to locate my beloved pet. It has been an extremely stressful time for me and thanks to everyone at the GTAA, I can finally relax and get on with my life."

Elliott had lived in Israel for five years, working in the venture capital field and volunteering in animal rescue. She grew attached to two cats and bought $200 (US) tickets for each of them when she returned to Toronto.

She was angry at El Al when she learned Lily had escaped, saying the airline should have ensured that Lily was brought to her in her cage. El Al argued it had done all it was contracted to do – transport the cat to her final destination – and was not responsible if the cage provided by Elliott was faulty.

Elliott said she would like El Al to compensate her for the mental anguish and costs she incurred in losing Lily for the six week period.

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Book Talks

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Nessa Rappaport

Thur. Sept. 9, at 8 p.m.

House on the River: A Summer Journey tells the story of a houseboat trip taken by three generations of the Rappaport family to the landscapes of Nessa's childhood summers in Bobcaygeon, Ontario. It is the tale of an enchanting quest on water and an inner pilgrimage inflected by a vibrant and joyful relationship to family and faith.

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Rabbi Dow Marmur

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Rabbi Marmur's life is a story of the modern Jew, an erudite rabbi, an astute judge of people and tradition and a believing Jew. Next February, Rabbi Dow Marmur, Rabbi Emeritus of Holy Blossom Temple, turns 70 years old. To honour him, we have co-published his memoirs, along with Key Porter Books.

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This time of year in the Jewish calendar is all about beginnings and recommitments. Thankfully, once again, we are given the opportunity to begin anew and to recommit to the people, the values and the way of life that are most precious to us. If staying connected to the Jewish community in Canada and abroad is part of that new beginning for you , there is no better vehicle for doing so than *The Canadian Jewish News.*

As a way of helping individuals launch their new beginnings, *The CJN* is introducing a special continuity subscription offer in time for Rosh Hashanah. We have decided to offer our readers a special, one-time opportunity to provide their children or their grandchildren with their own subscription to *The CJN.*

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[Sid Shoub photo]

For the sake of the children

The two youngsters, whose unaffected curiosity is flawlessly captured by the camera, are children of Israel.

The cloudless, deep blue sky behind them belies the storm of terror that has broken upon the land these past three years. Alas, there appears no imminent sign on the horizon that the storm will abate.

Israeli cabinet minister Natan Sharansky recently told a Toronto audience about a new, terror-induced phenomenon that has taken hold in Jerusalem.

Members of families leave notes of love whenever they leave the house. However mundane and routine the reason for the departure – a child going to school, a parent to work or a sibling merely going shopping – a note left behind, usually on the kitchen table, so that no words might be left unsaid in the cruel event that the child or the parent does not return home.

We therefore greet the coming year as we did last the one: with hope in our hearts and a prayer on our lips that this year will bring the people of Israel closer to peace.

Rosh Hashanah is the holiday of judgment. We are sustained by the traditional belief that one of the key underpinnings of our world is justice, even though it is not always apparent to our merely human sensibility and understanding.

But where is the justice, we cry out, when suicide bombers wantonly and deliberately slaughter children returning from an outing at the Kotel?

Where is the justice, we cry out, when the United Nations General Assembly protects the chief planner and practitioner of terrorism?

Where is the justice, we cry out, over and over again?

Continued on page 10

Editorial

Shabbat: Rosh Hashanah
Candlelighting: 6:51
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Kids4Peace promotes interfaith education

By CARA EDELL
CJN Intern

For Gaia, 12, peace in the Middle East no longer seems like a lost cause.

After participating in Kids4Peace, an interfaith education initiative of St. George's College in Jerusalem, Gaia, a Jewish Israeli, said her experience of religious tolerance has strengthened her commitment to Israeli-Palestinian coexistence.

For 11 days in August, Gaia and 23 Jewish, Christian and Muslim children aged from 10 to 12 took part in a program designed to nurture the participants as pioneers of peace.

From left are Elynor, Jenna and Rita, who participated in the Kids4Peace program.

The program, which focused on exploring the realities, traditions, languages and dreams of each faith group, brought 12 Israeli children from the Jerusalem and Galilee areas and 12 Canadians together in Toronto.

"I think it's important to have things like Kids4Peace because of the very difficult situation in Israel that we're in," said Gaia through a translator. "Anything where Arabs and Jews can work together for peace is good and contributes [to bettering the situation]. Before I came, I thought differently about Christians and Muslims. Now I see what's common between us."

Henry Carse, director of special programs at St. George's College, founded Kids4Peace in 2002. "That year in particular was a very difficult time in the Middle East. There was an escalation of violence and hostility between Israelis and Palestinians," he said. "As an educator, I thought it was important to respond to the conflict by creating an atmosphere of trust to allow the children to meet each other across the lines.

"Israel is a segregated society where Arab and Jewish children are divided by schools, language and lifestyles. This separation lends itself to conflict. If you don't know your neighbours, you feel threatened by them."

He said Kids4Peace is seen by teachers, parents and religious community leaders in Jerusalem as a way to bridge the gap. "It's about interfaith education for peace. Education is at the heart of the program, the goal is peace and the tool is interfaith dialogue. We want to form a generation of leaders for tomorrow."

After arriving in Toronto and spending the night at St. Dunstan's Church, the Israelis befriended the Jewish, Muslim and Christian Canadians. The group of 24 children, along with their religious advisers and program organizers, then spent a week "away from tension" at Outward Bound summer camp in northern Ontario, Carse said.

The camp's philosophy was "challenge by choice," he said. Through physical, emotional and intellectual team-building, including exercises at the ropes course and other activities on the lake and on land, the Kids4Peace participants quickly became "peace-pals."

At the end of the wilderness session, the Jews, Christians and Muslims gathered under "the Abraham tent" – a tent pitched to show that "we are all children of Abraham" – to watch presentations created by each religious group about their faith traditions, Carse said.

Melanie, an 11-year-old Christian participant from Toronto, said the Outward Bound staff encouraged co-operation and respect. "At the camp, they wanted us all to get along. There's no reason to fight, and all the kids agreed with that."

Back in Toronto, the group toured the CN Tower, Centre Island and Niagara Falls. On the last day of the program, they visited Holy Trinity Anglican Church, the Jaffari Islamic Centre and Temple Har Zion. At the houses of worship, a priest, an imam and a rabbi taught the children respectively about Christianity, Islam and Judaism.

Sarah, an 11-year-old Muslim participant from Toronto, said the religious introductions opened her eyes to faiths other than her own."I had never been to a church or a synagogue before, and I found it very interesting."

In Toronto, the Israeli participants were hosted by the families of their Canadian counterparts. "Kids4Peace is about making friends and establishing more personal relationships," said Carse.

Jenna, an 11-year-old Jewish participant from Toronto, agreed. "I really enjoyed having a girl from Israel stay at my house. You get to know them better that way. Her mother was the Jewish adviser on the trip and her father was the Muslim adviser."

Carse said proselytizing or any form of religious pressure is "completely out of place in Kids4Peace." Politics did not come into play in the program, as Kids4Peace focused on "the development of sustainable relationships.

"The kids got along great. There was language sharing and a deep respect for each other's faith traditions. The only challenges we came across were between the kids as kids – not between the kids as Arabs and Jews."

Carse said Kids4Peace has met his expectations, but he will not be satisfied until the program is followed up. "This is only the beginning of a process of dialogue and integrity building. I want to continue developing the program for as long as I'm standing."

For information about Kids4Peace, contact David Ross at idavidross@aol.com.

Family Moments

only from The Canadian Jewish news

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Mazel tov to Mark & Cheryl Britt on the bar mitzvah and graduation of their son Steven. Lots of love Bubbie & Zaidy Green.

Mazel tov to Shirley & Louis Baum on your 35th anniversary, from your sons David, Jeffrey and Brian.

Mazel tov Jessica Shulamit & Michael Asher Lev Cohen (Israel) on the birth of Esther. Grandparents Sylvia & Avrom Bornstein, Bonnie & Jeff Cohen; great-grandparents, Bernard Weinstein, Malka Bornstein, Anne & Norman Primus.

Congratulations Julia on your first birthday. With love, parents Barbie & Avi Koifman, Nana & Opi Judy & Frank Wilson; grandparents David & Rebeca Koifman.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

Label the back of all photos and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Send all your photos to:
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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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What's New Deadlines: Monday, Aug. 30, is the deadline for the Sept. 9 issue and Wednesday, Sept. 1, for the Sept. 15 issue. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

PLEASE NOTE HOLIDAY DEADLINES: Wednesday, Sept. 8, is the deadline for the Sept. 23 issue, Monday, Sept. 13, is the deadline for the Sept. 29 issue, Tuesday, Sept. 21, is the deadline for the Oct. 6 issue and Monday, Sept. 27, is the deadline for the Oct. 14 issue.

Thursday, Aug. 26

ZORNBERG LECTURE

Dr. Avivah Gottlieb Zornberg, author of *Genesis: The Beginning of Desire*, speaks on "Cries and Whispers: The Akeida and the Death of Sarah" at 8 p.m. 147 Overbrook Place. $10. For information, call 416-398-1510, 416-633-5770 or visit www.torahinmotion.org or www.mekorot.ca.

Friday, Aug. 27

PHAT PHRIDAYS SERVICE

Generation Hutzpa presents "Phat Phridays: Not Yer Average Kabbalat Shabbat" led by **Rabbi Aubrey Glazer**, a blend of Jewish music from Israeli folk and devotional to Latin sounds with fusion musicians **Ernie Tollar**, **Aaron Lightstone** and **Debashish Sinha**. 6 p.m. in the Beth Tzedec Youth Chapel. 416-781-3514, ext. 34.

Sunday, Aug. 29

SUNDAY JAZZ BRUNCH

Adath Israel Dynamic Singles 35+ host a "Summer Sunday Jazz Brunch" with the **Ron Davis Trio** featuring **Alex Pangman** and **Mike Carston**. 11:30 a.m. $15 if reserved by Aug. 26, $20 at the door. 416-635-5340 or rachel@adathisrael.com.

SHUK IN THE PARK

This one-day event brings the spirit of Israel into the heart of Toronto. Shuk in the Park is an outdoor festival that includes live music, drumming circles, vendor market stalls, children's craft and a play area. 12-6 p.m. in Suydam Park, Spadina and Strathearn. Rain or shine. Free. www.shukinthepark.com.

Monday Aug. 30

MEDITATION MONDAYS

The Caring Committee of Temple Har Zion presents Meditation Mondays with **Dr. John Fleming, Karen Kaufman** and **Rosalind Smith.** The program is designed to support the practice of meditation in the Jewish community at large and is intended for the curious, the novice and even those with a well-developed meditation practice. 7:30 p.m. Call 905-889-2252 for further information.

YIDDISH SUMMER CONCERT

The committee for Yiddish of UJA Federation presents its annual concert, "Songs of Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow," 7:30 p.m., at Beth Sholom Synagogue, 1445 Eglinton Ave. W. Tickets are $10 and only available at the door. For information, call 416-635-2883, ext. 137.

Wednesday, Sept. 1

KOL SHIRA CHOIR

The Kol Shira Choir at Beth Tikvah Synagogue invites everyone who enjoys singing Jewish music and who wants to expand their singing abilities to join them every Wednesday evening at 8 p.m. under the direction of composer-conductor **Eyal Bitton.** For information, call **Stan** at 416-491-0194 or e-mail slofsky@sympatico.ca.

CHANTING PSALMS

The Society for Chanting Psalms is a non-sectarian group that welcomes people of all backgrounds to chant Psalms and experience them on physical, mental, emotional and spiritual levels. 6-8 p.m. at Locke Library, community room, 3083 Yonge Street, Yonge and Lawrence. RSVP to Debra Joy Eklove 416-434-0180 or debra@debrajoyeklove.com. $10.

Continued on page 25

50TH ANNIVERSARY
TEMPLE SINAI
CONGREGATION OF TORONTO

Join us for a dialogue with David Baker

Senior Foreign Press Coordinator, The Prime Minister's Office, Jerusalem
Thurs. Sept. 9, 2004 at 7.45 p.m.

David Baker works daily with media such as CNN, CBC, and the New York Times from his post in the Prime Minister's office in Jerusalem. He will address critical issues in communicating to the world press in a media emergency-related environment. Questions from the audience will be welcome.

This special program is made possible by the Mizrahi Family, in memory of Gaston & Racheline (Lynn) Mizrahi, who loved the Jewish people, Israel, and the pursuit of ideas.

Jennifer Mizrahi, of Washington D.C., herself a noted media consultant and founder of the Israel Project, will serve as moderator.

Temple Sinai's Israel Committee invites the community to attend this 50th Anniversary program at
210 Wilson Avenue, Toronto

For further information please visit www.templesinai.net

An opportunity not to be missed
Admission is free

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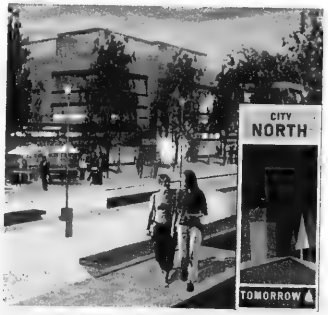

Continued from page 24

Other News

YIDDISH SEMINAR 2004

The First Annual Yiddish Seminar at the Miles Nadal JCC. The programs include intensive study of Yiddish for beginners and advanced students. A one-day Yiddish marathon for absolute beginners takes place Sunday, Aug. 29, 10 am.-2 p.m. Beginner's Yiddish one-week seminar, Aug. 30-Sept. 3, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.-noon, Tuesday and Thursday conversation class 1:30-3 p.m. Cultural programs includes guest lecturers, music and film. Aug. 30 to Sept. 3. Call 416-924-6211 for information and registration.

DAY AT THE RACES

Shalom Singles is going to Woodbine Race Track, Labour Day, Monday, Sept. 6. Call the 24-hour information line for details, 416-631-3664.

"GRANDMA, MOTHER & I"

Join Beth David Sisterhood as they begin their 2004-05 season with guest speaker **Susan Jackson,** director of Community Engagement and Outreach, UJA Federation, speaking on the topic "My Grandma, My Mother and I," on Tuesday, Sept. 7 at 7:30 p.m. Jackson discusses celebrating the Jewish holidays and keeping your children and grandchildren Jewish. Bring your grandmother, mother and daughter! Non-members $5 at the door. 416-633-5500.

CHORALAIRS OF NORTH YORK

The 42nd year of the Choralairs of North York begins Tuesday, Sept. 7 at the Earl Bales Park Community Centre, room 2. Rehearsals take place every Tuesday evening, 8:15-10 p.m. Repertoire includes pop, Broadway and folk songs. No auditions required, but a love of singing is a must. For information, call **Brian Slepchik** at 416-631-0029 or 416 540-7106. To book a concert for your nursing home, home for the aged or seniors' apartment, contact **Judy Gordon,** 416-221-3161.

ISRAELI FOLK DANCING

Women's League of Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda offers Israeli Folk Dancing with **Shoshana Frank** every Wednesday evening beginning Sept. 8. Beginners 7:30 p.m. Intermediate 8:15 p.m. $6 per class or $50 for 10 classes. For information, contact **Ricky Klein,** 905-737-5417, or 416-633-3838.

VOLUNTEERS FOR ISRAEL

Meet long-time and new friends at the annual Sar-El Canada Volunteer Reunion and Information Evening, help launch the Base Toronto Coffee Bar and find out how you can volunteer in Israel. **Coby Brosh**, Israeli consul general, will be the guest speaker. Wednesday, Sept. 8 , 7:30 p.m., 788 Marlee Ave.

POMEGRANATE GUILD

The Pomegranate Guild's "Opening Night Extravaganza" presents a lecture on the 22-year history of the guild, a slide show of the work of its members and the launch of the publication *The Life Cycle* by **Sue Krivel** and the late **Sarah Silver**. No charge for guests. Wednesday, Sept. 8, 8 p.m., Shaarei Shomayim Congregtion.

WOMEN'S HEALTH

Dr. Alvin Pettle speaks about "Women's Health Issues and Bio-Identical Hormones," Thursday, Sept. 9 at 7 p.m. at William Lyon Mackenzie Collegiate, 20 Tillplain Ave.

HOW HOLY ARE THE HOLIDAYS

Temple Kol Ami begins their Sunday-night lecture series Sept.12 at 7:30 p.m. with **Susan Jackson** speaking about "The High Holy Days… Boy Are They Holy!" at Chapters, Yonge and Steeles Ave. Free.

HIGH HOLY SERVICES

Kolel at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre offers Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services. Call the High Holy Day hotline at 416-485-7007, x 0.

Oraynu Congregtion For Humanistic Judaism offers secular Rosh Hashanah services, Sept. 16, 10:30 a.m., and Yom Kippur services Sept. 24 at 8 p.m. and Sept. 25 at 1:30 p.m. at the North York Memorial Hall, Burgundy Room, 5110 Yonge St. Babysitting and children's program provided. To purchase tickets, call 416-385-3910.

KNITTER WANTED

Jewish Women International is looking for knitters for their "Mountains of Mittens" program. Every year they knit scarves, hats and mittens for needy children. Wool is provided. For information, call 416-630-9313 or e-mail miriam@jwicanada.com.

LEARN HEBREW

Keren Hatarbut Institute offers Hebrew classes on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays beginning the week of Sept. 7. Reasonable tuition. 788 Marlee Ave. For registration, call **Joseph Klinger** at 416-787-0197.

Canadian Zionist Federation offers Hebrew-language studies with **Chanah Sargon**. Fall session begins week of Sept. 20. Call 416-633-3988 or e-mail czf(@bellnet.ca.

Associated Hebrew School offers Hebrew classes with **Yael Lev**. Classes are offered at all levels, daytime and evening, using the Ulpan method. Fall semester begins Oct. 11. Call 416-225-6151.

Beth David Congregation offers Hebrew classes with **Hana Werner**. Mondays, 7:30-9 p.m., Oct. 18-May 16, 2005. Members $36, non-members $50. For registration and information, call 416-633-5500.

FOR SENIORS

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Saturday-night dance Aug. 28. Hebrew classes, Tuesday mornings 10 a.m.-noon, $25 a month. Casino Rama Wednesday, Sept. 8; Casino Niagara Monday, Sept. 27. Call 416-395-7881 Mondays to Thursdays 9 a.m-1 p.m.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the boardroom at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Call 416-630-9444.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. Aug. 26, picnic in Earl Bales Park. Call to reserve. Contact **Menachem Wallach**, 905-731-7748, or **Malka Colla,** 416-630-5771.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

Sunday movies 2 p.m. Aug. 29, *Sleepless in Seattle*. Members $1, non-members $3.

High Holiday tickets now on sale for services at the centre. Members $75, non-members $85, children under 12, $35.

Agawa Canyon Trip. Join a 2-day train excursion, departs Oct. 5 8 a.m., returns Oct. 6 at midnight. Members $226, non-members $250. Call **Irina** at ext. 123 for information and reservations.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew-speaking seniors meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Aug. 31, **Michael Lipnitsky** delivers a lecture on Canadian history. Call **Galit Osadtsuk** at ext. 115.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

The Koffler Gallery presents **Mitch Robertson**: "S & P 100," though Sept. 26.

The BJCC School and Daycare has day-care spaces available for September 2004. A new extended Tic Tac Two morning program 9-11:30 a.m. and new preschool, nursery, junior kindergarten and senior kindergarten, morning options of 9-11:30 a.m. or 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Call ext. 248 to book a tour or for more information.

The Koffler School of Music registration for fall classes open for piano, guitar, violin, flute, saxophone, ensembles, Suzuki piano and violin lessons, Nashir Children's Choir, opera master classes, opera appreciation, Resa's Pieces Band; babies, toddlers and preschool music programs Sundays and Tuesdays. "Sing Your Heart Out" with **Allan Friedman**, ages 7- 17.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or wwwmilesnadaljcc.ca.

The Downtown Jewish Bicycle Tour, Sunday, Sept. 12, 10 a.m.-noon. Enjoy a ride through some of downtown Toronto's sites of Jewish interest. Members $5, non-members $8. Registration required.

Registration for fall programs for adults and children, including fitness, recreation, cultural arts, adult education and community celebrations.

New music classes for under-5 year olds with conservatory-trained **Susan Purdy**. Tuesday mornings. Call Harriet ext. 133.

New youth choirs for Grades 1-6. Thursday after school. E-mail youthchoirs@milesnadaljcc.ca for info or call office. Get-together meetings Thursday, Sept. 9 and 23. Registration required. No audition or experience necessary.

Volunteers Wanted

JIAS

Jewish Immigrant Aid Services is looking for volunteers for the telephone language companion program, which helps new immigrants develop English language skills. For information or to volunteer, call 416-630-6481.

BAYCREST CENTRE

Volunteers are needed for the palliative-care unit. Training and supervision are provided. Good English skills are necessary. Other languages needed are Hungarian, Italian, Portuguese, Mandarin or Spanish. Training begins Oct. 20. The Health Centre is also looking for volunteers who are well organized and like working with people. Good English skills and the ability to speak other languages are also helpful. Flexible times available. For information, call 416-785-2500, ext. 2575.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 32

To place an unveiling notice, please call at least 15 DAYS prior to the date of the unveiling

OBITUARIES and Related Notices

To place any other family related notice, please call at least 10 DAYS prior to the issue date

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Anne Pearson	Aug 8/04	420 The East Mall
Michael Berkowitz	Aug 8/04	50 Bronte Rd
Faye Bornstein	Aug 10/04	1201 Steeles Ave W
Cliff Goldman	Aug 9/04	294 Sackville St
Kitty Fox	Aug 9/04	650 Briar Hill Ave
Gordon Berman	Aug 10/04	95 Thorncliffe Park Dr
Avrahm Galper	Aug 11/04	679 Coldstream Ave
Harry Jonas	Aug 12/04	7420 Bathurst St

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Goldfield, Anatole Benjamin	July 18, 2004	Private
Fein, Gizella	July 18, 2004	3560 Bathurst St
Ilvovski, Georgi	July 19, 2004	Private
Lipowitz, Mark	July 20, 2004	29 Esther Cres
Gringler, Klara	July 19, 2004	3560 Bathurst St
Rudgoz, Sofia	July 22, 2004	10 Tangreen Crt
Greenspon, Anne	July 23, 2004	550 Cummer Ave
Krossel, William	July 24, 2004	3000 Bathurst St
Robinson, Bernard	July 25, 2004	2515 Bathurst St
Wagner, Eva	July 24, 2004	1925 Steeles Ave E
Vendrov, Avraham	July 26, 2004	35 Cedarcroft Blvd
Katzberg, Sam	July 26, 2004	Private
Goren, Brucha	July 26, 2004	429 Walmer Rd
Mirner, Vera	July 27, 2004	Private
Fleischer, Heinz	July 28, 2004	82 Lynnhaven Rd
Levy, David	August 5, 2004	Private
Paykin, Chaya	August 6, 2004	Private
Rosman, Ella	August 7, 2004	3560 Bathurst St
Ross, Marvin	August 12, 2004	90 Heatherington Cr
Oprisan, Erna	August 13, 2004	Private

The family of the late

BROOKE TURACK ז"ל

Would like to express sincere and heartfelt appreciation to all her friends and relatives for the many acts of kindness and support, and the donations made in her memory.

Your support has brought us comfort and given us strength during our recent bereavement.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

ROSE SHUMAK ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, Aug. 29th, 10:30 a.m.

Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park

Ivansker Section

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

BENIEK LINKSMAN ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, Aug. 29th, 10:30 a.m.

Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park

Eastern Children of Israel Section

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

CAROL NITKIN ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, Sept. 5th, 11:00 a.m.

Mount Sinai Memorial Park

986 Wilson Avet

The Old Radomer Section

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

MORIS RUDOLER ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, Aug. 29th, 11:00 a.m.

Bathurst Lawn Cemetery

The Zaglembier Society Section

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

JOSEPH SCHACHTER ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, Aug. 29th, 11:00 a.m.

Pardes Shalom Cemetery

Shaar Shalom Section

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

NOTICE

The cemetery management of New Fraternal Jewish Association & Chevra Mika Congregation is now administered by Jewish Cemeteries Management Inc. By-Laws have been submitted to the Registrar of the *Cemeteries Act (Revised)*. Any interested parties may contact the Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park Association office for information, or to make copies. These By-Laws are subject to the approval of the Registrar, *Cemeteries Act (Revised)*.

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The family of the late

Leo Kon ז"ל

wish to thank family and friends for their kind support, sympathy cards, shiva meals and generous donations. Your thoughtfulness will always be remembered. Please accept this as our personal thanks.

Wishing you a healthy & happy New Year.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

SAM EDELSTEIN ז"ל

Beloved father, grandfather and brother

will take place

Sunday, August 29th at 12:30 p.m.

Roselawn Cemetery

Eitz Chaim - Anshei Poland Section

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

REUBIN SMILESTEIN ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, August 29th at 10:00 a.m.

Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park

Bathurst south of Steeles

Yeshiva Torah Chaim Section

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

DR. FRED WEINBERG ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, August 29th at 2:00 p.m.

Beth Tzedec Memorial Park

(Bathurst North of Finch)

Section 13

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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Coast to Coast

Montreal federation invests $3 million in school security

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL – FEDERATION CJA is spending $3 million on upgrading security at Jewish day schools and day-care centres this year, following an assessment of each institution's needs by a private American security firm.

President Sylvain Abitbol said the federation will implement the recommendations of International Security Associates, based in Columbus, Ohio, which conducted a site-by-site audit over the summer.

The firm was selected because it has experience working with Jewish community groups, including other federations, in the United States, he said.

The $3 million will be disbursed among 22 schools and centres on 40 campuses.

What form the additional security takes will vary according to the school, he said. While Abitbol did not want to disclose details, he said security will be "visible and invisible."

This is most the federation has ever invested for security at schools, he said, and is a result of the April 5 firebombing of the St. Laurent United Talmud Torahs (UTT).

Prior to the incident, security was primarily the responsibility of individual schools.

"With the start of the new school year, we want students, parents and faculty to know that we are taking the steps necessary to protect our community and secure our future." The majority of schools open at the end of this month.

Immediately after the firebombing, the federation paid to hire private uniformed guards at all the Jewish schools that requested them until the end of the school year.

Whether guards will be on duty this year is up to individual schools, Abitbol said.

The federation is also in the "final stages" of hiring a security co-ordinator, a new staff position, Abitbol said. That person's job will be to act as a consultant to schools, as well as other community institutions.

Abitbol said additional allocations have not been made for security at other community institutions, including the federation's own agencies. "For the moment, our priority is the schools," he said.

Security, of course, remains a major concern for the Jewish community as a whole. On Aug. 31, its standing committee on security, co-chaired by Canadian Jewish Congress and B'nai Brith Canada, will hold a meeting with police to review measures in place at synagogues and other institutions, as is customary before the High Holy Days.

Aboriginal group returns from Israel

By MYRON LOVE
Prairie Correspondent

WINNIPEG — The land and people of Israel made a strong impression on Rev. Raymond McLean and a group of his aboriginal congregants who recently returned from their first visit to the Holy Land.

"The land was breathtaking," said Red River College student Clarence Mason, who is originally from the First Nations community of Ste. Therese Point in northern Manitoba.

"It was a wonderful experience for me. I wanted to see for myself the places where the stories in the Bible took place. The trip brought history alive for me."

Pensioner Christine Sumner was also deeply impressed by the beauty of the land, as well as the friendliness of the people.

"It is hard to put into words," said Sumner, a Winnipeg resident who is originally from Dauphin River. "It was amazing seeing the Bible come to life."

Sumner and Mason were two out of almost 30 people who signed on for the trip, which was organized by Rev. McLean, the leader of South East Aboriginal Ministries congregation in downtown Winnipeg.

Rev. McLean organized the visit after going himself last year as part of a tour consisting of nine First Nations leaders and educators, on a mission organized by B'nai Brith Canada.

The mission was B'nai Brith's response to comments praising Hitler made by former national First Nations leader David Ahenakew in January 2003, said Alan Yusim, director of B'nai Brith's Winnipeg office.

"Our goal was to strengthen the relationship between the First Nations and Jewish communities," Yusim said. "In addition to partnering in fighting hatred, we organized a week-long human rights study trip to Israel for First Nations leaders."

Rev. McLean said he was so taken with the trip that he wanted to go back with some of his congregants and other interested First Nations people so he could share his experiences. B'nai Brith helped organize the tour.

The nine-day trip earlier this month included stops in Jerusalem, Mount Zion, the Dead Sea and Yad Vashem.

"Yad Vashem was a very moving experience," Rev. McLean said. "I never realized before how devastating the Holocaust was for the Jewish people. I had read about it and heard about it, but Yad Vashem really opened my eyes. We were able to see what the Jewish people had gone through and how they have rebuilt their culture and their ancient language in their homeland."

Rev. McLean said he looks forward to leading another First Nations group to Israel next year.

In the meantime, Yusim said, B'nai Brith leaders are making plans to visit First Nations communities this fall and meet with native leaders to discuss common issues and concerns.

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Coast to Coast

Olympic boycott is the lesser Iranian evil

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

Iran's insulting boycott of Israel at the Athens Olympics on Aug. 15, when Arash Miresmaeili refused to engage Ehudi Vaks in a judo match, was well-covered by the Canadian media. But this story should not overshadow a far more serious conflict between the two countries: the threat of Iran developing nuclear weapons specifically for use against Israel.

In a front-page story in the *Globe and Mail* on Aug. 16, Christie Blatchford eloquently described Vaks' reaction to the boycott: "He was utterly crushed by Mr. Miresmaeili's failure to fight, and by Iran's refusal to recognize Israel. "It's funny," he said, near tears. "They don't have the right to not recognize us. Israel is a democracy; Iran is not… So I feel terrible on a personal level and on a national level, as well. I don't think we need to have a quarrel between our countries.'"

On Aug. 17, the *Globe* editorial, "Iran's Olympic snub," said that "Iran has sullied the Olympic ideal, and should be held to account." A similar editorial in the *National Post* on Aug. 17, "Iran's insult to the Olympic ideals," said: "The actions of Mr. Miresmaeili represent not merely a stunt pulled by an individual athlete, however, but adherence to an official policy of discrimination maintained by the Iranian government, one that thumbs its nose at the Olympic ideals."

Other strong columns condemning Iran's actions included Rosie Dimanno's "Shame on IOC for its silence" in the *Toronto Star* on Aug. 17, Steve Simmons' "Real Story? Politics" in the *Toronto Sun*, also on Aug. 17. On Aug. 18, the *Ottawa Citizen* came out with a stinging editorial. "Pity the Iranians" arguing that "hatred of Israel remains the strongest unifying force in Iran… Iran is a totalitarian theocracy, where the ruling mullahs feel constant pressure from an unhappy, oppressed populace."

While the criticism of Iran's Olympic boycott was welcome, these reports should not be allowed to eclipse a far more significant story: Iran's likely development of nuclear weapons and its threats to use them against Israel.

Iran recently tested its latest Shahab-3 missile, which has a range of up to 1,300 kilometres, well within reach of Israel. While Israel has not specifically threatened to attack Iran's nuclear reactor, it has said that it will not allow Iran to acquire a nuclear bomb. And that has been used as an excuse for Iran – which has repeatedly called for Israel's destruction – to crank up the rhetoric. An Aug. 18 report by Ali Akbar Dareini of the Associated Press quoted a statement by the deputy chief of the "elite Revolutionary Guards," Brig.-Gen. Mohammad Baqer Zolqadr: "If Israel fires a missile into the Bushehr nuclear power plant, it has to say goodbye forever to its Dimona nuclear facility, where it produces and stockpiles nuclear weapons."

In 1981, Israel destroyed Iraq's Osirak nuclear reactor, incurring the world's wrath. Following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990, and subsequent revelations about Iraq's revived nuclear weapons program, some of the states that had previously condemned Israel changed their tune. They acknowledged that Israel's prescient action may have prevented a recklessly aggressive Saddam Hussein from unleashing nuclear weapons on Iraq's enemies, including Israel.

Iran has explicitly violated its obligations as a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Many countries, foremost among them the United States, warn that Iran poses an enormous risk to international peace and security should it acquire nuclear weapons.

Iran's nuclear goal has been the subject of some attention in the Canadian media, including a June 16 *Globe and Mail* editorial, "Iran's nuclear ambitions," a July 14 *National Post* op-ed piece by Gerald Steinberg, "When will the West confront Iran?" and Samuel Segev's Aug. 18 *Winnipeg Free Press* article, "Israel sees a nuclear Iran as greatest threat."

So while the Olympic scandal is a compelling story, it's just a small symptom of a far more looming threat that Iran presents to Israel, and indeed the world.

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.

New prostate cancer gene discovered

MONTREAL – Montreal's Jewish General Hospital and Toronto's Mount Sinai Hospital are among the health-care institutions participating in a study that has discovered a new prostate cancer gene.

Researchers at the Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen) in Phoenix, Ariz., have found a new way to speed the discovery of genes that suppress tumours and in the process identified a gene that appears to be important in prostate cancer.

The findings appeared in the current issue of the journal *Nature Genetics*.

The gene, not previously known to be a tumour suppressor, most likely plays a role in regulating and maintaining normal tissue organization. The researchers have shown that the gene, known as EphB2, is inactivated in prostate cancer.

This is the first time abnormalities in the gene have been linked to cancer. Researchers believe loss of the gene's function leads to disorganization of cells and also encourages the growth and survival of prostate cancer cells.

"This finding provides critical insight into the factors that cause prostate cancer, which can be used for development of additional diagnostics and therapeutics for prostate cancer," said Dr. Spyro Mousses, head of TGen's Cancer Drug Development Laboratory and the paper's senior author. Much additional research is warranted to determine the extent of its involvement in prostate cancer and other cancers as well."

Dr. John Carpten, senior investigator at TGen, director of its Genetic Basis of Human Disease Division and head of the TGen Prostate Cancer Research Unit said the "findings represent a significant advancement in prostate cancer research, as the number of current treatment options for advanced prostate cancer remains limited."

"The discovery of mutations in this gene allows us the opportunity to explore a new path towards treating a significant number of men with advanced prostate cancer. As TGen's mission is to translate laboratory findings into the clinic, we hope to use this information to ultimately help provide prostate cancer patients more treatment options and a better quality of life."

Johns Hopkins University and Howard Hughes researcher Dr. Bert Vogelstein said the "work reveals a new mechanism by which cancer cells can evade normal tissue architecture, which is a hallmark of tumour development. While further research is needed to reveal the full impact of EphB2 on prostate cancer, every step helps when fighting this disease."

According to Mousses, complex diseases such as prostate cancer involve more than one gene – often many – and a host of environmental factors, which makes them particularly hard to investigate.

The study also involved researchers from the University of Turku in Finland, the National Human Genome Research Institute in Bethesda, Md., Tampere University of Technology and University Hospital in Finland, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, Md., and the University of Basel in Switzerland.

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Feature

Remembering Zipporah

By MIRIAM CHINSKY
Special to The CJN

For too many years, Lithuanian-born Reuven Blium, new living in Toronto, has harboured a secret. At last he feels free to disclose what happened at a seemingly idyllic Jewish orphanage and summer camp in the countryside. And he wants an opportunity to commemorate the ultimate sacrifice of one heroic woman, known to him only as Zipporah.

Reuven Blium

"I must do it," he says. "I can't let her be forgotten!"

In Kaunas, Lithuania, population about 300,000 at the start of World War II, of whom Blium estimates some 100,000 were Jewish, there was a welcoming white three-storey building, The Jewish Children's Home, an orphanage under the auspices of the Jewish community, which sheltered youngsters from infants to seven years of age.

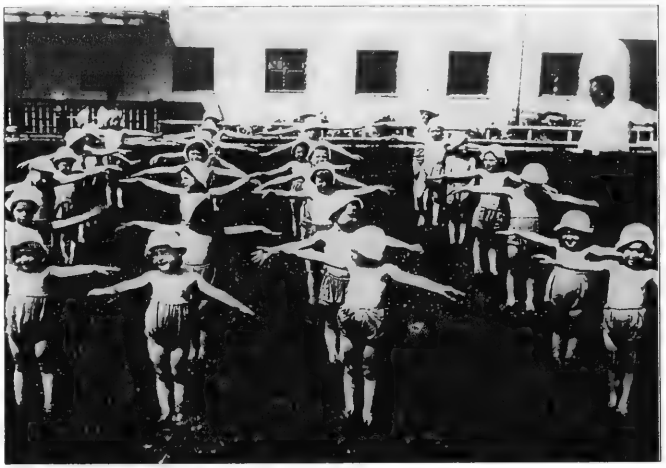
Approximately 10 kilometres outside the city, in a cottage-resort area, stood a substantial building used as a summer camp for boys from seven to 17. This was linked to a second orphanage for older children, administered by another arm of the Jewish community.

In both orphanages, the children were well cared for and given an education, regular exercise and treats such as outdoor picnics.

In 1940, there was a radical change in the young children's orphanage when a staff member who was married to an underground Communist leader (both were Jewish) was appointed director.

Communists had begun to infiltrate the land, and the Soviets, formerly allied with the Germans, were becoming their enemies. In the spring of 1941, when the tension between Germans and Soviets was mounting, the director, fearing for the children's safety, took them to the camp in the country.

On June 22, war erupted between the Germans and the Soviets in Lithuania. Three or four days later, the Germans occupied Kaunas. Lithuanians entered the summer camp, gave orders to liquidate all the youngsters, and dispersed their Jewish caregivers to the ghetto in Kaunas. The non-Jewish workers were told to go home.



The children in the Jewish Children's Home, a pre-World War II orphanage in Kaunas, Lithuania, for boys and girls to seven years of age, are seen participating in outdoor activities in front of the home.

Soviet officials commanded the director who had tried to save the children by bringing them to the camp, and her husband, to leave the children and proceed deep into Soviet territory. She was mobilized as a medic with the Red Army and worked tirelessly among the troops, while her husband was sent back to help organize partisan units in Lithuania.

Only one caregiver, Zipporah, defying orders, refused to abandon the youngsters. Stating adamantly that this was her destiny, she died with most of the children in a nearby building Blium refers to as the death centre.

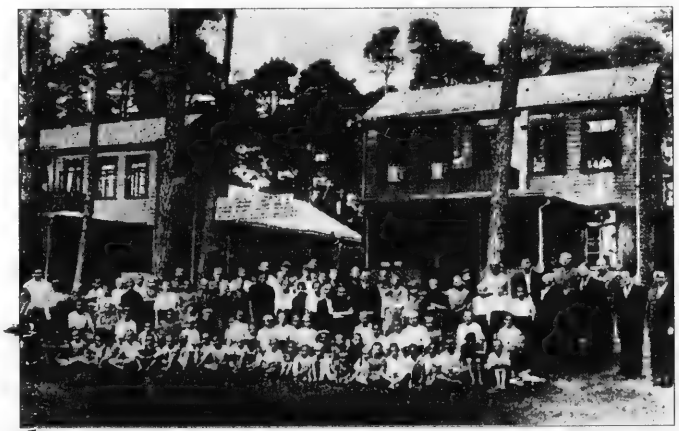
The older boys, including Blium, were taken by one of their leaders to the railway station. He accompanied them on the train into the Soviet Union, and many survived the war.

At the end of hostilities, Blium returned to Kaunas. The white building had been converted to a children's hospital, which still functions as such to this day. The words, Jewish Children's Home, printed in Yiddish and Lithuanian across the front, had been erased.

The summer camp structure, so solidly built, had vanished. Not even the foundation was visible. There was no indication of what had transpired there. But Blium was entrusted with a prewar photo album that had been left behind. In it are pictures of happier days – Zipporah tending the three- and four-year-old girls, a scene portraying about 100 children in front of the home, little ones at play – all gone. Vibrant beings obliterated.

The director and her husband who had wanted to save the children but took their orders from the Soviets survived the war, although they are no longer alive.

Blium is determined that Zipporah will be remembered. He will contribute what he can and hopes that other survivors of the train trip that took them into the Soviet Union – now just a few elderly men scattered throughout Israel, Canada and the United States – plus perhaps others who have been moved by Zipporah's courage, will commission a sculpture or other remembrance in her name.



The summer camp and older children's orphanage outside of Kaunas

The "death centre" outside of Kaunas where some 80,000 were killed

Gathering round the holiday table

By NORENE GILLETZ

The High Holy Days begin on Wednesday evening, Sept. 15, erev Rosh Hashanah, with all its special foods and traditions. Apples are dipped in honey in the hopes of a sweet year ahead. Challahs are coiled into a circle and often contain raisins, symbolizing wishes for a well-rounded, sweet and wholesome year.

The daunting task of preparing festive dishes for your holiday table can be overwhelming, but not as overwhelming as creating a top-quality cookbook packed with triple-tested recipes. Shawna Magence and Carol Lesser were the coordinators for *Gatherings: Creative Kosher Cooking from our Families to Yours*, ($34.99) a fundraising project of the parents of Netivot HaTorah Day School in Thornhill.

Gatherings is not your usual fundraising cookbook. It is a top-quality, professionally designed book, with 300 luscious recipes contributed by friends and family of children attending the school. It has a flat binding and contains fabulous photos and terrific cooking tips. Since Gatherings was published last October, more than $100,000 has been raised as a result of a lot of hard work, dedication and passion.

I spoke with Shawna Magence, one of the driving forces behind *Gatherings*, and asked her for some of her strategies when preparing for her own holiday table. Magence is incredibly organized - she has to be. A busy mom with four children, she works two days a week managing a law office, is the president of Emunah Women and is actively involved with Netivot HaTorah.

She told me she doesn't cook at the last minute, but not months in advance either. She serves "not less than 18, because that's how many fit at my table." Sometimes she will have a kids' table. Magence always sets the table the night before. She likes to prepare recipes that look beautiful, taste incredible and are easy to make. She does all her preparation in advance, so that once she sits down at the table, she can enjoy the meal with her family and friends.

"The recipes in *Gatherings* are traditional, but with a twist," Magence said. "All the recipes are kosher, so everyone can eat them, whether they keep kosher or not. The recipes are easy enough for a novice, yet gourmet enough for the gourmet cook! There are lots of salads that can be served at room temperature and are ideal do-ahead dishes that don't need to be warmed up.

"Pictures in most cookbooks are not always reproducible, but anyone who prepares our recipes can make them look just as gorgeous as the ones in the pictures. The recipe for Three-Coloured Fish Loaf came from an incredible cook who is a grandparent of one of the children in the school. It looks fabulous, is so easy to make and is a wonderful way to get the kids to eat their carrots. The Double Mushroom Chicken is incredible. Most kids will not eat mushrooms, but they don't know mushrooms are in it. They think it's made with bread crumbs!"

Gatherings is available at most Judaica stores, Chapters, Indigo, or by calling 905-771-1234, ext. 303 or 416-226-2466. Here are some of Magence's suggestions for upcoming gatherings around your holiday table. Enjoy!

THREE-COLOURED FISH LOAF

This elegant appetizer looks gourmet but is very easy to prepare and delicious! Try this terrific serving tip to impress your guests: serve horseradish in carved-out veggies like radishes, cucumber or zucchini.

1½ lbs. frozen fish loaf, defrosted
1 egg, beaten
1 tbsp. sugar
1 tsp. salt
½ tsp. garlic powder
½ tsp. onion powder
pepper to taste
1 (300-g) box chopped spinach, defrosted and drained
3 medium-sized carrots, cooked and mashed

Preheat oven to 350. In a large bowl, combine defrosted fish with egg, sugar, salt, garlic powder, onion powder and pepper. Divide mixture in half. Press one half into a 4½x8½-inch loaf pan. Divide remaining mixture in half. Mix spinach with one half of mixture and carrots with the other. Spread the spinach mixture over plain fish in loaf pan. Then spread carrot mixture over the spinach mixture. Bake uncovered for 1 hour. Serves 8 to 10. Preparation time: 20 minutes.

DOUBLE MUSHROOM CHICKEN

This chicken is superb. Your guests won't be able to guess what the great topping is made of.

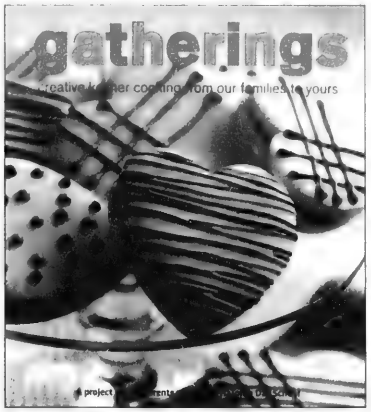
Sauce:
1 clove garlic, minced
1 tsp. olive oil
6 to 7 mushrooms, sliced
1 tbsp. cornstarch dissolved in 1 cup chicken broth
salt and pepper to taste

2 (3 lb. each) chickens cut into 8ths (or boneless and skinless chicken breasts or thighs)
1 (1.4-oz.) pkg. porcini mushrooms, dried
½ cup dry bread crumbs
½ cup mayonnaise
2 tsp. Dijon mustard
1½ tsp. paprika
¼ to ½ tsp. curry powder (optional)
1 tsp. additional paprika

Preheat oven to 375. In a nonstick saucepan over medium heat, saute garlic in olive oil. Add mushrooms. Add cornstarch-chicken broth mixture, salt and pepper and bring to a boil, stirring constantly. Remove from heat. Set aside.

Rinse chicken pieces. Pat dry. Set aside on parchment paper placed in a large pan.

Lightly run cold water through porcini mushrooms and drain well. Place them on paper towels and pat until absolutely dry. (Air-dry for a while.) Cut any large pieces by hand. Put them in a food processor. Process well. Add bread crumbs. Process until mixture becomes crumb-like.



Combine mayonnaise, mustard, 1½ tsp. paprika and curry powder. Coat chicken pieces, returning the coated pieces to the pan. Sprinkle with mushroom crumbs and additional paprika to give colour.

Place chicken, uncovered, in oven. After 20 to 25 minutes, baste with half the mushroom sauce. After another 30 minutes, add remaining sauce. Do not overcook chicken. Depending on the size of the chicken pieces, chicken should be cooked for about an hour and then checked. Serves 10 to 12. To reheat, cover pan with foil. Preparation time: 25 to 30 minutes.

PECAN PUMPKIN LOAF

This is a wonderful recipe for the upcoming holidays, especially for Sukkot. It can be served as a dessert and also makes a great side dish for those who are allergic to eggs. You can substitute chocolate chips for the pecans, or just add them to the recipe. You can also bake the recipe in muffin tins.

3 cups flour
2 cups sugar
2 tsp. baking powder
2 tsp. baking soda
½ tsp. cinnamon
½ tsp. salt
½ tsp. cloves
1 cup oil
1 (16-oz.) can pumpkin puree
1 cup pecans, chopped

Preheat oven to 350. Grease 5 mini-loaf pans (5¾x3¼ inches). In a large mixing bowl, using an electric or hand-held mixer, mix flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, salt and cloves. Add oil and pumpkin puree. Mix until smooth. Stir in pecans.

Pour batter into greased loaf pans. Bake for 50 to 60 minutes.

Norene Gilletz is a cookbook author, cooking teacher and food consultant. For information, call 416-226-2466 or visit her website at http://www.gourmania.com.

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On Campus

Literary magazine offers a 'warehouse' of ideas

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

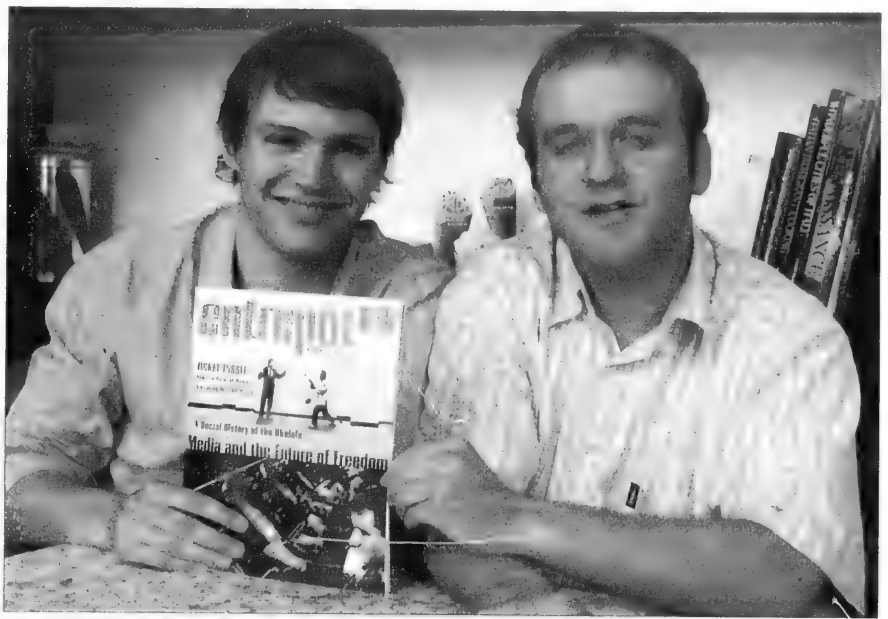
It started with a whisper.

"That's going to be the lead," said Benjamin Leszcz confidently, referring to the way he anticipated – correctly – that this article would begin.

Leszcz, 22, and Neil Rogachevsky, 21, are the founders and editors of *entrepôt* (www.entrepot.net), an eclectic literary magazine for university students and recent graduates. The name is French for "warehouse," representing a warehouse of ideas, the editors say.

In high school, the pair got their journalistic start writing for the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto's *Fireside CHAT*. Later, in university, Leszcz and Rogachevsky, who've known each other more than a decade and became friends in their late teens, wrote for their respective student newspapers.

For the past year, Leszcz, a 2003 graduate of Dalhousie University with a BA in contemporary studies and international development studies, has honed his journalistic skills at *Saturday Night* magazine, first as a summer intern and most recently as assistant editor, a position to which he was promoted in March. "I've learned a ton," he said.



Entrepôt editors Benjamin Leszcz, left, and Neil Rogachevsky look for quality writing for their eclectic literary magazine.
[Frances Kraft photo]

Leszcz and Rogachevsky both credit CHAT writing teacher Carla Pearson, among others, for her influence on their writing.

They also had strong influences at home: Leszcz' mother is a math teacher at CHAT, and his father, a psychiatrist, is writing a book. Leszcz' grandfather, Rabbi Shalom Rappaport, now retired from Winnipeg's Rosh Pina Congregation, was also an influence.

Rogachevsky credits his literary bent to his librarian mother and businessman father. "They're big readers."

Rogachevsky, who has edited Camp Ramah's newspaper, *Kol Ramah*, is a recent graduate of McGill University, where he majored in intellectual history. Both he and Leszcz have also worked for campus papers and academic journals.

The plans for *entrepôt*, which is distributed free on and around Canadian university campuses, grew from a whispered conversation in a library when Leszcz was at McGill as a visiting student. "I think we started off brainstorming for a column we could write together for the *McGill Daily*," said Leszcz.

Thus far, they've published two issues and are aiming to publish a third this coming winter. The magazine is starting to attract some advertising, but funding is 80 per cent grant-based, Leszcz said.

The most recent issue, a 42-page glossy, covers a wide range of subjects, including a short story, an article on the history of the ukulele, and a reflection by a fledgling journalist in Senegal. *Entrepôt* articles range from 400 words to a hefty 3,000 for some features.

The editors' criteria for submissions include "intelligent, original, critical writing; a strongly well-reasoned, thoughtful piece," said Leszcz, who added that the magazine was created with no ideological agenda. "We strive for diversity of opinion, religion, ethnicity [from] all over the country. The publication has no official stance on anything… It's the quality of the writing [that counts]."

Although they can't afford to pay contributors, Rogachevsky said he believes students see their writing as an opportunity to gain experience and acquire published clippings.

"Much of what forms the character of this project is the objective of publishing the best student writing that exists in Canada," said Leszcz. "If we started paying writers, we'd be competing with every other magazine. What makes us unique is that we feature writers who aren't writing for a living yet – or maybe never will be – but this great number of talented students is looking for an avenue to being published."

The magazine offers a niche for young writers excluded from mainstream papers and limited by space constraints and demands for topicality in campus papers, said Rogachevsky. "We want to make this the best magazine possible."

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רעדאַגירט פון: אַלעק סילווער

אלול — גשמיותדיק און רוחניותדיק

פון ד"ר ליב שטשעקאַטש־ראָזען

(פון זיין בוך: „פון אייביקן קוואל")

דער חודש אלול סימבאָליזירט, אין דער ייִדישער טראַדיציע, אַ ספעציפישן כאַראַקטער. אינטינקטיוו, אין זייער אונטערבאָווסטזיין, דערפילן אַפילו נישט־רעליגיעזע ייִדן, אַז עס „דערנענטערן זיך" די ימים נוראים — ראש השנה און יום־כיפור. פאַר רעליגיעזע ייִדן זיינען די טעג פון אלול — טעג פון „דערוואַרטונג", פון נשמה־דיקער, גייסטיקער געשפּאַנטקייט. פון ערשטן טאָג אין אלול בלאָזט מען שופר אין די בתי־תפילה, נאָכן דאָוונען אינדערפרי. דאָס איז אַ דערמאָנונג, אַז עס דערנענטערט זיך דער יום הדין. עס איז גוט, אַז אַ פאָלק לעבט מיט אַזאַ באָווסטזיין. אַזאַ אמונה באַצויבערט די נשמה. די שטימונג גיט גייסטיקן אינהאַלט אין לעבן.

מיטן חודש אלול זיינען פאַרבונדן פאַרשידענע גע־שיכטלעכע געשעענישן, מנהגים און טראַדיציעס. די מירער אַרום ירושלים אין פאַרענדיקט געוואָרן כ"ח אלול (נחמה ו, ט"ז). די מלחמת סיחון איז געווען אין אלול (במ"ר, י"ט). זינט עזרא הסופר איז דער חודש אלול קיין מאָל נישט געווען „מעובר" 30 טעג (מס' ר"ה י"ט). וועג איינער טוט אַ נדר אויף אַ יאָר, אפילו וועג דאָס געשעט דעם לעצטן טאָג אין אלול, ווערט צומאָרגנס, א' תשרי, שוין פאַרראַכנט פאַר אַ יאָר (מס' ר"ה י"ב).

די סליחות זיינען מיינסטנס פאַרפאַסט פון די חכמי אַשכנז, ספרד און איטאַליע. דער נוסח און מנהג פון זאָגן סליחות איז פאַרשידן, אין פאַרשידענע קהילות. ביי די ספּרדישע ייִדן איז אַ מנהג צו זאָגן טעגלעך סליחות פון ראש־חודש אלול ביז יום־כיפור. די אַשכנזישע ייִדן (חסידים און די וואָס דאָוונען „נוסח ספרד" אָן פּסקענען לויטן רמ"א) הייבן אָן זאָגן סליחות מיטנאַכט מוצאי־שבת פאַר ראש השנה. טייל חסידים זאָגן ווייניקער סליחות, האַלטנדיק אַז די התעוררות־שטימונג צו תשובה אָן מעשים־טובים דאַרף זיך יעדן טאָג אָן יעדע מינוט פון אַ גאַנץ יאָר אָן נישט דווקא איך די אלול־טעג.

נאָר ספעציפיש זיינען די דערציילונגען, ווי אַזוי צדיקים אָן „גוטע ייִדן" האָבן געמאַכט סליחות. אַ סך פון אונז געדענקען נאָך גוט, ווי איך די ייִדישע שטעט אָן שטעטלעך, איך דער „אַלטער היים", איז געווען די שטי־מונג, אָן ווי עס האָט אויסגעזען דאָס „ביז צו סליחות" אָן דאָס „זאָגן סליחות". אויך דער ייִדישער פאָלקלאָר האָט פאַראייביקט די דאָזיקע ייִדישע מנהגים אָן די נאָסטאַלגיע פון די „סליחות־טעג".

אין דער חסידישער וועלט ווערט וועגן דעם דער־צײלט: — די משנה איז מסכת ראש־השנה (פרק א') לערנט: „ארבעה ראשי שנים הם" — עס זיינען פאַראַן פיר „ראש־השנהס" אין יאָר. איינע פון זיי איז דער ערשטער טאָג אין אלול. עס הייסט „ראש השנה למעשר בהמה", ניי יאָר פאַרן צוזעץ צו ברענגען אין בית המקדש מעשר (אַ צענטל פון געבידענע כשרע בהמות, אד"ג). שאַרפע חסידים, לומדים, פלעגן טייטשן די משנה: — די ייִדן, וואָס לעבן אַ גאַנץ יאָר אַ וואַכעדיקן לעבן, אָן חשבון הנפש, נאָר כאָפּן זיך אויף ערשט אין חודש אלול — דאָס איז „מעשר בהמה", אַ בהמהשע תשובה . . .

ערלעכע ייִדן האָבן טאָקע זיך אָפּגענעבן אַ דין וחשבון אַ גאַנץ יאָר און אויך תשובה געטאָן אַ גאַנץ יאָר. אויף וואָס פאַראַ „עבידות" האָבן אזעלכע ייִדן געווינט תשובה? צי זיי האָבן געדאַוונט מיט פונה אין געלערנט „שלא על מנת לקבל פרס"; צי זיי האָבן געגעבן צדקה אין געטאָן מצוות אין מעשים־טובים לשם שמים; צי זיי האָבן נישט אַרויסגעבראַכט דעם שם־שמים לבטלה; צי זיי האָבן זיך נישט געכַּעסט אויף אַ צווייטן ייִד, אַדער, חלילה, מצער געווען, צי פּוגע בכבוד געווען אַ ייִדן „נישט־פאַרדינטערהייט", אָן עגלעכע עבידות פאַר וועל־כע מען וועט באַשטראָפט „מן השמים".

איז לאָמיר אַלע זאָגן סליחות אָן בעטן מחילה פאַר אונזערע עבירות.

Health & Lifestyles

Heart & Stroke walk set for Sept. 26-

Thousands of women in 36 communities across Ontario, along with their family and friends, will put on their walking shoes in support of the Heart and Stroke Foundation on Sept. 26.

The annual Cheerios Mother Daughter Walk for Heart & Stroke is part of a nationwide event that raises funds to support research into the root causes of heart disease and stroke among women.

Last year, the walk brought in more than $2.5 million, and this year's goal is $3.3 million.

According to Heart and Stroke Foundation literature, more women than men are now dying from heart disease and stroke.

With our aging population, it says, it is critical to understand the underlying causes of these diseases. Raising money through events such as this walk is vital for the research and health promotion activities of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario.

The walk will take place in five spots in the Greater Toronto Area. At Woodbine Park, participants will walk along the shore of Lake Ontario, through Ashbridges Bay Park and east along the boardwalk, following either a 4-km or an 8-km route.

Check-in time is 11 a.m. and start time is 1 p.m. There will be activities to entertain walkers and their supporters, and at the Health and Wellness Expo tents, visitors can receive information about heart disease and healthy living.

At Ajax Rotary Park, participants can walk either 2 km or 4 km. Check-in time is 8 a.m., and the walk will start at 10 a.m. Clowns, face painters, a live band, food, prizes, goodie bags and a health fair will add to the fun.

In Etobicoke at Centennial Park, walkers can choose from a 3-km or a 6-km route. Check-in starts at 9:30 a.m, and the walk will begin at 10:45 a.m. Kids will find lots to amuse them including airbrush tattoos, and information about heart health will be available at an information booth.

At Toogood Pond, Main Street, Unionville, participants will have the choice of either a 3-km or a 6-km walk. Check-in time is 8 a.m., and the walk will begin at 10 a.m. At the Kid's Zone, children can take part in games and face painting, and adults can check their blood pressure at a special clinic.

At Fairy Lake in Newmarket there are two routes, 2 km

Continued on page 34

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Organ donation 'a big mitzvah'

Yet, Israeli rate is among the lowest in industrialized world

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

When 17-year-old Tani Goodman died in a tragic kibbutz accident two years ago, his Orthodox family had no reservations about donating his organs to give others a new lease on life.

"It's what he would have done… and we felt it was the right thing to do," said Tani's sister, Yael, in a phone interview from Israel.

"It's an amazing mitzvah."

Tani's organs helped save four people's lives and provided health benefits to six people.

The Goodmans have kept in contact with the beneficiaries of Tani's organs and are actively involved in promoting the cause of organ donation.

"We understand nothing will bring my brother back, but knowing his organs are in other people is a good feeling," Yael said. "His spirit is living – the spirit of giving."

While the Goodmans' story has a somewhat heartwarming ending, statistics show that organ donation rates in Israel are among the lowest in the industrialized world, roughly one-third the rate of western European countries.

Every year, as many as 80 Israelis die while waiting for a life-saving transplant and Yael notes that only about four per cent of Israelis have organ donation cards.

She attributes the low rate both to people's reluctance to contemplate the eventuality of death and misperceptions about Jewish law.

Under Jewish law, there are prohibitions against desecrating a body, delaying burial or benefiting from the body of the deceased.

However, pikuach nefesh – saving a life – overrides these rules. In other words, "post mortem" organ donation to preserve life is considered a mitzvah.

"You have a hierarchy of mitzvahs," said Rabbi Howard Morrison of Toronto's Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda synagogue, who notes that other mitzvahs, such as keeping Shabbat, can be broken in order to preserve life.

"We are fulfilling our mandate of choosing life."

That belief is shared across denominations – Reform, Conservative and Orthodox rabbis all support post mortem organ donation.

"Rabbis of all movements are in favour of organ transplants," said Rabbi Michael Stroh of Temple Har Zion in Thornhill.

Rabbi Moshe Stern of Shaarei Tefillah Congregation in Toronto agreed.

"As long as it's going to [help] another human being, organ donation is encouraged," Rabbi Stern said.

"It's a big mitzvah."

However, the rabbis noted that organ donation for the purpose of medical research is not permitted.

"The need to save a life has to be in place," Rabbi Morrison said.

There is also some rabbinic debate about when a person is defined as dead under Jewish law.

The halachic debate offers two main views: a person is either dead when there is irreversible cessation of neurological functions or when there is irreversible cessation of the heartbeat.

Dr. Paul Greig, director of gastronintestinal transplants at Toronto General Hospital and a professor at the University of Toronto, said the heartbeat definition is incorrect.

"A patient can remain alive while their heart is not beating," he said.

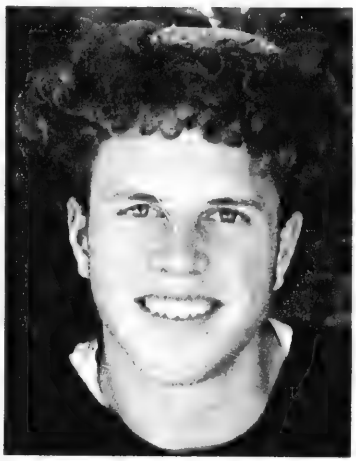
"Surgeons stop the heart, fix it and start it up again… So clearly death cannot be defined as the cessation of a beating heart."

Greig said the legal definition of death in western societies is the "irreversible cessation of brain function," also referred to as "neurological death."

That definition is acceptable to all three rabbis, though, as Rabbi Stroh noted, it's important that death is declared correctly.

"We have to be cautious about moving too fast and turning humans into organ donation factories," he said.

When a person is neurologically dead but still has a beating heart, a respirator can keep oxygen flowing to the organs, which keeps them functioning. It is necessary to have functioning organs in order to perform a successful transplant.



Tani Goodman

Medical advances are making transplants increasingly successful.

"The one year survival rate of most organ [transplants] exceeds 90 per cent. The five-year survival rate after a liver transplant, for example, is 70 to 80 per cent," Greig said.

"There is nothing as rewarding as seeing a patient six months after a transplant, healthy and robust."

Greig said the reluctance to donate organs is also a problem in Ontario, particularly in Toronto, where the rate is the lowest in North America.

He said some people may be leery of doctors being overzealous in deciding if a patient is neurologically dead.

"It's the doctor's raison d'etre to save patients' lives, not provide organs to transplant surgeons," Greig said.

Greig said the best way to become an organ donor is to give consent to your family members, as they have the ultimate say should the situation arise.

You can also sign an organ donor card through the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care and the Trillium Gift of Life Network.

"It's one of the most dramatic things you can do in medicine," Greig said. "It's extraordinary."

For more information, visit www.organdonationontario.org or the website of the New York-based Halachic Organ Donor Society at www.hods.org.

With files from Dr. Ivan Diamond.

Walk registration at different locations

Continued from page 33

and 4 km. Check-in is from 8 a.m., and the walk will start at 10 a.m. Participants and supporters will enjoy the children's goodie bags, bagged Heart Smart lunches, draws and door prizes.

Registration for the walk takes place until the day of the event at various locations in the GTA. Registration is free, and people of all ages can participate. Participants 16 years and older are encouraged to raise a minimum of $20 to join.

Register online until Sept.23 at www.heartandstroke.ca/walk or by phone at 1-888-HSF-INFO. Registration can also be done by mail, fax or in person.

For more information, call the local Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario office: Ajax: 905-666-3777, Etobicoke: 416-622-9606, Markham: 905-709-4899, Newmarket: 905-853-6355, Toronto: 416-489-7111, ext. 367.

Pledges can also be given online. When participants register, they can then send e-mails to the friends, family and colleagues, and sponsors can pledge online. They will automatically receive an e-mailed tax receipt for every donation of $10 or more.

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Munich massacre remembered in Athens

By JEAN COHEN
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

ATHENS — Several political and sports dignitaries attended a memorial service held here last week for the 11 Israelis killed at the 1972 Summer Olympics at Munich.

But the widow of one of the Israelis killed by Palestinian terrorists at the Munich Games made the deepest impression during the ceremony at the Israeli ambassador's residence.

In her speech, Ankie Spitzer pressed Dr. Jacques Rogge, the president of the International Olympic Committee, to hold a more public memorial for those killed as part of the Olympic Games.

"Dr. Rogge, you were an Olympian in Munich, you were the brother of the 11 murdered athletes. All of you were part of this great Olympic family," said Spitzer, whose husband, fencing coach Andre Spitzer, was among the 11 killed.

"Then why is it that tonight we are standing here at the Israeli ambassador's residence. We should have this memorial in front of all athletes sponsored by the IOC, because this is not an Israeli issue. This concerns the whole Olympic family."

Rogge did not respond to the request to remember the slain athletes at the Games themselves

Many of the nearly 300 people at the Aug. 19 service gave Spitzer a standing ovation.

After Spitzer spoke, Rogge, who competed in yachting at the 1968, 1972 and 1976 Olympics, took the podium.

He told the audience that he "was one of the 7,000 athletes representing 121 countries in what should have been a festival of sport, of humankind and friendship. But these games were sent into darkness. The fifth of September, 1972, changed the face of the Olympic movement and the Olympic Games forever."

Rogge discussed typical Olympic themes – brotherhood, friendship and the need to keep politics out of the Games – but did not respond to Spitzer's request to remember the slain athletes at the Games themselves.

"I was very disappointed" in Rogge's speech, Spitzer said after the service.

But she admitted that his presence at the ceremony – the first time a sitting president had attended such a ceremony since the Munich Games – "was a step in the right direction."

Rogge was not the only dignitary in attendance. Prince Albert of Monaco, Athens Mayor Dora Bakoyanni, Greece's interior minister, Prokopis Pavlopoulos, and Israeli cabinet minister Limor Livnat, were also there, as was former IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch.

First to the podium was Tzvi Hashivian, president of the Israel Olympic Committee, who made it clear that terror will never deter Israeli sports.

Said Hashivian: "We swore in Munich that we will continue participating in sport events all over the world and we do so, showing to terror that they did not kill our athletic spirit."

The world was again reminded of the way politics is interwoven into the Olympic Games in Athens, when an Iranian athlete refused to fight his Israeli competitor in judo.

Hashivian was followed by Yakov Arar, the chief rabbi of Greece, who recited Kaddish for the athletes.

On Sept. 5, 1972, the athletes were taken hostage by members of the Palestinian Black September terrorist group. The terrorists killed their hostages during a botched rescue attempt by German police at the Furstenfeldbruck military airport.

Israel's ambassador to Greece, Ram Aviram, was pleased with the ceremony. "The event was marked by the Greek government in a very honourable way. The perception in Greece, along with the other free nations of the world, is that terror must be fought in all of its forms."

For her part, Spitzer vowed to press on.

"When we went to Montreal four years after Munich and asked for a memorial, we were laughed at," she said. "We have suggested the minimum of one minute of silence without even mentioning that they were Israelis or Jews, but nothing happened. Yet we will go on until we succeed."

Iran may get uranium from South Africa

By GIDEON ALON
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Iran and South Africa signed a memorandum of understanding last week on bilateral co-operation. The deal paves the way for the two countries to expand trade ties, and may include South Africa selling uranium to Tehran.

The memorandum was signed by South African Defence Minister Mosiuoa Lekota and his Iranian counterpart, Rear Admiral Ali Shamkhani. This was the first such visit by a South African defence minister to Tehran since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

At Tuesday's signing ceremony, Shamkhani praised South Africa for its position on Iran's nuclear weapons program, which Tehran says is for peaceful purposes. He said that the agreement will lead to the expansion of bilateral cooperation in all areas.

Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, Hasan Rowhani, meeting with South African Defence Minister Mosiuoa Lekota in Tehran. [Ha'aretz photo]

Lekota reportedly said that making peaceful use of nuclear energy is the legitimate right of the Islamic Republic.

Brig.-Gen. Yossi Kuperwasser, head of Israel's military intelligence research department, told the Knesset foreign affairs and defence committee that Iran is expected to have full nuclear ability by early 2007. Kuperwasser also said that Iran will purchase the technology it needs to enrich uranium by the first half of next year.

Iran said Tuesday it would destroy Israel's Dimona nuclear reactor if the Jewish state were to attack Iran's nuclear facilities. A senior commander warned that Iranian missiles could reach Dimona.

"If Israel fires a missile into the Bushehr nuclear power plant, it has to say goodbye forever to its Dimona nuclear facility, where it produces and stockpiles nuclear weapons," said the deputy chief of Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards, Brig.-Gen. Mohammad Baqer Zolqadr, in a statement.

Zolqadr was referring to the site of Iran's first nuclear reactor at Bushehr, a coastal town on the Gulf. Built with Russian assistance, the reactor is due to come on stream in 2005.

Iran says its nuclear program is strictly for the generation of electricity. But Israel and the United States strongly suspect Iran is secretly building nuclear weapons.

Zolqadr did not say how Iran would attack Dimona, but the head of the Revolutionary Guards' political bureau, Yadollah Javani, said Iran would use its Shahab-3 missile.

"All the territory under the control of the Zionist regime, including its nuclear facilities, are within the range of Iran's advanced missiles," Javani said in a separate statement.

Iran announced last week it had successfully test-fired a new version of the Shahab-3, which has a range of 1,296 kilometres. Israel is about 965 kilometres west of Iran.

Israel has developed with the United States the Arrow anti-ballistic missile system. It is said to be capable of intercepting and destroying missiles at high altitudes.

"Ashdod Spared Mega-Terror Attack" "Who's next after Madrid?"
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AG: ICJ fence ruling may lead to sanctions against Israel

By YUVAL YOAZ
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Attorney General Menachem Mazuz recently warned that the decision on the separation fence by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague could lead to anti-Israel actions in international forums that could include sanctions.

The warning accompanied a report delivered Thursday by Mazuz to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who requested a month ago that the attorney general set up a committee to look into the ICJ's decision.

In an advisory opinion to the UN General Assembly last month, the ICJ said that Israel's fence is illegal and must be torn down.

"It is difficult to overestimate the negative ramifications that the ICJ's decision will have on the State of Israel in various spheres, even on issues beyond the separation fence," Mazuz wrote in an accompanying note to Sharon.

"The decision could gradually have an effect on rulings by Israeli courts about the administration of military authority in the territories and about the building of the fence."

Mazuz added: "The decision creates a political reality for Israel on the international level that may be used to expedite actions against Israel in international forums, to the point where they may result in sanctions."

Mazuz recommends that, at the earliest possible opportunity, Sharon make changes to bring the separation fence's route and arrangements in the seam-line areas in line with the principles fixed by the Israeli High Court of Justice in its June decision about the fence in the Beit Suriq area (where 30 kilometres of the current route were disqualified). This, Mazuz says, could lessen tensions in the international legal arena.

Mazuz also recommends that the corrected route of the fence be based in a new cabinet decision that would send a message to the world that Israel is upholding international law according to the decisions of its own courts.

The attorney general also recommends setting up an inter-ministerial team to study international developments that affect Israel, as well as a legal team to follow legal processes abroad and make recommendations.

He proposes that Israeli spokespeople stress that Israel upholds international law and accepts the ICJ's opinion, even though it was based on partial, and partly obsolete, data.

Menachem Mazuz

The committee that drew up the 84-page report consisted of legal experts from the Justice Ministry, the defence establishment, the Israel Defence Forces and the Foreign Ministry.

Meanwhile, the High Court of Justice on Thursday gave the state 30 days to explain the implications of the ICJ decision on the separation fence for Israel's policy regarding the fence.

In related developments, the Vatican has been successfully mustering international pressure on Israel to change the route of the separation fence in Jerusalem.

U.S. Senator Rick Santorum, a Republican from Pennsylvania and a Catholic supporter of Israel, recently sent letters to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell on the problems the fence will cause for the region's Christians.

In his letter to Sharon, Santorum stressed he supports Israel's right to build the fence, but is worried by reports that the current route will interfere with Christian holy sites. As an example, he cited the claims by Vatican representatives that the fence will impede religious processions to Jerusalem from the tomb of Lazarus on the Mount of Olives.

Israeli officials said in response that efforts were being made to take Christians' needs into account when building the fence and that discussions are now underway with Christian representatives about creating a gate in the fence near Lazarus' tomb to ensure that processions will not be hindered. However, they added, the fence has not come up in talks with the Vatican.

Meanwhile, the Non-Aligned Movement of developing countries urged all of its members to act "individually or collectively" to impose sanctions both against Israeli settlements and against international companies that participate in settlement activity, including construction of the separation fence.

The 115-member movement, whose foreign ministers met last week in Durban, South Africa, said in its final document that it wanted the UN Security Council to adopt a resolution chastising Israel and to take other measures to force Israel to stop building the 600-kilometre fence, which was declared illegal by the ICJ in July.

"With regard to member states, the ministers called upon them to undertake measures… to prevent any products of illegal Israeli settlements from entering their markets," the statement said. It also called on them "to decline entry to Israeli settlers and to impose sanctions against companies and entities involved in the construction of the wall and other illegal activities in the occupied Palestinian territory."

Diplomats at the UN in New York termed the document "one of the gravest" ever issued against Israel, even though it is strictly declarative and does not bind the movement's members, and said that it demonstrates the negative effect that the ICJ's ruling is liable to have on Israel's diplomatic position.

However, African and South American countries frequently ignore Non-Aligned Movement resolutions adopted under the influence of Arab and Muslim states, and it is considered particularly unlikely that the measures described would be implemented by movement members with which Israel maintains full diplomatic relations.

The non-aligned countries with which Israel maintains close relations are India, Thailand, Colombia, Chile, Peru, Ecuador, Cyprus, Kenya, Angola, Cameroon, South Africa, Seychelles and the Philippines.

Fire guts Jewish community centre in Paris

Continued from page 1

Authorities immediately suspected the fire was set deliberately. Inside the building, investigators found anti-Semitic graffiti and swastikas scrawled in red marker. One message read, "Without the Jews, the world is happy."

Visiting the site, Rabbi Claude Zaffran said he was "deeply pained and distraught. We're very worried. I have the impression I'm seeing the same movie with the same script. Beyond the declarations and speeches, there must be strong actions to end the string of anti-Semitic acts, he said.

"I am not afraid," Rabbi Zaffran continued, "but as a rabbi with a beard and a hat, I am worried I will be targeted. There are many people and families who are saying that it is impossible to continue like this, that it is no longer possible to send the children out on the Metro or a bus, and that there is no alternative but to go out on foot."

CRIF, the umbrella organization of the Jewish community in France, said in a statement that only hatred of Jews could have been a motive for the incident. Other groups, including the Jewish students' organization, called on the media to begin a public campaign against anti-Semitism, while an anti-Semitism monitoring organization warned that there may be more acts perpetrated against Jews during the coming Jewish holidays.

Serge Benaim, a local Jewish community leader, also expressed frustration.

"It happens over and over again. Every day now, someone lashes out at Jews," he said. "We haven't resolved the problem."

France has suffered a wave of anti-Semitic violence since 2000, coinciding with increasing tensions in the Middle East between Israel and the Palestinians.

Some of the violence has been blamed on young French Muslims, although the Muslim community itself is also a frequent target of racist attacks. France has the largest Jewish and Muslim communities in Europe.

The government has already made an effort to tackle anti-Semitism. In December, it announced a wide-ranging campaign that includes encouraging French schools to lead class trips to Auschwitz, and punishment for anti-Jewish remarks in the media. Extra security at Jewish places of worship and schools and tough sanctions against anyone found guilty of anti-Semitic acts are also part of the policy.

Sunday's fire was discovered by police assigned to patrol outside a nearby synagogue.

Paris Mayor Bertrand Delanoe and Paris Police Chief Jean-Paul Proust also visited the charred centre, which is on a winding street lined with shops.

Proust noted that the fire could have been deadly. "I have mobilized the best of my police officers," he said. "We will find those responsible. Sooner or later, they will be caught."

The head of the foreign ministry's Diaspora department, Nimrod Barkan, said Sunday that the French government was responsible for the safety of the Jews there. Barkan added that while the French government is showing it is committed and determined to combat the phenomenon, the French judicial system is unaware of the extent of the problem and the courts tend to impose very light penalties on offenders.

> ***'Every day now, someone lashes out at Jews'***

Sallai Meridor, the chair of the Jewish Agency for Israel was also critical of the French judicial system, saying the system has "to change its attitude toward the anti-Semitic hoodlums" and act forcefully against Anti-semitism.

Meridor commended the French government's statements against anti-Semitism, but said they are not enough. "The French legal system must change its attitude without compromise, and hand down deterring punishments against the perpetrators of these crimes. Without serious deterrent, this phenomenon is liable to continue and even increase," he said.

Meridor also spoke with CRIF president Roger Cukierman after the attack, expressing his shock over the incident and offering the support of the Jewish Agency to the French Jewish community.

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Likud rebukes Sharon

The Likud Central Committee last week voted against allowing the opposition Labor Party into a future national unity government, a rebuke to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's bid to expand his coalition in order to push through his planned withdrawal of Israeli troops and settlers from Gaza and parts of the West Bank next year.

Egyptian officials to visit

Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit and the head of Egypt's intelligence service, Omar Suliman, will visit Israel and the Palestinian Authority later this month, according to a report published Friday by Egyptian daily *Al-Ahram*. The Egyptian officials are slated to meet with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat to discuss several issues, including Israel's withdrawal from Gaza and parts of the West Bank, the paper said.

Israelis help Kenyans

Israeli envoys are helping famine-struck residents of Kenya. Staff at the Israeli Embassy in Nairobi left last week for the southern village of Mingini to distribute food to inhabitants, Israel Radio reported. The embassy is sending 15 tons of food, including rice and beans. In addition, it will distribute 2,310 children's lunches in answer to a call by Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki for all foreign delegations to assist in the region.

Tourism to Israel up

Tourism to Israel was up 58 per cent in the first half of 2004 compared to the same period in 2003. Nearly 822,000 tourists visited Israel in the first six months of the year, according to figures released by Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics and the Tourism Ministry. Some 1.4 million tourists are expected to visit Israel this year.

Soldiers' conduct probed

Israel has probed more than 600 allegations of misconduct by its troops against Palestinians. "Clearly there are legal and ethical guidelines that apply even at times of war," Maj.-Gen. Menachem Finkelstein, Israel's top military prosecutor, said in a Knesset briefing. According to Finkelstein, since the outbreak of fighting with the Palestinians in September 2000, 600 investigations of alleged abuse by soldiers have led to 90 indictments. Of these, 56 soldiers have been convicted and some of them have been jailed.

Birthright budget boosted

Israel's 2005 draft budget includes a $10 million (US) boost for Birthright Israel. The allocation is $1 million higher than government funds put aside last year for the program, despite planned cuts to other areas of the Israeli public sector.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

Canadian university students volunteer for Israel

By JENNY HAZAN
CJN Israel Bureau

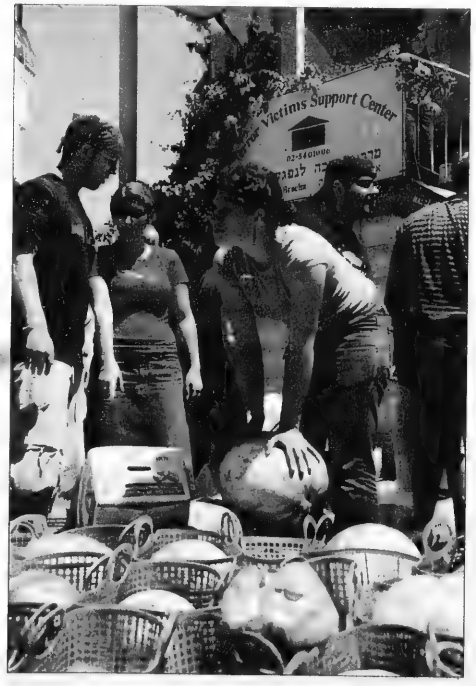
JERUSALEM — Ever since 21-year-old Queen's University student Aaron Szamosi came back from his Birthright Israel experience in January, he has longed to return to Israel.

"Coming to Israel for the first time was the most emotional and most incredible experience of my life," says Szamosi, who is from Thornhill.

He is one of 33 university students aged 19 to 28 from across Canada who are currently participating in a two-week volunteer for Israel program, subsidized by the UIAFC (United Israel Appeal Federations Canada) and CIE (Canada Israel Experience).

"When I heard about this trip, I thought it would be an excellent opportunity to see Israel again," Szamosi says, "to meet more Israelis and to build on my desire to help in a way that would be meaningful to the locals here."

For the past week, the volunteers, most of them Birthright Israel alumni from Toronto and Montreal, have helped Israeli students in Kiryat Shmona clean up their school; brought gifts for kids in the "Save a Child's Heart" program at the Wolfson Hospital in Holon; met with victim of terror Steve Averbach at his home; organized a play day for new immigrant children from Ethiopia at Kibbutz Ayelet HaShachar; registered with the Gift of Life Bone Marrow Foundation; given blood at the Magen David Adom capital city headquarters; and packed food parcels for families affected by terrorism at the Terror Victims Support Center in Jerusalem.



University students from across Canada participating in a two-week volunteer for Israel program packed food parcels for families affected by terrorism at Jerusalem's Terror Victims Support Center. **[Jack Vainunska photos]**

"We are really excited that they've come because often we don't have enough helping hands," says Judy Avraham-Chai at the Terror Victims Support Center.

The 2½-year-old nonprofit organization puts together weekly care packages for more than 500 families. Three or four new families join the program each week.

Joelle Ruskin, a 22-year-old student at Montreal's McGill University, says that it's people like Avraham-Chai who have made the volunteer trip meaningful. "I am so moved by what I have seen [on this trip]. The most valuable experience for me has been meeting people who go that extra mile – who adhere to the values that they believe in so strongly and which I think are intrinsically Jewish values.

"The way they appreciate what we do, I don't feel like we deserve it. We haven't done enough. But they have set out ideals for us to try to fulfil when we go back home."

Kate Belzberg, 22, agrees. "The volunteers here have this special part of their souls and their hearts that is so amazing and allows them to reach out to people," the McGill student says. "I have had tears in my eyes so many times because it is so inspiring."

Another McGill student, Yalon Dolev, 25, says that for him the highlight of the trip has been discovering new ways in which to help Israel. "The reason why I joined this group is because when you live in Canada or anywhere outside of Israel, you feel the need to help. But oftentimes you don't know what to do or how to help.

"So far, this trip has been a good way to see how we can help Israel from back home, by mobilizing the Montreal community to reach out to the people of Israel."

According to the trip's CIE leader, 33-year-old Ilana Hirt, it's the best volunteer mission she has ever led. "The best thing for me has been seeing how hard they're working," says Hirt, who notes that although the trip was partially subsidized, each participant paid $1,200 Cdn. "They have taken this so seriously. They are so impassioned by what they are doing, every moment.

"These people really want to give back to the country and volunteer their time. Everything they do, they do with zest and inspiration. It is such a pleasure to see that among young Canadian Jews."

"I have never in my life been given the opportunities that CIE has given me," Belzberg says. She added that group members are currently discussing ways in which to raise money for "Save a Child's Heart."

"The things that I have seen on this trip have been eye-opening, and the volunteer experience has been priceless."

Apples and pomegranates: A Rosh Hashanah seder

By RAHEL MUSLEAH
Special to The CJN

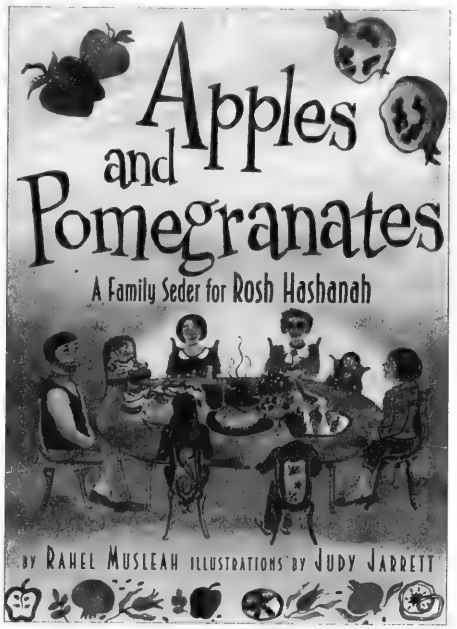
Every holiday has its aura. Pesach has a scrubbed cleanliness, Purim, a cookie-dough indulgence, Sukkot, a back-to-nature thankfulness. Rosh Hashanah has its aura too. For most of us, it's one that begins a season of awe, judgment and repentance.

For me, the start of a new year is a time of blessing and renewal, a different focus than what often feels like a lofty liturgical solemnity. I'm not suggesting party hats and confetti, just a little more optimism and joyfulness. Except for dipping apples in honey and sharing a holiday dinner, home rituals that create memory are largely missing from Rosh Hashanah.

In this respect, families of Sephardi and Mizrachi origin have a secret to share with the rest of the Jewish world. On the first night of Rosh Hashanah, we hold a special ceremony at home during which we recite blessings over a variety of foods that symbolize our wishes for the new year. The ritual is called a *seder yehi ratzon* (may it be God's will) because we ask God to guide us and provide us with bounty, strength and peace in the year ahead.

The talmudic origins of the seder date back to a discussion by Rabbi Abaye about omens that carry significance (Horayot 12a). He suggested that at the beginning of each new year, people should make a habit of eating the following foods that grow in profusion and therefore symbolize prosperity: pumpkin, a bean-like vegetable called rubia, leeks, beets and dates. Jewish communities throughout the world have adapted this practice, creating seders of their own.

So my shopping list for Rosh Hashanah includes fat, juicy, red-skinned pomegranates; glossy, sticky-sweet dates; apples that will blush spicy pink when they are cooked into preserves with a drop of red food colouring and whole cloves; savory pumpkin; pungent leeks or scallions, foot-long string beans (available in Indian shops) and deep-green spinach.



Often, my parents and my children prepare the foods together. It's an art to separate the jewel-like pomegranate seeds without splattering their scarlet juice all over the kitchen counter; to split the dates, stuff them with walnut halves and arrange them in concentric ovals on a newly polished silver dish.

The foods become vessels for meaning, effective because of their tangibility. "Before Rosh Hashanah, I try to concentrate on the content of day," says my friend Marilyn Greenspan, "but repentance and reflection give way to thinking about what I'm serving for dinner."

The seder makes it not only forgivable but desirable to think about such practicalities.

"The physicality of the seder is what makes it special," says Rabbi Karyn Kedar, author of *Dance of the Dolphin: Finding Prayer, Perspective and Meaning in the Stories of Our Lives* (Jewish Lights), who has adopted the practice through her Sephardi husband.

We begin the seder itself with a series of biblical verses that carry mystical significance, followed by a declaration that always sends shivers down my spine: *Tachel shanah u'virkhotecha!* Let the year begin and all its blessings! It's a dramatic moment in its specificity, because this moment and no other ushers in a year that will – so the verse says – unquestionably bring blessings in its wake. I like that positive spirit.

Then come the blessings: First, the dates. "May it be Your will, God, that all enmity will end. May we date this new year with peace and happiness. (The word for end, *yitamu*, sounds like *tamar*, the Hebrew word for date.). Second, the pomegranate. May we be as full of mitzvot as the pomegranate is full of seeds. Apples: May it be Your will, God, to renew for us a year as good and sweet as honey. String beans (*rubia* or *lubia*): May it be Your will, God, to increase our merits (The word for increase, *irbu*, resembles the word *rubia*, bean.). Pumpkin or gourd (*k'ra*): As we eat this gourd, may it be Your will, God, to guard us. Tear away all evil decrees against us as our merits are called before you (*k'ra* resembles the words for "tear" and "called"). Spinach or beetroot leaves (*selek*): May it be Your will, God, to banish all the enemies who might beat us (*selek* resembles the word for banish, *yistalku*). Leeks or scallions (*karti*): May it be Your will, God, to cut off our enemies (*karti* resembles *yikartu*, the word for "cut off.")

What does it mean to ask for a good, sweet year? I struggle with the nebulousness of the adjectives. What constitutes sweetness? What shapes goodness? I think it's harmony and wholeness we are asking for – the ability to take the parts of our lives that may satisfy us disparately and put them together so that they create contentment. Through these simple foods, we ask for the ability to appreciate the basic goodness of our lives.

Rabbi Kedar, who lived in Israel for 10 years, recalls that after a terrorist attack, mothers who picked their children up from school let them pick any candy or ice cream they wanted from the corner grocery store. "We wanted to bring sweetness and comfort to their lives in the guise of chocolate," she says. "Blessings, like chocolate, sometimes seem like a luxury."

The seder points to a specific direction for us to achieve sweetness: the blessing of the pomegranate asks that our lives be filled with mitzvot. Some mitzvot – like lighting Shabbat candles and blowing the shofar – are a language of action that mark us as Jews. A second type of mitzvah includes acts of fairness, justice and lovingkindness that we do for each other, from honouring parents to visiting the sick.

"The Jewish new year isn't about losing 10 pounds or quitting smoking," says Kedar. "Nor does 'Shanah tovah' translate as 'Happy New Year.' The word 'tov' – good – is not 'Was the movie good?' 'Yes, it was fun.' It resonates back to Rosh Hashanah as the time God created the world and saw that it was good. Shanah tovah means that we hope the foundations of our lives should have a goodness to them."

Rahel Musleah is the author of Apples and Pomegranates: A Family Seder for Rosh Hashanah. *She offers these recipes.*

Continued on page 39

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Broccoli & Mushrooms	
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MENU #2

Gefilte Fish & Horseradish	Carrots Tzimmes
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Roast Chicken	Honey Cake
Roast Brisket of Beef	Chala
Lockshen Pudding	Mohn Cookies
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Roast Turkey (precarved) or Baked Chicken Breast	Fresh Fruit Salad
Kasha & Bows	Chala
Broccoli & Mushrooms	Mohn Cookies
	Honey & Apples

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MENU #4

Gefilte Fish & Horseradish	Pickled Beets
Vegetable Noodle Soup	New Dills, Cole Slaw
Roast Brisket of Beef	Honey Cake
Chicken Fingers	Chala
Lockshen Pudding	Mohn Cookies
Pan Roast Potatoes	Strawberry Rhubarb Pie
Green Beans Almondine	Honey & Apples

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ADDITIONAL MENU SELECTIONS

MEAT DISHES	VEGETABLE DISHES	SALADS	DESSERTS
Chopped Liver	Vegetable Noodle Soup	Fresh Fruit Salad	Apple Cake
Cabbage Rolls	Moroccan Stew	Bean Salad	Honey Cake
Veal Roast	Vegetarian Loaf	Cole Slaw	Chocolate Cake
Roast Duck	Stir Fry Vegetables	Cucumber Salad	Chocolate Horns
Cornish Hen	Apple Farfel Pudding	Pickled Beets	Mandelbroit
Flunken in Borscht	Rice & Mushrooms	Cous Cous	Rogelach
Meat Loaf	Potato Latkes	Tossed Salad	Chunky Chocolate Cookies
Lemon Chicken	Green Beans Almondine	Pasta Salad	Mohn Cookies
Baked Chicken Breast	Broccoli & Mushrooms	Humus	Assorted Fruit Pies
BBQ Chicken Wings	Candied Yams		Chocolate Brownies
Honey Garlic Wings	Ratatouille		
Honey Garlic Veal Ribs	Round Chala		
Chicken Fingers	Handmade Egg Noodles		
Knishes - Potato, Beef, Kasha			
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Holiday Food Ideas

Recipes that symbolize New Year's wishes

Continued from page 38

DATE MUFFINS

3 eggs
½ cup sugar
1 cup chopped nuts
½ cup raisins (soak in water to plump)
1 10-oz. container dates, chopped

Beat eggs and sugar together. Add rest of ingredients. Spoon into mini-muffin holders. Bake at 350 for 15-20 minutes.

FRUIT SALAD WITH POMEGRANATE

Fill a small bowl with pomegranate seeds and place in the centre of a large platter. Arrange seasonal fruit around it and decorate with mint leaves. Here are some suggestions:

pineapple, cored and cut into cubes
nectarines, sliced
strawberries, whole or halved
raspberries
green grapes
blueberries
mango, cubed
papaya, cubed
kiwi, sliced

GREEN SALAD

lettuce, cleaned and dried (use a mixture of mesclun, romaine, red or green leaf)
cucumbers, peeled and sliced

green olives
scallions or chives, sliced
cherry tomatoes
toasted sunflower seeds
chickpeas
boiled red potatoes, quartered

Salad dressing:
1 tbsp. olive oil
2 tbsp. cider vinegar
1 tbsp. tamari (soy) sauce
1 clove fresh garlic, pressed
⅛ tsp. dried ground mustard
⅛ tsp. dill
⅛ tsp. oregano
a squeeze of fresh lemon

Place all salad ingredients in a bowl. In a separate bowl, whisk together all the dressing ingredients. Pour dressing over the salad and toss.

SPINACH SALAD

1 lb. spinach
8 oz. mushrooms, sliced
1 avocado, peeled and sliced
1 3-oz. can mandarin oranges, drained
alfalfa sprouts
dried cranberries or fresh pomegranate seeds
roasted cashews

Wash spinach leaves thoroughly to remove any dirt. Pat dry with paper towels. Add mushrooms, avocado, mandarin oranges, and sprouts. Top with dried cranberries and cashews, if desired. Toss with your favourite dressing or use dressing in green salad recipe.

ROASTED LEEKS

8 leeks
2 tbsp. olive oil
1 cup vegetable or chicken broth
salt and pepper

Cut off the dark green tops of the leeks and discard. Slice light green and white sections. Put the slices in a bowl of water and swish around until the dirt between the layers settles to the bottom. Remove leeks and drain in colander.

Preheat oven to 425. Lightly oil a 9x13-inch baking dish. Brush the leeks with oil and arrange in the dish. Roast for 20 minutes. Add the broth and roast for another 10 minutes. Transfer to a serving dish and sprinkle with salt and pepper to taste.

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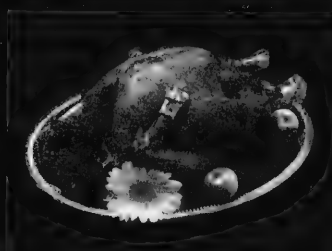

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Judgment at Nuremberg still riveting, 43 years later

Spencer Tracy as Judge Dan Haywood and Marlene Dietrich as Madame Bertholt.

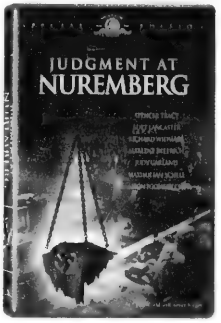
By JOSEPH SERGE
Arts Editor

Should judges uphold the laws of their country, even if those laws are morally reprehensible?

That's the crux of Stanley Kramer's Oscar-winning 1961 movie *Judgment at Nuremberg*, which will be released as a special edition DVD by MGM Home Entertainment in September.

Unlike the TV mini-series from a few years back, the script for *Judgment at Nuremberg*, written by playwright Abby Mann, doesn't focus on the more popular trial of the infamous Nazis such as Goering, Hess and Speer

Instead, this classic is about the 1948 trial of four jurists (two judges, a prosecutor and the former German minister of justice, Ernst Janning).



While there is only a subtle difference on the surface, this script allows the viewer to consider the implications of the judgment. No one can have sympathy for such career Nazis as Hess or Goering, but what about the administrators and civil servants of Nazi Germany? Are they also guilty of war crimes? And by extension, is the entire German nation guilty of crimes against humanity?

By 1948, the continuing war crime trials in Germany were no longer popular, in Germany or abroad. The media didn't report on them and German witnesses almost had to be coerced to give evidence against their countrymen.

As the Cold War began after the Soviet blockade of Berlin, the U.S. government was exerting pressure to end the trials in order not to further alienate the German people against them.

Against this backdrop, Judge Dan Haywood, played by Spencer Tracy, is pressured to make the right decision.

This courtroom drama boasts a stellar cast. Janning is played by Burt Lancaster, who sits silently for most of the film until his climactic outburst at the end. Judy Garland has a short but dramatic scene as Irene Hoffman-Wallner. She tearfully testifies about her 65-year-old Jewish friend Lehmann Feldenstein, who was executed by the Nazis for "racial pollution."

Marlene Dietrich is sultry as always as Madame Bertholt, the wife of an executed German officer, in a role symbolic of the entire German nation, and Montgomery Clift puts on a performance worthy of Tom Hanks' Forrest Gump as the feeble-minded Rudolph Petersen.

But it was the previously unknown actor Maximilian Schell who carries this suspenseful drama from start to finish.

In his Oscar-winning role, Schell plays attorney Hans Rolfe, who has the difficult task of defending the jurists.

Although Tracy and Lancaster both give dramatic speeches, only Schell's vociferous final statement – when he argues that to deliver a guilty verdict on the judges is to pass guilt on the Soviet Union, the Vatican, Churchill and American industrialists – was worthy of the Oscar.

No stranger to courtroom drama, director Kramer (who had just completed *Inherit the Wind* before tackling *Judgment at Nuremberg*) does a superb job. He cleverly gets around the language translation issue (the real trial was held in German and English) by having the actors use headphones when they are, theoretically, listening to a foreign language.

Although more than 40 years old, *Judgment at Nuremberg*, nominated for 11 Academy Awards, is one of those few classic films that truly stands the test of time.

The special features on the DVD release include a conversation between screenwriter Mann and Schell and a tribute to Stanley Kramer.

CORRECTION

In the photo caption that ran with the story, "Ruth Gruber's *Haven* released on DVD with little fanfare" (*CJN*, Aug. 19), the actress Illeana Douglas was incorrectly identified. Thanks to a sharp-eyed reader for pointing this out.

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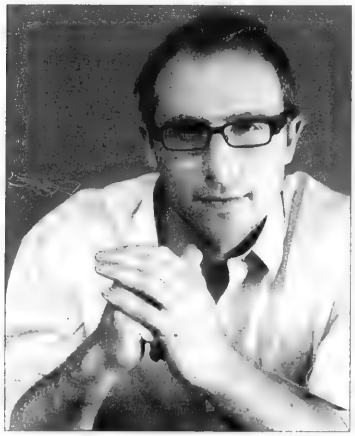
Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone



David Bezmozgis

ASHKENAZ FESTIVAL OPENS AUGUST 31

As reported in these pages in recent weeks, the celebrated Ashkenaz Festival of New Yiddish Culture opens Aug. 31 with a series of preview events leading up to the festival weekend, Sept. 4 to 6.

Known primarily for its irresistible klezmer music, the multi-faceted festival also has vibrant film, theatre and visual arts programs, and is sponsoring several literary events, as well. "Without Limits" features writers **Sheila Heti**, **Hal Niedzviecki**, **Nelly Reifler** and **Adam Sol**, while "The Dangers of Diaspora" features writers **David Bezmozgis**, **Jonathan Goldstein**, **Margo Rabb** and **Joseph Skibell**.

The festival takes place at Harbourfront Centre, 235 Queen's Quay W. For the latest details about all events, call 416-973-4000 or visit www.ashkenazfestival.com

* * *

Folk-Blues Festival at Distillery: The Toronto City Roots Festival Association presents its first annual Song Celebration, described as "a renaissance of roots, folk, blues, country and city music."

The four-day event features more than 80 musical performers, including **Sylvia Tyson**, **Fred Eaglesmith** and **Ashley MacIsaac**, on four stages. Prices are $25 per concert or $60 for a weekend pass. The festival also offers numerous concerts at $15 each, free daytime programming, buskers, street dancers, a music workshop sponsored by Seneca College and open-stage sign-up opportunities.

Executive director is **Howard Gladstone**, a Toronto businessman and singer-songwriter who is about to release a second CD, *Candles on the River*.

The Song Celebration runs from Sept. 3 to 6 in Toronto's historic Distillery District. Tickets available from Ticketmaster (416-870-8000, www.ticketmaster.com) or Sam The Record Man, 347 Yonge St. Visit the festival's website at www.torontocityroots.com.

* * *

Names in the News: Three photographs by Toronto photographer **Beverley Abramson** have won recognition by Women In Photography International, a non-profit American organization that promotes the work of women photographers. Website, www.womeninphotog raphy.org... Ottawa poet and literary professor **Seymour Mayne** has edited *Foreplay*, a new anthology of word sonnets, with **Christal Steck**. A word sonnet mirrors the traditional 14-line form but with only one word per line. Check out *Foreplay* at www.fridaycir cle.uottawa.ca/foreplay/foreplay-main.html... Toronto folk-soul musician **Mark Weinstock** performs a CD-launch concert with the **Magic Stuff** and other guest artists at Hugh's Room on Sunday, Aug. 29, 8 p.m. Tickets are $10 in advance, $12 at the door (2261 Dundas St. W., 416-531-6604).

* * *

Music & Drama Notes

• Hart House Theatre's season opens with a new urban musical version of **Anthony Burgess'** *A Clockwork Orange*, featuring Canadian hip-hop stars and local talent. Sept. 15 to 25. Adults $15. 416-978-8668. www.harthousetheatre.ca

• Montreal violinist **Olivier Thouin** joins pianist **Anton Kuerti** to open Mooredale Concerts' 16th season with a performance of sonatas for violin and piano by **Schubert**, **Beethoven** and **Franck**. Adults $25. Willowdale United Church, 349 Kenneth Ave. on Saturday, Sept. 18, 8 p.m. Also at Walter Hall, University of Toronto, 80 Queen's Park Cres. on Sunday, Sept. 19, 3 p.m. Reservations, 416-922-3714, ext. 103. www.mooredaleconcerts.com

* * *

Arts in Brief

•**Shurum Burum Jazz Circus**, a multimedia music sensation composed by **David Buchbinder**, features 11 musicians and seven movement artists from the circus and dance worlds. It's coming to the Distillery District, Oct. 6 to 17. Tickets $32. 416-872-1212 or 1-800-461-3333.

•The Continuing Education department of Seneca College at York University Campus presents adult acting classes taught by skilled professionals. Orientation, Thursday, Sept. 9, 7 p.m. 416-491-5050, ext. 4112.

* * *

Passages: Oscar-nominated composer **David Raksin** died recently in Van Nuys, Calif. He was 92.

Although Raksin arranged music for nearly 170 film and television shows, he is best known for the theme song to *Laura*, a murder mystery directed by **Otto Preminger**. He wrote the song in only two days, shortly after his first wife separated from him. **Johnny Mercer** later wrote lyrics for the song, which was sung by **Frank Sinatra**, **Rosemary Clooney**, **Ella Fitzgerald** and other top performers.

Born in Philadelphia in 1912, Raksin came to Hollywood in the 1930s to help **Charlie Chaplin** write a film score for his silent classic, *Modern Times*. He received Academy Award music nominations for *Forever Amber* (1947) and *Separate Tables* (1958).

While he was working on **Joseph Breen's** *The Redeemer*, a projectionist pointed out to him that everybody on the picture was Catholic except for him. "I' m a relative of the deceased" was his famous reply.

Once asked how he decided on the appropriate style of music for a given film, he replied, "You do what comes supernaturally."

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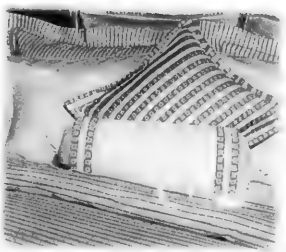
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Dancer organizes the workshop she always wanted to attend

By JESSICA HELLEN
CJN Intern

Lauren Collis was tired of going to dance workshops, learning routines and leaving at the end of the day without getting to know the choreographers or performing the dances in a real show.

So Collis, 25, started her own company called Collis Entertainment, and created Take It To Tha Floor, a four-day dance workshop that ends with a "professional high-end show."

The workshop, which takes place Aug. 25 to 28 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the York Event Theatre, is open to kids of all ages and skill levels.

> 'The response has been overwhelming. Everyone wants to perform'

"Kids come together and put together a show in four days. They're really going to have to work together to make this show work. It's definitely going to be a challenge," she said.

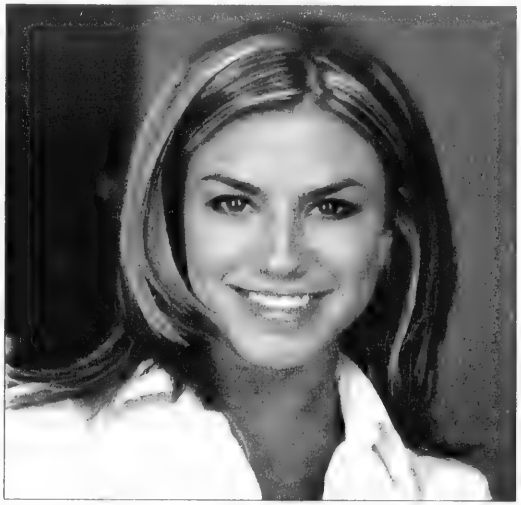
Collis said she has a lot of experience with dance workshops and has attended them "[her] whole life." She also danced with the Toronto Raptors Dance Pak for two years.

Collis is putting the event together with Toronto choreographer Mario Castillo, also known as Jungle.

"Kids work with a professional and put together a professional show," she said.

The workshop will be led by Los Angeles choreographer Dave Scott, who has recently worked on the urban dance movie *You Got Served*, the U.S. television show *Superstar USA* on the WB network and is the choreographer for hip hop group B2K.

"He's probably the biggest name out there right now," Collis said. "Every dancer has seen the movie [*You Got Served*] and knows who he is."



Lauren Collis

Collis has organized autograph sessions and question-and-answer periods for the dancers to meet Scott and other Toronto choreographers who will be at the workshop.

For the past four years, Collis has produced events for Mandell Entertainment, which, along with Roots, is sponsoring the event.

"I told them about the idea and they loved it," she said.

A week before the workshop, Collis already had 60 to 70 dancers signed up from the Toronto area, Montreal and Buffalo.

"I think I'll get a lot more within the next week," she said. "The response has been overwhelming. Everyone wants to perform."

Collis said she would like to continue organizing workshops in the future.

"I'd like to do four big ones a year," she said. "I'd like the shows to get really big."

The Aug. 28 show is open to the public, and tickets can be purchased from the York Event Theatre or by calling Collis at 416-578-9636.

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Athens museum records the history of the Jews of Greece

By JACQUELINE SWARTZ
Special to The CJN

ATHENS — Jews have lived in Greece for about 2,400 years, and are one of the oldest Jewish communities in Europe.

Known as Romaniot, they inhabited what is now the Greek mainland and islands, as well as places as far-flung as Alexander the Great's empire. Whether their city was Alexandria or Antioch, their language, customs, food and identity were influenced by Greek culture.

In his book, *The Jews of Greece*, Nikos Stavroulakis, an Oxford-trained scholar who taught Byzantine history in Israel, writes: "It was within this Greek-speaking, and hence Greek-thinking, world that Jews were forced to re-examine their identity as a people among the nations."

In the 1970s, when the history of Jews of Greece was still largely ignored, Stavroulakis, along with a handful of leaders from the Jewish community, opened a small museum in a back room of an Athens synagogue.

The collection included 19th- and 20th-century clothing, candlesticks, photos, ketubot and objects seized by the German-allied Bulgarians from the Jews of Macedonia and Thrace who were deported in 1943.

After the war, their possessions were returned to Greece.

In 1984, the museum moved to a large apartment in an elegant building, and Jews from Greece, the United States and elsewhere around the world began to donate their heirlooms and artifacts.

In 1997, on its 20th anniversary, the museum moved to a neo-classic building situated between Constitution Square and the old city of the Plaka.

In the light-filled, state of the art museum are displays on how the Jews of various parts of Greece celebrated holidays, what they wore, how they lived and their deep relationship with Greece.

The museum, considered to be among the best Jewish museums in Europe, has a research library, enough storage space for two-thirds of its collection, an art gallery, and a space designed to house periodical exhibits of painting and photography.

On the ground floor is the restored interior of the synagogue of Patras. There are textiles, the wooden Torah cases particular to the Romaniote tradition and an amulet that was intended to protect baby boys against the wiles of Lillith, Adam's first wife.

A few steps up, the first level is devoted to Jewish holidays. On display are menorahs, megillot, a seder tray and the traditional Sephardi sugar sweets for Purim, which was an important holiday. Purim plays sometimes drew an audience of non-Jewish Greeks.

The second level displays evidence of the Jewish presence in Greece through documents, books, photographs and military uniforms. As well, there is a display of the Greek-Jewish contribution to Israel.

Another level displays traditional costumes dating from the mid-18th to the mid-20th century. The striking Spanish-influenced dress of the Salonica Jewish women shows elaborate head-dresses with ribbons, and short jackets with long aprons. The men sometimes wore the Turkish fez. A 1918 photo of a rabbi shows the typical dress of striped caftan and flowing coat.

Traditional costumes dating from the mid-18th to the mid-20th century

On the fourth level, the exhibits show the history of the Shoah. In Nazi-occupied Greece, 87 per cent of the country's 78,000 Jews were sent to their death.

The largest mass murder took place in Salonika where 50,000 Jews lived. The Sephardi Jews of Salonika, the city that was once called the Mother of Israel, had fled persecution from Spain and Portugal and settled in the Ottoman-ruled territory in the 15th century. Their language was Ladino and they constituted the most important Jewish community in the Mediterranean.

When Greece was divided among the Axis powers, Salonika fell under German control.

The 3,000 Jews who lived in Athens were under relatively benign Italian control. They had learned of the Salonika transports, they spoke Greek and were not identifiable.

They also had allies: Greek Archbishop Damaskinos issued a statement ordering priests to hide Jews and tell their congregations to help them. He was the only head of a European church to officially demand that German authorities stop persecuting Greek citizens who were Jews.

The Salonika chief rabbi co-operated with the Nazis, earning the enmity of Salonika survivors, but when the chief rabbi of Athens was ordered to hand over lists to the Gestapo, he was spirited out of Athens with his family by the resistance group EAM, and stayed with them for the rest of the war.

When Greece awoke from the nightmare of Nazi occupation, two-thirds of the Athens Jewish community were alive.

But in all of Greece, only 10,000 Jews remained; more than 8,000 had survived the occupation by hiding or joining the Greek Resistance, and the rest had returned from the camps.

"This is not a Holocaust museum," emphasizes Zanet Battinou, curator of the museum for the last decade. It celebrates the life of the Jews in Greece from BCE on.

Today, 5,000 Jews live in Greece and intermarriage is up to 50 per cent.

Still, the Jewish Museum of Greece continues to be the repository of the history and culture of Greek Jews, including their darkest chapter.

It is the only organization in Greece to teach Holocaust education in the public schools, and its materials are distributed by the Greek Ministry of Education.

Several other ministries have co-sponsored a travelling exhibit, "The Holocaust of the Greek Jews: the Persecuted and the Rescuers," that includes photos and information on the Greek Jews who fought in the national resistance.

After several European stops, the exhibit was scheduled to come to Toronto shortly after Sept.11. The exhibit was cancelled and not rescheduled.

The latest in the museum's series of temporary exhibits is called "Hidden Children in Occupied Greece." On large boards are 16 stories of Jewish children hidden by Christian Greeks during the occupation.

Chosen for being representative of various situations, they are accompanied by photographs, street signs, toys and notebooks. The texts are written simply and starkly because the exhibit is shown to schoolchildren.

The museum's gift shop has an impressive collection of books in English, as well as souvenirs and reproductions. It is on the list of museums of the Greek Ministry of Culture, which provides partial financial support.

Jewish Museum of Greece is at 39 Nikis Street, 10558, Athens, Greece. The website is www.jewishmuseum.gr.

Nobel winning Polish poet dies at 93

By RUTH ELLEN GRUBER
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

Nobel prize-winning Polish poet Czeslaw Milosz, who died Aug. 14 at age 93, was close to Jews and Jewish causes from an early age and some of his most eloquent and disturbing works dealt with the Holocaust, Holocaust memory and the complex relations between Jews and Catholic Poles.

Milosz grappled powerfully with the physical and intellectual effects of the brutality, oppression and mass destruction that marked the 20th century in Europe.

Though the Poles themselves did not devise or mastermind the Holocaust, Milosz felt the destruction on Polish soil of 3 million Polish Jews in the Holocaust left his native land "sullied, blood-stained, desecrated." Poles, he believed, had to recognize this.

One of his most famous poems, "Campo dei Fiori," written in 1943, described how Poles outside the Warsaw Ghetto were oblivious to the fate of the Jews as the Nazis destroyed the ghetto.

In the poem, he evoked the unforgettable image of a merry-go-round outside the ghetto walls happily spinning as the ghetto itself went up in flames.

This and another Milosz poem about Polish indifference to the destruction of the ghetto sparked one of Poland's first important public debates on the issue of Holocaust guilt and memory, which was carried out in a series of essays and articles in the late 1980s.

In his Nobel acceptance speech in 1980, Milosz described how memory of the Holocaust was fading and becoming distorted, and how the complexities and nuances of history were becoming forgotten.

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Books & Authors

The Olympics: sports and politics do mix

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

The founder of the modern Olympic movement, Baron Pierre de Coubertin, regarded the Olympics as a means of promoting international understanding and peace.

The Olympiads, he hoped, would bring together people from around the world in a spirit of brotherhood transcending nationality, race and religion.

So imagine how shocked and appalled he probably would have been had he witnessed the shredding of his utopian philosophy at the current summer games in Athens.

In a crass spectacle that defied de Coubertin's credo, Arash Miresmaeli, Iran's judo champion, refused to compete against his Israeli opponent, Yudi Vaks.

"This is a general policy of our country to refrain from competing against athletes of the Zionist regime," Iran's Olympic committee explained in a statement shorn of Olympic ideals.

Unfortunately, the Miresmaeili affair was not the first incident of its kind in the annals of the games.

In *Jews and the Olympic Games: The Clash Between Sport and Politics* (Sussex Academic Press), Paul Taylor makes that abundantly clear.

Far too often, the purity of sportsmanship has been polluted by the distasteful imperatives of politics.

In 1936, Germany, host of the Berlin games, tried to bar Jewish athletes from its team. Thirty-six years later, in 1972, Palestinian terrorists cast a pall on the Munich games by kidnapping and killing Israeli competitors.

And in 1980 and again in 1984, the Olympics were marred by political boycotts spearheaded by the United States and the Soviet Union.

As Taylor suggests in this readable and comprehensive book, which is also a compendium of illustrious Jewish athletes of the 20th century, the most egregious example of politics intruding into sports occurred at the 1936 games.

Soon after the Nazis seized power and began promulgating anti-Semitic laws, they banned Jews from sports clubs throughout Germany.

The ban violated the Olympic charter, which states that participation in sports is a universal human right.

The International Olympic Committee warned Hitler that Germany would lose the games unless it changed its policy. In the face of this pressure, Taylor writes, the Nazis invited Helene Mayer, a celebrated half-Jewish German fencer and an Olympic medalist, to become a member of Germany's squad.

For the Nazis, Mayer was the perfect Jew. Tall and blond, she was the epitome of the Nazi Aryan ideal. And her membership on the team would deflect allegations of Nazi racism.

Mayer's greatest rivals in Berlin were Ilona Elek of Hungary and Ellen Preis of Austria, both of whom were also half-Jewish.

Elek won the gold medal, with Mayer and Preis winning the silver and the bronze. Strangely enough, Mayer gave an enthusiastic *Heil Hitler* salute when the silver medal was placed around her neck. Taylor's explanation for Mayer's odd behaviour is that she had an idealized picture of Germany.

The Nazis, however, kept another Jewish athlete, the high jumper Gretel Bergmann, off their team. Germany invited her to its Olympic training camp, but her performances there, though good, were judged inadequate.

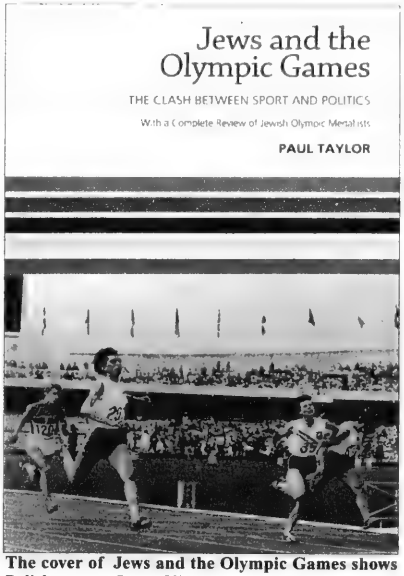
There is reason to believe that she was rejected strictly on racial grounds. After immigrating to the United States in 1937, Bergmann twice won the U.S. high jump championship. In 1980, she was elected to the Jewish Sports Hall of Fame. Ironically, the gold medal in her event was taken by a Hungarian Jew, Ibolya Csak.

Although the 1936 games were tainted by anti-Semitism, Jewish athletes appeared in droves and performed remarkably well. According to Taylor, Jews won 16 medals, 10 of which were gold.

Among the medalists were the Austrian weight-lifter Robert Fein, the Hungarian soccer goalkeeper Gyorgy Brody, the Canadian basketball player Irving Maretsky and the Belgian water polo player Gerard Blitz.

As Taylor suggests, the racism that pervaded the Berlin games had a direct bearing on the selection of the American 4x100 metres relay team.

Two Jewish sprinters, Sam Stoller and Marty Glickman, who already had been chosen were yanked off at the last minute. Years later, an embittered Glickman blamed his exclusion on Avery Brundage, the president of the American Olympic Committee. Brundage, he claimed, removed him and Stoller because he did not want to offend Nazi sensibilities.


Jews and the Olympic Games
THE CLASH BETWEEN SPORT AND POLITICS
With a Complete Review of Jewish Olympic Medalists
PAUL TAYLOR

The cover of Jews and the Olympic Games shows Polish runner Irena Kirszenstein-Szewinska at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico.

In Taylor's estimation, Brundage was favourably disposed toward Nazi Germany. With the outbreak of World War II, he sided with Germany and its allies and objected to President Franklin Roosevelt's commitment to Britain. Later, he blamed Jewish-owned newspapers and movie studios for turning the United States against Germany.

Tragically, a number of Jewish Olympians were murdered during the Holocaust, including Karoly Karpati, an internationally renowned Hungarian wrestler; Attila Petschauer, a Hungarian fencer; Ilja Szrajbman, the Polish national 200-metres freestyle swimming champion, and Lilly Henoch, a German shot-putter and discus thrower.

Two of the most distinguished Jewish athletes who perished in the Holocaust were the gymnasts Alfred and Gustav Flatow, cousins who represented Germany in the first modern Olympiad and who won five gold medals between them. Preis, the Austrian fencer, went into hiding after Germany annexed Austria in 1938, and there she remained for the duration of the war.

The 1972 Munich massacre of 11 Israeli athletes was particularly terrible because it took place on German soil. In an ironic twist, the commander of the Black September group that perpetrated the slaughter was Luttif "Issa" Afif, whose mother was Jewish.

Taylor says the Germans lacked the experience or the resources to deal with the crisis. Out of national pride, they rejected an Israeli offer to send 40 specially trained commandos – led by Ehud Barak, a future prime minister of Israel – to Munich.

Jewish athletes, from the ice hockey player Vitaliy Davidov to the yachtsman Valentyn Mankin, were often found on Soviet Olympic teams.

But in a climate of state anti-Semitism, which took hold in the early 1950s under Joseph Stalin, some Jewish athletes had no alternative but to distance themselves from their Jewish identity.

Throughout the course of *Jews and the Olympic Games*, Taylor sketches interesting pen portraits of great Jewish athletes.

Two of his subjects are the American swimmer Mark Spitz, who won a record-breaking seven gold medals at the 1972 games, and the Polish sprinter Irena Kirszenstein-Szewinska, who won several gold medals.

The appendix carries brief biographies of Jewish Olympic medalists, from British sprinter Harold Abrams (the only Jew to win the 100-metre race) to Israeli judo star Yael Arad (the first Israeli to win a medal for Israel at the Olympics).

In short, *Jews and the Olympic Games* is a timely book.

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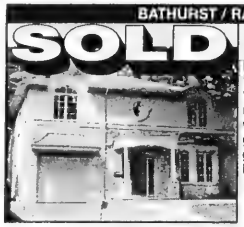

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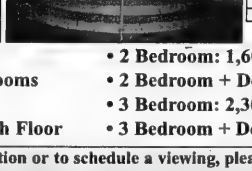

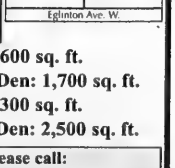

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Sports & Leisure

Card set celebrates Jews in major league baseball

By ELI SHUPAK
Special to The CJN

Martin Abramowitz was desperate to have a complete set of baseball cards featuring every Jew who ever made it to the big leagues. When he discovered that 41 of those players never had a card, he went about creating his own set.

His 143-card collection will be among the items on display this weekend, Aug. 29 and 30, at the Baseball Hall of Fame Museum in Cooperstown, N.Y., as the shrine hosts "A celebration of Jews in baseball" in conjunction with the 350th anniversary of Jews in America. The first-ever kosher dinner in the hall's history will be served on Sunday evening.

Since 1982, Abramowitz, in his day job, has been vice-president of planning at Combined Jewish Philanthropies in Boston after working briefly in Montreal and Jerusalem in communal professional leadership positions.

He said his five-year project of collecting photos of every Jewish major leaguer since 1871 allowed him to give a touch of immortality to players who might have otherwise been forgotten.

"I feel really good that I did justice to the memory of those players," he said in a phone interview from his home in Newton, Mass. "The response has been very rich. They're just delighted. It strikes a chord with a lot of people."

Abramowitz said he was sitting around the kitchen table five years ago lamenting the fact he could never complete his set when his son Jacob suggested he get to work. Jacob came up with the logo, sketching a baseball inside the six-pointed Star of David. It appears on each card.

The biggest challenge was tracking down images of the 41 missing players. Abramowitz had no luck trying to obtain them through the Hall of Fame or *The Sporting News*, since in baseball's early days, cards weren't printed for players who weren't stars.

He found 29 photos at the home of legendary Chicago photographer George Brace, who had just what Abramowitz was seeking in the laundry room of his north side bungalow. Brace had snapped pictures of every player who came through Wrigley Field and Comiskey Park between 1929 and 1993, storing the photos in metal filing cabinets in his basement.

To obtain the final 12 pictures, Abramowitz read obituaries and tracked down family members who had photos. The American Jewish Historical Society (AJHS) also helped him.

"I was basically writing home equity loan checks to pay the designer I hired," said Abramowitz, who was prepared to spend $20,000 to $25,000 (all figures US) to print 1,000 sets and give them away.

When it came time to produce the cards, Jacob helped out again by being in the right place at the right time. The boy in the bunk next to him at Camp Ramah was the son of Fleer Trading Card CEO Roger Grass. A meeting was set up for parents' weekend.

Grass helped obtain clearance from Major League Baseball and its players' association to produce a limited edition of 15,000 commemorative boxed sets.

"They saw this as a unique effort and waived their licensing fees," said a grateful Abramowitz. "I don't think we could have done this if they saw it as a commercial arrangement. The standard practice is to charge fees for the use of images of players in uniforms."

The set, "American Jews in America's Game," is only available through the American Jewish Historical Society (www.ajhs.org) and Abramowitz's not-for-profit organization (www.jewishmajorleaguers.org). AJHS can be reached at 1-866-740-8013.

The set sells for $105 and contains career-leader and check-list cards, as well as essays on the making of the set and the American Jewish baseball experience.

Missing from the set are two active players who have come up since the 2003 All-Star Game, Boston third baseman Kevin Youkilis and Pittsburgh reliever John Grabow.

As well, the son of Lefty Weinert, a pitcher for Philadelphia in the 1920s, attested to his father's Judaism recently, but it was too late for him to be included in the set.

Books pay homage to Canadian Olympians

By JESSICA HELLEN
CJN Intern

In her biography of Fanny (Bobbie) Rosenfeld, Anne Dublin wonders why Rosenfeld, an extraordinary Canadian athlete, never became a household name.

Bobbie Rosenfeld was on the track and field team that won three medals – two gold, a silver and a bronze – for Canada at the 1928 Olympics in Amersterdam.

Rosenfeld and her teammates – the Matchless Six – were the first women to compete in track and field at the Olympics.

In 1950, she was selected by sportswriters and broadcasters across Canada, as Canada's woman athlete for the half-century.

"Despite all the obstacles she faced as a woman, she became one of the finest athletes Canada has ever produced," writes Anne Dublin, a Toronto teacher-librarian, in *Bobbie Rosenfeld: The Olympian Who Could Do Everything* (Second Story Press).

The book takes readers on a journey through Rosenfeld's life. It is written clearly and is an easy summer read. Recommended for children ages nine and up, it is perfect for school projects and includes explanations of difficult and challenging words.

Bobbie Rosenfeld

Rosenfeld, who was born in 1904 in Katrinaslov, Russia, and grew up in Barrie, Ont., had an "extraordinary sense of fair play," and was an all-around athlete who was quick to learn new sports, Dublin writes. Along with participating in track and field, she played hockey, basketball, softball and tennis.

Rosenfeld became a sports columnist after she was diagnosed with arthritis in 1929, abruptly ending her days as an Olympic athlete. She died in 1969.

The book includes black and white photographs, quotations from Rosenfeld, newspaper clippings and interesting facts. Dublin also writes about some of the events that occurred in Canada and the world during Rosenfeld's time, which give context to the story of her life.

Rosenfeld, with her persistence in challenging women's roles and her ability to break records, is also featured in Lorne Zeiler's *Hearts of Gold* (Raincoast Books), a book of stories about the courage, dedication and triumphs of Canadian Olympians.

A Toronto writer, Zeiler profiles more than 20 outstanding Canadian athletes, including recent and well-known athletes such as figure skaters Jamie Salé, David Pelletier and Elvis Stojko, as well as cross-country skier Beckie Scott. Zeiler also includes earlier and less-known athletes, among them Percy Williams, who was on the men's track and field team at the 1928 Olympics in Amsterdam; Arnold Boldt, who was on the track and field team at the 1976 International Olympiad for the Physically Disabled in Toronto; and Irene MacDonald, a diver who won a bronze medal at the 1956 Olympics in Melbourne.

Zeiler was inspired to write *Hearts of Gold* after watching Egerton Marcus' silver-medal boxing win, with a broken right hand, during the 1988 Olympics in Seoul and after witnessing his older brother, Ari, battle a serious illness.

Ari "had fallen ill a number of times during the summer," and there wasn't a lot to watch on TV while he was lying in a hospital bed, Zeiler said in an interview. "I remember us watching the Olympic Games."

When he was selecting athletes for *Hearts of Gold*, Zeiler looked for innovators and athletes who "persevered through major adversity," he said, whether it be technical, physical, emotional or political, and he looked for those who "held close to their values."

Zeiler said that he also wanted to include athletes who were "fairly representative of the country in terms of ethnicity and geography."

Three of Zeiler's favourite athletes in the book are Sammy Luftspring, a Jewish boxer who refused to fight in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin as a protest against Hitler's Nazi regime; rower Silken Laumann, who suffered a severe leg injury weeks before the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona but went on to capture a bronze medal; and Rosenfeld, who, Zeiler said, was "such a fantastic all-around athlete and someone who doesn't get enough mention."

Zeiler said that *Hearts of Gold* is for "sports fans and people who are interested in inspirational stories" and is targeted to "anyone from age eight to 80.

"I hope a lot of women read the book, as well. A lot of our [Olympic] success comes from females, [such as triathlete] Sharon Donnelly, Silken Laumann, Beckie Scott, [synchronized swimmer] Sylvie Fréchette, Bobbie Rosenfeld... There are pretty incredible female athletes in this country."

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Judoka Arik Ze'evi earns Israel its first medal at Games

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

ATHENS — Israeli judoka Arik Ze'evi won Israel's first Olympic medal of the Athens Games last Thursday, defeating Dutch opponent Elco Van Der Geest for the bronze in the men's 100-kilogram judo competition.

Meanwhile, Israeli swimmer Anna Gostomelsky failed to qualify for the semifinals in the 50-metre freestyle competition the next day, finishing in 35th place at 26.72. Marksman Guy Starik also failed to make the final of his event – the men's 50m rifle prone event. Starik ended the qualifying round in 16th place, with an average of 9.867.

Ze'evi said after his match that he had been under "tremendous stress" all week. "It was the hardest day of my life," he said. "In light of the people who made it to the finals, it is a true accomplishment. I am very pleased with the bronze."

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon called Ze'evi to congratulate him on his victory and said: "You were under a lot of pressure and you stood fast as a true warrior, you have brought great joy to the entire nation of Israel."

President Moshe Katsav also called Ze'evi to congratulate him.

His medal is Israel's fifth in Olympic history. Judoka Yael Arad won a silver medal in Barcelona in 1992, and judoka Oren Smadja earned a bronze in the same games. Windsurfer Gal Friedman won a bronze in Atlanta in 1996, and kayakist Michael Kolganov won bronze in Sydney in 2000.

Ze'evi lost his chance to win gold when he was defeated by Jang Sung Ho of South Korea in his third bout.

The loss led Ze'evi to the repechage group, where he defeated Franck Martial Moussima from Cameroon in the semi-final and French opponent Chislain Lemaire in the final of the group.

Ze'evi was leading against Ho in the third round and managed to score more points than his opponent, but he was thrown onto his shoulders in a move called an ippon, which won his Korean opponent the fight.

The defending European champion and No. 2 in the world, Ze'evi beat world No. 3 Mario Sabino of Brazil in his first bout. He went on to defeat Italian Michele Monti, who in turn defeated the Sydney 2000 silver medallist, Nicolas Gill of Canada.

Arik Ze'evi in a pre-Olympic practice session.

Also on Thursday, an unofficial memorial service was held in Athens for the 11 Israeli athletes killed by Palestinian terrorists at the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich.

The ceremony took place at the residence of the Israeli ambassador and was attended by the president of the International Olympic Committee, Jacques Rogge.

Meanwhile, the world judo's governing body said Thursday that Iran won't face sanctions over the failure of its judo world champion to fight Israeli Udi Vaks earlier in the Games.

Despite earlier statements by Iranian officials that Arash Miresmaeili was told not to fight Vaks last week because of Tehran's political boycott of Israel, the International Judo Federation (IJF) accepted after an inquiry that Miresmaeili had a genuine medical reason for showing up too heavy to fight.

"The commission concluded that since Mr. Miresmaeili stated that he had no pre-planned intention for not competing in the under 66-kilogram category and that he had made no statement of any sort to any press, the only point that remained was that Mr. Miresmaeili was overweight on the weigh-in day," the IJF said in a statement.

"As the IJF has no rule for penalizing overweight athletes, the IJF executive committee decided not to take any sanction against Arash Miresmaeili."

The double world champion weighed in for the bout more than 5 kilograms over the 66-kilogram limit, a huge margin at the top level of the sport. An Iranian Olympic official told Reuters at the time that his failure to fight was due to the Islamic republic's boycott of Israel and that it was not Miresmaeili's decision.

Maccabi Canada to host summer fun days

Maccabi Canada is inviting its supporters to two days of sports fun.

On Sunday, Aug. 29, Robin Hood Camp in Markham will host a family picnic that features softball competition on its entertainment schedule.

Tryouts for the women's softball team that will compete next July in Israel at the Maccabiah Games will be the feature attraction. Picnickers can also feast on a three-pitch softball tournament involving the men's 1985 and '89 Maccabiah teams, the 2005 team and two squads from the B'nai Brith's softball league.

On Monday, Aug. 30, Maccabi Canada will hold its annual golf tournament at Lionhead Golf and Country Club in Brampton. The full-day event will include breakfast, lunch and dinner, a round of golf, and evening festivities hosted by Jim Ralph, voice of the Leafs. Argonaut head coach Mike "Pinball" Clemons, Detroit Pistons assistant coach Herb Brown and rock musician Larry Gowan are among the celebrities expected to attend. Cost of the event is $375 per person.

For more information about either event, contact Debbie at 416-398-0515.

Maccabi TA stuns PAOK in Champions League play

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

TEL AVIV — Maccabi Tel Aviv took a major step to a first-ever appearance in the group stage of soccer's Champions League when it stunned PAOK Thessaloniki 2-1 in Greece recently, leaving the Greeks a formidable task for the return leg in Tel Aviv.

Coach Nir Klinger opened with a defensive line up, leaving Eli Biton, Baruch Dago and Reuven Oved on the bench, but after soaking up some early pressure, it was Maccabi that went ahead at the 13-minute mark.

Ghanian-born striker Ishmael Addo found himself clear against the Greek goalkeeper after Erez Mesika cut through the PAOK defence with a long pass, and from close range, Addo rolled the ball into the net to give Maccabi a precious away goal, sending the crowd of 28,000 into shock.

PAOK poured forward in search of an equalizer, but Maccabi keeper Liran Strauber was outstanding, stopping several close shots on goal. A moment before halftime, Maccabi doubled its lead when Erez Mesika sent a curling shot from the left side of the box past the outstretched fingertips of the PAOK keeper.

Maccabi retreated into defence in the second half, and at the 50-minute mark let in a goal from Cypriot striker Yiasoumis Yiasoumi after Salim Abu Siam fumbled a clearing chance. PAOK attacked desperately for the remainder of the game, but failed to get past Strauber as Maccabi hung on for victory.

After the game, Klinger cautioned fans and players not to get too excited, saying Maccabi had been in situations before where it had uncorked the champagne prematurely.

A great escape on Centre Island

A few months ago, I started volunteering at Ve'ahavta: The Canadian Jewish Humanitarian and Relief Committee. Ve'ahavta's goal is tikkun olam and it actively engages in efforts to repair the world's inequities. Ve'ahavta educates others and raises consciousness while helping Jews and non-Jews with humanitarian assistance and relief. I have never encountered a group of people so passionate about making the world a better place. I quickly became friends with the staff and I devote as much time as possible to helping them.

something

By MIRIAM PORTER

For instance, I have participated in "the sandwich challenge." Every Tuesday, volunteers make 300 cheese sandwiches that are distributed to Toronto's homeless. I have also had the life-changing experience of riding on Ve'ahavta's Mobile Jewish Response to the Homeless. This colourful van, with the slogan "Repairing the World" on the back and a heart in a Torah on its side, leaves Ve'ahavta's office at 6 a.m. each Wednesday and Thursday to travel through Toronto's alleys, ravines and parks with coffee, sandwiches, clothing and supplies for those in need.

But it offers much more than supplies. Staff and volunteers also provide conversation and emotional support, letting clients know they are not alone and help is available.

Being part of something so unique and beautiful has made me a better person. I strongly encourage others to participate.

On Aug. 13, Ve'ahavta organized its second annual Great Escape Island Adventure, which was started last year as a substance-free day to remind people how joyous and wonderful life can be. Last year, this day of fun, escape and inspiration encouraged two people to come in off the street.

This year, I was honoured to be one of 26 volunteers to accompany 80 clients – ranging from teenagers to people in their late 60s – and one very excited black dog with a red bandanna on the ferry to Centre Island.

A delicious lunch buffet was set up under a large pavilion with a variety of pasta salads, coleslaw, bagels, gourmet cheese spreads, fruit, chips, muffins and even homemade banana bread baked by a volunteer. I ate lunch with some new friends and came to realize that Ve'ahavta's team is not only filling stomachs, they're also nourishing souls. Food will give you energy and keep you alive, but having a reason to live might be just as important.

After lunch, we visited the various stations set up under the pavilion.

One woman gave oatmeal and cucumber-slice facials at one end, while a man offered professional massages at the other. Another woman gave manicures to anyone who wanted one.

We may take such services for granted, but for some they are huge luxuries.

There was also a reading station with books and magazines, as well as a watermelon-eating contest and an art corner where people could draw or paint.

The highlight was a talent show in which clients sang, played guitar, danced and laughed.

Near the end of the day, a man I know who lives on the street came up to me and said, "I've been waiting for this day for a long time. Thank you so much."

Then his friend added, "This is the best time I've had all summer."

The Great Escape Island Adventure was a huge success.

If you want learn more about Ve'ahavta and its international programs, or if you want to volunteer or donate, visit the website at www.veahavta.org.

And the next time you see someone living on the street, take some time to feed their souls through conversation.

I think you will find we are not that different.

Miriam can be reached at Miriam@jtvproductions.net.

APPLE-HONEY GLAZED CHICKEN

8-10 chicken legs or thighs
2 cups apple juice
3 cloves minced garlic
1/2 tsp. ground pepper
1/4 cup honey

Combine chicken with apple juice, garlic and pepper in a large plastic bag. Seal bag and set in a bowl; chill up to 1 day, turning occasionally.

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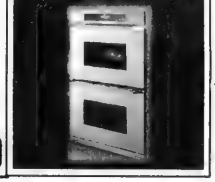

Epi on Education

Factors for success in teaching

Seymour Epstein

I recently attended a master class at the International Opera Workshop in Tel Aviv and found the evening to be of special interest to me as both an educator and a trainer of teachers.

The class I attended in mid-July was of the highest quality, both in content and in form. Joan Dornemann, the chief vocal coach of the Metropolitan Opera in New York, worked with five young Israeli opera singers in front of an appreciative audience.

What struck me, even more than the beauty of the five young voices, was the quality of the educational moment. In trying to analyze what was special about the teaching, I identified five factors, which, as obvious as they are, are often neglected.

• Joan Dornemann has complete mastery of the operatic repertoire. She is totally at home in every major work and can easily teach the language, poetry, music, and nuance of every aria that was demonstrated.

• She showed great respect to the students. It's not easy to point out an error in front of an audience, but it can be done effectively and with compassion if the starting premise is one of empathy and respect. More than that, she demonstrated concern for the total person, not just the opera singer on stage.

• Dornemann obviously loves opera, and that came through in every word and gesture she made. She successfully transmitted that love (and its demands) to the students and the audience.

• She is a teacher's teacher, a master pedagogue. Her instructive skills were evident in every interaction with the singers.

• The young singers were highly motivated to master the operatic domain. One could sense that singing the aria with comprehensive perfection was the single-minded goal of their profound concentration.

Content mastery, respect for learners, love of the subject, pedagogic competence and high motivation – these are factors for success in the art of teaching, be it opera or Torah.

Epi (Seymour Epstein) is the vice-president of Jewish Education at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

Shabbos with Aunt

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

Sylvia Fine is my father's sister. I call her "Aunt."

Since Ben – Aunt's husband – died, she and I have spent Shabbos dinners together at her Bathurst Street condominium, making Kiddush on grape juice and eating the finest foods prepared by my mother and sisters.

URBAN WRITER

Over the years, Aunt and I have become splendid friends. It took her a while to figure out why I'm not frum, but then an ageless respect grew between us. Aunt is not Orthodox herself, and we eventually established an exclusive wink between us, knowing that the proverbial car was parked outside the shul on Shabbos.

It's kind of like when only two members of a family are Orthodox and nobody quite "gets" them, but in our case it's the other way around.

Aunt and I have shared some very exciting adventures. John Vince, a bulk-foods store and grocery, is a place where our childlike spirit erupts. We stroll the aisles casually, shmoozing, joking and searching for Aunt's oatmeal in the package, and Coke for 99 cents, if we can get it at that price. If we can't, we grudgingly settle for the imitation.

Sometimes – well, actually, quite often – one of us will clandestinely reach into a candy bin, scoop up a cherry-filled chocolate and heedfully pop it into our mouth. She is my lookout, and I keep a vigilant eye out for her. The last thing the family needs is a scandal.

On most Saturdays, around 3:30 in the afternoon, Aunt and I drive to a bagel joint. I order blintzes and she orders a decaf so as not to be filled up for her dinner at 5 p.m. The bill is around $8.50 and she always takes it.

The round table in the corner of the restaurant is where I learned about Aunt's life. I discovered she was born in the house where Baycrest Centre would later stand. I listened to her memories of her mother, who died when Aunt was two, and her exceptional love for her friends and family, especially her three brothers, Berrel, Phyvle and Davey and her cousin Dorothy.

Aunt's shtetl-like accounts of the "Bobbe" (her grandmother) are permeated with personality, including the one about how this feisty Polish woman jumped high fences to get her grandchildren into Pontypool (a vacation spot near Peterborough), and how another time she plunged through the roof of a Sukkah at the wedding of the very auspicious Rav Isaac'le.

Regardless of the insensitivity of age, Aunt's comedic timing is still impeccable. As she eases into the van she bought me, I ask her how she slept, as I have every week for the past six years. Her answer is always the same: "Like a baby." Then she stops, hesitates a bit more, and adds, "I cried all night." She gets me every time.

Aunt suffers terrible loneliness for Ben. Her most radiant reminiscence is reserved for her memories of her beloved husband. Ben drove Sylvia everywhere, and he took her wise counsel to buy a nuts and bolts factory. The two doted on one another amorously and were the apple of each other's eyes. She believes she will see Ben again.

Aunt has dazzling hazel eyes, a nose with uneven character and thick Rosensweig lips. She is a looker, and makes men melt when she flashes her heavenly smile.

I wish her good health and the awareness that she is a blessing to all who know her. I am grateful for our wonderful Shabbos dinners. She is my Shabbos Queen.

The only thing is, she could have held off on the fattening desserts, because she knows I'm trying to get back to my original weight – seven pounds, eight ounces.

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The Canadian Jewish news

Section B

Photos courtesy of UJA Federation

Jewish Community Focus

Editorial

Picture the Jewish community of a large city. The Conservative, Reform and Orthodox have little contact with each other. The main Anglo-Jewish newspaper is considered too left-wing by the right and too right-wing by the left. All synagogues and Jewish institutions are preoccupied with security. Day schools are divided between religious and philosophical ideologies.

Sound familiar? Just like Toronto? Well, it's not. I'm describing the Jewish community in London, England. People have depicted Ottawa, Los Angeles and Cleveland the same way. I suspect that any large Jewish community has the same characteristics.

There is a pattern here, a pattern of disunity and disharmony. Why is this so?

One explanation is simply an echo of the story of the Jewish man who is stranded on a desert island for 30 years. When he is rescued, it is discovered that he has built two shuls – one he davens in, the other he wouldn't set foot in if his life depended on it.

While the tale is supposed to be a joke, it is really very sad. For how many of us is Judaism a negative thing? I keep kosher to distinguish me from all those who don't. My children go to day school to prove that I am truly committed, unlike those down the block who send their kids to public school. I give my daughter a lavish bat mitzvah party to show that we are more progressive than those who don't.

I am not suggesting by any means that there are not many people in all streams of Judaism who follow the customs they do out of genuine conviction. What I am wondering is whether there is entirely too much of an "us versus them" mentality in the Jewish world.

Witness the recent and ongoing kerfuffle about the wigs that many Orthodox women wear. When it was discovered that wigs made from Indian hair came from hair dedicated to various gods, there was great consternation in that community, as it is forbidden to get any benefit whatsoever from *avodah zarah* (idol worship).

Some burned their wigs at a considerable financial sacrifice in view of their cost. Others put them aside until a final decision is made. What was the reaction in both the observant and non-observant communities? Is burning the wigs an act of hysteria and fanaticism? Is *not* burning them a sign of not taking the issue seriously enough? Is the wearing of wigs altogether a regressive, offensive symbol of subservience? Maybe the whole situation is a tempest in a cholent pot.

This supplement has always tried to concentrate on the things that make us a community, rather than those that have the potential to break it apart. The 2004 edition is no exception.

Articles discuss new developments at Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care and Mount Sinai Hospital, both longtime sources of great pride for the Toronto Jewish community. Individual members of the community offer foster care, day care and special needs education, the remuneration not nearly equal to the effort and commitment that goes along with these endeavours.

Similarly, the very young and the more mature both get recognition for their many accomplishments.

We also have a heartwarming story about the Jewish community of faraway Hong Kong. When young Aaron Zweig became seriously ill, all segments of that community came together to offer physical, emotional, financial and spiritual support to Aaron and his family. This is a true example of the ideal of *Kol Yisrael areivim zeh bazeh* – all the people of Israel are responsible one for the other.

In the end, that is the true glory of our people, that in spite of all the disagreements and squabbles and divisions, when push comes to shove, we are there for each other. Maybe someday we will realize it.

–L.S.

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There is a wide spectrum of Jewish life in downtown Toronto - religious services, culture, recreation, social services and educational institutions. The DJCC is a committee with a mandate "to preserving, growing and invigorating our community as a unique and inclusive full-service integral constituent of the greater Jewish community." For more information, please call the Miles Nadal JCC 416-924-6211.

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Tel: 416-787-1872 Fax: 416-787-6155

Associated Hebrew Schools has been providing students with an excellent Jewish and General Studies education, based on Torah values, in a safe and supportive environment. We foster a commitment to a life based on Jewish law, values and practice, and a dedication to Israel and the Jewish people.

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Toronto, Ont. M6B 2C2
Principal: Mrs. Leslie Shapiro
Tel: 416-781-8088 Fax: 416-781-4458
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Director: Lillian Beniolo
Tel: 905-770-1082 Fax: 905-770-6965
bethisrael@hotmail.com
Locations: Sundays, Richmond Hill - Alexander Mackenzie, Wednesdays, Richmond Hill - Silver Pines P.S., Tuesdays, Thornhill Woods - Bakersfield P.S. We offer rich, stimulating and challenging programs Sundays and afternoons for children ages 5-Bar/Bat Mitzvah, in Richmond Hill and Thornhill. Small classes, individual attention, special events, and activities are integrated into Hebrew studies. Bar/bat mitzvah preparation.

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E-mail: bialik_school@bialik.on.ca
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Tanenbaum Campus: 200 Wilmington Ave., Toronto, Ont. M3H 5J8
Tel: 416-636-5984 Fax: 416-636-7717
Richmond Hill Campus: 51 Wright St., Richmond Hill, Ont. L4C 4A2
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Tel: 416-924-6211 Fax: 416-924-0442
E-mail: joan@djcs.org
Website: www.djcs.org
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Viewmount Campus
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Tel: 416-789-4366
E-mail: view@eitzchaim.com

Patricia Campus
475 Patricia Ave.,
Tel: 416-225-1187
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Spring Farm Campus & Development Office
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Tel: 416-764-6633
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Yeshivas Eitz Chaim is dedicated to instilling within its students the foundations for living a Torah observant life and to provide the skills to understand and succeed in today's world in accordance with Torah values and ideals. Eitz Chaim strives for excellence in education in all areas of its curriculum. Rooted in tradition with over 80 years of history, Eitz Chaim continues to provide its students with the finest Torah and general education in an environment filled with the love of Yiddishkeit and the Jewish people.

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EDUCATION CONT'D

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Tel: 416-928-3537
E-mail: info@djds.ca
Website: www.djds.ca
The Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School is a creative and dynamic full-time school located at the Miles Nadal JCC. The Paul Penna DJDS is committed to providing students with an education of academic excellence, creative artistic expression, and the development of critical thinking skills. Our enriched and integrated curriculum presents children with a holistic view of the world, weaving together the Jewish and general facets of their lives. Registering now for SK-Gr. 6. For more information, or to arrange for a tour of the school, phone 416-928-3537.

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E-mail: susan.michaels@rogers.com
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Fax: 905-889-1575
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Principal: Rifky Karfunkel
Tel: 416-483-0883 Fax: 416-483-6712
The Temmy Latner Hebrew School is an afternoon Hebrew school program at the Forest Hill Elementary School. Your child will love our exciting, stimulating environment, where Hebrew school is fun, without compromising solid learning and growth. Tuesdays 4-6 p.m. SK-Gr. 5. Call now to register!

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E-mail: rabbirebo@ncsy.ca
Website: www.ncsy.ca
NCSY's Torah High School is a unique Jewish Studies program for high school students, offering Ministry-approved credits. Interactive discussions, experienced educators and a warm environment are hallmarks of this expanding school. In 2 short hours each week, students access Torah High at 12 convenient locations, close to where they live and go to school. $75 annual registration fee.

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Principal: Ms. Gail Baker
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E-mail: office@torontoheschel.org
Ideology: pluralistic. Affiliated with the BJE. The Toronto Heschel School is a multi-sensory, integrative, arts-based Jewish Day School. The educational philosophy of The Toronto Heschel School is based on the principle that the students can learn only in a supportive and validating atmosphere and that arts play a major role in the transmission of academic knowledge. Small classes ensures high academic achievement within a positive, joyful, relaxed learning atmosphere. JK-Gr. 8.

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Fax: 416-782-7811
E-mail: toledano@bellnet.ca
Website: www.darcheitorah.org
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HEALTH

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New Contacts Co-ordinator:
Clara Shore
Tel: 416-633-0409 Fax: 416-785-8285
E-mail: ejerlich@rogers.com
L'Chaim is a support group for Jewish women undergoing cancer treatment. Our volunteers are Jewish women cancer survivors trained in peer support. We deliver gift bags to patients and are available to provide confidential peer support via telephone or visits. Speakers also available for community groups to raise cancer awareness.

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ISRAEL BASED ORGANIZATIONS

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3101 Bathurst St., #400,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 2A6
Executive Director: Lisa Levy
Tel: 416-787-8950 1-800-355-1648
Fax: 416-787-1097
E-mail: info@advi.ca
Website: www.advi.ca
Beit Halochem Canada assists 50,000 disabled Israeli veterans and their families rehabilitate themselves physically and emotionally. Four state of the art facilities in Israel offer a comprehensive range of services to disabled members including medicine, hydrotherapy, physical therapy, creative and athletic activities. Please help ensure that these programs continue for our Israeli heroes.

THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE SOLDIERS OF ISRAEL
788 Marlee Ave., Ste. 201,
Toronto, Ont. M6B 3K1
Tel: 416-783-3053 Fax: 416-787-7496
Toll free: 1-800-433-6226
The Association is: the only civilian group whose programs make the life of every soldier on active duty in Israel's Defence Forces a little easier; co-ordinating its projects with the IDF to meet each soldier's recreational, educational and emotional needs; making army service more pleasant for every soldier; showing we care.

CANADIAN FRIENDS OF GIVAT HAVIVA
1111 Finch Ave. W., Ste. 456,
Toronto, Ont. M3J 2E5
Tel: 416-736-9655 or (514) 905-6100
E-mail: info@givathaviva.ca
Website: www.givathaviva.ca
Givat Haviva is Israel's oldest and largest organization working for civil society, peace, tolerance and democracy. See our upcoming Jewish and Arab youth photo exhibit Through Others' Eyes at Montreal's Saidye Bronfman Centre, opening October 20, 2004.

CANADIAN FRIENDS OF LANIADO HOSPITAL
3101 Bathurst St., Ste. 600,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 2A6
Executive Director: Noreen Azoulay
Tel: 416-785-8946 Fax: 416-785-9236
E-mail: friends@laniado.ca
Laniado Hospital serves over 250,000 people in Netanya and is the only Israeli hospital with a no-strike policy. Laniado's highest standard of medicine is practiced with compassion and kindness. Help provide state-of-the-art equipment by supporting Canadian Friends of Laniado Hospital.

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Toronto, Ont. M2N 5W9
Tel: 416-733-9220 Fax: 416-733-9430
Toll-free (in Canada) 1-800-387-3894
E-mail: weizmann@ca.inter.net
Website: www.weizmann.ac.il
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The Weizmann Institute of Science, in Rehovot, Israel, is one of the top-ranking multidisciplinary research institutions in the world. Noted for its wide-ranging exploration of the sciences and technology, the Institute gathers together 2,500 scientists, technicians and research students devoted to adventuring into the unknown for the benefit of mankind. Visit the Weizmann website to find out more!

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Toronto, Ont. M6A 3B6
National Chair: Hank Rosenbaum
Executive Director: Hetty Shapiro
Tel: 416-785-1333 Fax: 416-785-4536
E-mail: yadvashem@bellnet.ca
Website: www.yadvashem.ca
Representing Yad Vashem, Jerusalem, we promote Holocaust education and remembrance. Funds raised support the new Yad Vashem Museum Complex, Jerusalem. We also send educators, annually, to study the Holocaust at Yad Vashem's International School. Families are encouraged to inscribe Holocaust victims on our Wall of Remembrance, Earl Bales Park, Toronto.

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970 Lawrence Ave. W., Ste. 206,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 3B6
Ntl. Exec. Director: Cheryl Koperwas
Tel: 416-789-4545 Fax: 416-789-0255
E-mail: info@cdntech.org
National fundraising and education arm for Technion - Israel Institute of Technology, Israel's oldest university. Supports faculty recruitment and promotes academic exchange between Technion and Canadian universities, provides information for undergraduate and graduate studies, raises funds for scholarships and research projects.

CANADIAN VOLUNTEERS FOR ISRAEL
788 Marlee Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M6B 3K1
President: Len Berk
Tel: 416-781-6089 Fax: 416-785-7687
E-mail: cvitor@idirect.com
Website: www.serve.com/CVI/
Montreal tel: 514-735-0272
Sar-el is a voluntary, non-political organization providing Diaspora Jews with the opportunity to directly help Israel. Most volunteers are between 18 and 65. They work and live for 18 days on IDF maintenance bases. Room and board supplied.

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788 Marlee Ave., Ste. 201
Toronto, Ont. M6B 3K1
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Toll free: 1-800-433-6226
The Association offers its facilities without charge for social and education programs for young people and new immigrants in Israel; sponsors holiday camps for widows and orphans of soldiers providing psychological and group support; grants university scholarships and sponsors refresher courses for required university entrance tests to applicants having fulfilled national service.

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Tel: 416-633-3988 Fax: 416-633-2758
E-mail: czf@bellnet.ca
Official representative and voice of Canadian Zionists to the World Zionist Organization, committed to strengthening the ties between Israel and Canada. With a membership of 45,000 Canadian zionists in 16 constituent organizations across Canada, the CZF is expressly committed to Jewish education, culture, aliyah and the centrality of Israel in Canadian Jewish life.

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Tel: 416-636-0036 Fax: 416-636-0039
E-mail: emunah@pssnet.com
Emunah is the largest religious Zionist Women's organization. Provides care for 8,000 children in over 127 day care centres and nurseries across Israel; educates more than 2,000 girls in 6 high schools; supports 5 children's homes and youth villages for more than 600 children.

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Toronto, Ont. M3J 2V5
President: Ron Hoffman
Executive Director: Ben Prossin
Administrative Services Co-ordinator: Lil Jacobson
Tel: 416-638-7200 Fax: 416-638-7345
E-mail: tor@jnf-canada.org
Best recognized as the organization which has planted forests, parks and trees in Israel. It really does much more - builds roads, constructs dams and reservoirs, develops land infrastructure for new immigrant housing, prepares recreation and tourist sites and conducts research with regard to various ecological concerns. JNF is now embarking upon major developments in the Negev in order to ensure that the barren and desolate landscape becomes habitable and productive and able to accommodate a growing Israeli population. JNF will truly *"make the desert bloom"* with the hep of its supporters worldwide. Donors to JNF receive receipts for income tax purposes.

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E-mail: naamatca@aol.com
web: www.naamat.com
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Tel: 416-781-4322 Fax: 416-781-7443
E-mail: info@nifcan.org
Website: http://www.newisraelfund.org
The vision of Israel's founders was of a state "based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel." Committed to helping fulfil that vision, the NIF, a philanthropic partnership of Israelis, North Americans and Europeans works for equality and social justice for all citizens of Israel.

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Co-ordinator: Louise Rosenbloom
President: Judy Zelikovitz
Tel: 416-630-8373 Fax: 416-630-2370
E-mail: info@hadassahwizoto.ca
Toronto Hadassah-WIZO is dedicated to enhancing lives in Israel's communities and promoting women's issues in Canada. It supports projects in Israel — Assaf Harofeh Hospital; Hadassah Hospital; day care centres, education and career training; women's and youth clubs. Locally it helps shelters for women and children and healthcare.

MONUMENT COMPANIES

ALEF'S FAIRLAWN MONUMENTS
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Contact: Michael Levitt
Tel: 416-780-0635 Fax: 416-780-0638
E-mail: monuments@benjamins.ca
Website: www.jewishmonuments.ca
Benjamin's Landmark Monuments is Toronto's foremost Jewish monument dealer, continuing the proud tradition of service associated with the Benjamin family name. As the only Jewish monument dealer in Ontario authorized by Rock of Ages to distribute the "Sealmark" granite with the perpetual warranty, our monument counsellors can assist you in preparing an honoured memorial of unsurpassed quality.

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3429 Bathurst St.,
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Website: www.jewishmonuments.ca
A monument should reflect the characteristics and values of the deceased. It is a tribute from a family who appreciated and recognized the uniqueness of the individual. Yad Vashem Monuments personalizes memorials by combining traditional inscriptions and innovative designs.

RELIGIOUS LIFE

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9711 Bayview Ave.,
Richmond Hill, Ont. L4C 9X7
Principal: Ora Shulman
Shul Administrator: Marlene Rosen
School Administrator: Marilyn Perdue
Tel: 905-770-7639 Fax: 905-770-5635
E-mail: admin@beitrayim.org
Website: www.beitrayim.org
Synagogue: Beit Rayim means "House of Friends and Neighbours". Warm, youthful and *haymishe* atmosphere. Participatory services. Programs for all ages. Conservative Egalitarian Synagogue serving York Region.
School: K-7. Learn and experience Judaism within a Jewish school and synagogue setting. 2 day per week format meets USCJ standards for Bar/Bat Mitzvah at any Conservative synagogue. Innovative programs include Hebrew reading, prayers and synagogue skills, holidays, history, laws and customs, Jewish music and folk dance, Family Education.

BETH DAVID B'NAI ISRAEL BETH AM CONGREGATION
55 Yeomans Road,
North York, Ont. M3H 3J7
Tel: 416-633-5500 Fax: 416-633-1740
E-mail: info@bethdavid.com
Website: www.bethdavid.com
Beth David is a vibrant, Conservative Synagogue where community is embraced. Join us and discover why our members keep coming back week-in and week-out. A multi-generational synagogue, we offer programming for toddlers, seniors, and every age grouping in between, including our Sisterhood, Brotherhood, Yedidim, Kadima and U.S.Y. Youth Groups and Club Chaverut (Seniors).

BETH EMETH BAIS YEHUDA SYNAGOGUE
100 Elder St.,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 5G7
Contact: Mrs. Bernice Levine
Tel: 416-633-3838 Fax: 416-633-3153
Website: www.beby.org
More than just a synagogue, Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda (BEBY) is a vibrant centre of Jewish life. We are bound by our commitment to synagogue, community and Israel. Our mission is to be the focal point of the Jewish lives of our members

BETH SHOLOM SYNAGOGUE
1445 Eglinton Ave. W.,
Toronto, Ont. M6C 2E6
Executive Director: Barbara Berke
Tel: 416-783-6103 Fax: 416-783-9923
E-mail: barbara@bethsholom.net
Website: www.bethsholom.net
Beth Sholom welcomes everyone of all ages. We are a warm, friendly traditional, Conservative "family" synagogue where the Rabbi knows your name, the Sanctuary is warm and inclusive. Adult education & social programs. Special memberships for young marrieds, young families and young singles. 416-783-6103. www.bethsholom.net

BETH TIKVAH SYNAGOGUE
3080 Bayview Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M2N 5L3
Administration Director: Lillian Cornfield x307
Tel: 416-221-3433 Fax: 416-221-1602
E-mail: info@bethtikvah.on.ca
Website: www.bethtikvah.on.ca
We're a full service synagogue in the north of Toronto. Our beautiful services and life cycle events are led by Rabbi Wayne Allen and Cantor Tibo Kovari. With children's programming beginning at 18 months through to seminars for seniors, the synagogue has something for everyone. Beth Tikvah sports a proud past and a bright future.

BETH TZEDEC CONGREGATION
1700 Bathurst St.,
Toronto, Ont. M5P 3K3
Executive Director: Sheldon Maerov
Tel: 416-781-3511 Fax: 416-781-0150
E-mail: info@beth-tzedec.org
Website: www.beth-tzedec.org
Ongoing Classes, Public Lectures, Crash Hebrew, Yoga-for-Women, Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Call 416-781-3514: for 2004-2005 catalogue - x34; **Shabbat Synaplex** - Sanctuary Services, Torah Study Group, Learner's Services, Little Minyan Participatory Services, Family Services - x34; **Generation Hutzpa** - Students, Singles, Young Marrieds - x47; **Hebrew Schooling** - x30; **Membership Information** - x20.

BOROCHOV CULTURAL CENTRE & KOL YISROEL CONGREGATION
272 Codsell Ave.,
Downsview, Ont. M3H 3X2
Tel: 416-630-9444 Fax: 416-630-9451
A Conservative synagogue situated in the Borochov Cultural Centre. Weekly Shabbat services are held in a warm, friendly atmosphere, apparent during the kiddush when everyone socializes. Bar and Bat Mitzvahs and other special occasions are held. No membership fee. High Holy Day services are held in the main hall in the Centre.

CANADIAN COUNCIL FOR REFORM JUDAISM
3845 Bathurst St., Ste. 301,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 3N2
Director: Rabbi Sharon L. Sobel
Tel: 416-630-0375 Fax: 416-630-5089
E-mail: ccrj@uahc.org
Canadian national office of the Union for Reform Judaism, representing over 950 synagogues throughout North America, promotes liberal Judaism through synagogue support, outreach, youth programs, Jewish camping, adult and child education, social action, leader development.

CONGREGATION BINA
(A Community of Jews from India)
PO/CP 92127, 2900 Warden Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M1W 3Y8
Contact: Noel Reuben, 905-709-8913;
Noel Joseph, 416-293-9700
The main objective of Congregation BINA, a non-profit organization for Jews from India, is to assist, maintain, and promote traditional religious, social, cultural, and educational activities among its members. Each year, High Holy Day Services and social gatherings are held. A quarterly news bulletin, "Contact", is published.

CONGREGATION DARCHEI NOAM
15 Hove St.,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 4Y8
Offices at 20 Martin Ross Ave.
Rabbi Tina Grimberg
President: Michael Mitchell
Tel: 416-638-4783 Fax: 416-638-5852
Website: www.darcheinoam.on.ca
Our Reconstructionist community is vibrant, egalitarian and inclusive. Religious services are traditional in form and progressive in content. Women and men participate in all areas of synagogue life. Award-winning social action and stimulating adult learning programs. Solid commitment to our Hebrew School, and Bar/Bat Mitzvah, Teen and Family programs.

DANFORTH JEWISH CIRCLE
429 Danforth Ave., Ste. 125,
Toronto, Ont. M4K 1P1
Contact: Kathryn Miller
Tel: 416-825-7431
A progressive egalitarian community based in Riverdale, inclusive of interfaith and alternative unions. We're a friendly, family-oriented group committed to nurturing Jewish life and traditions through holiday and life cycle celebrations, monthly Shabbat services, and education and social action programs.

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187 Brunswick Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 6A7
Tel: 416-927-0546
Celebrate 5765 High Holy Days with the First Narayever Congregation at the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre (750 Spadina at Bloor). Come and experience the warmth of our community, our traditional, egalitarian services and creative children's programming. For details check **www.narayever.com** To buy tickets please phone 416-927-0546 or visit the MNJCC.

LODZER CENTRE CONGREGATION
12 Heaton St.,
Downsview, Ont. M3H 4Y6
Rabbi Matthew Kaufman
Cantor David Edwards
Administrator: Dina Wolfe
Tel: 416-636-6665 Fax 416-636-8881
E-mail: lodzerrabbi@rogers.com
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ORAYNU CONGREGATION FOR HUMANISTIC JUDAISM
Contact: Roby Sadler
Tel: 416-385-3910
Oraynu celebrates holidays, history, culture from humanistic Jewish perspective. Excellent 2-year B'nai Mitzvah program. Holidays, Onegs, family events, adult educaton, youth group, etc. Oraynu: a welcoming congregation where members express their Judaism in a manner consistent with their humanistic beliefs.

SHAAR SHALOM SYNAGOGUE
2 Simonston Blvd.,
Thornhill, Ont. L3T 4L1
Administrator: Erma Bader
Tel: 905-889-4975 Fax: 905-889-1575
Shaar Shalom Synagogue, under the spiritual leadership of Rabbi Martin Berman and Cantor Ben Silverberg, is a Conservative congregation in Thornhill. We offer full services on Shabbat and holidays, daily minyanim, catering services, active sisterhood, brotherhood, young adults, singles, seniors, youth groups and an afternoon Hebrew School (SK-Gr. 8).

SHAAREI-BETH EL CONGREGATION OF HALTON
186 Morrison Rd.,
Oakville, Ont. L6J 4J4
Contact: Rabbi Paul Sidlofsky
Tel: 905-849-6000 Fax: 905-849-1134
E-mail: sbe@idirect.ca

Community Focus

COMMUNITY DIRECTORY OF ADVERTISERS cont'd

RELIGIOUS LIFE cont'd

A Reform congregation with a traditional orientation. The synagogue offers Hebrew and religious classes under the direction of Ran Salamon, Bar/Bat Mitzvah instruction, youth activities and adult educational programs. The shul has experienced substantial recent growth from Burlington and Oakville. Other members come from Milton, Mississauga, Hamilton and Toronto.

SHAAREI SHOMAYIM CONGREGATION
470 Glencairn Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M5N 1V8
Executive Director: Marilyn Somers
Tel: 416-789-3213 Fax: 416-789-1728
E-mail: info@shomayim.org
Website: www.shomayim.org
Shaarei Shomayim Congregation is a modern orthodox centre of Jewish life with approximately 1,100 member-families providing the means for the fulfillment of religious, educational and social needs. This year, there is a special rate for new members and members under 30. Please phone 416-789-3213, ext. 209 or e-mail: info@shomayim.org

SOLEL CONGREGATION
2399 Folkway Dr.,
Mississauga, Ont. L5L 2M6
Tel: 905-820-5915 Fax: 905-820-1956
A Liberal Congregation affiliated with the Reform Movement with traditional leanings in services and religious practice committed to providing opportunities to worship, study, and celebrate Judaism in a vibrant, egalitarian, nurturing environment. Services Friday evenings, Saturday mornings, all Jewish holidays, weekly minyanim Tuesday 7 a.m. Children and family participation encouraged. School - Preschool through Confirmation, adult and family education classes throughout the year.

TEMMY LATNER FOREST HILL JEWISH CENTRE
446 Spadina Rd., Ste. 203,
Toronto, Ont. M5P 3M2
Contact: Rabbi Elie Karfunkel
Tel: 416-483-0883 Fax: 416-483-6712
E-mail: thecentre@on.aibn.com
Located in the heart of the Forest Hill Village (just up the stairs next to Starbucks), the Temmy Latner Forest Hill Jewish Centre provides an escape from hectic Toronto life. Come enjoy our Shabbat services (7 p.m. Friday and 9:30 a.m. Saturday) and our other dynamic programming. We're right at your doorstep!

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120 Old Colony Rd.,
North York, Ont. M2L 2K2
Membership Chair: Phil Rudolph
Rabbi Debra Landsberg
Tel: 416-449-3880 Fax: 416-449-9831
E-mail: membership@temanuel.com
A vibrant congregation on an exquisite North York site. We emphasize spirituality, adults education including Torah Study, Social Action, 1 day mid-week & Sunday Hebrew & Religious School, daily Morning Minyan, Youth Groups, magnificent sanctuary, first class caterers to enhance family *simchat* and much more.

TEMPLE HAR ZION
7360 Bayview Ave.,
Thornhill, Ont. L3T 2R7
Executive Director: Karen Grimm, ext. #4
Tel: 905-889-2252 Fax: 905-889-2258
E-mail: information@templeharzion.com
Website: www.templeharzion.com
A vibrant Reform congregation that attracts members from downtown Toronto north to Newmarket. Temple Har Zion offers preschool for 3-5 yr. olds; Hebrew and Religious School through to Confirmation (gr. 10); Jr. & Sr. Youth Groups; diverse Adult Education Programs; life cycle events. New members are welcome throughout the year.

TEMPLE KOL AMI
8777 Dufferin St.,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 8W3
Tel: 905-709-2620
E-mail: info@templekolami.ca
Website: www.templekolami.ca
250-family egalitarian Reform congregation led by Rabbi Daniel Komito Gottlieb with Cantorial Soloist Dawn Bernstein. Wide range of religious, social and educational programs from JK to confirmation and beyond. Educational Director Chari Schwartz. Interfaith families, Jews by choice and persons with special needs welcome.

YACHDAV
Contact: Marty Kaplan
Tel: 416-483-3363
E-mail: yachdav@rogers.com
Yachdav is a small, participatory minyan. We meet regularly in the Wolfond Centre for Shabbat services, 9:30 a.m. on the 2nd & 4th Saturdays of each month. We follow traditional liturgy, but are egalitarian in men's and women's involvement in all aspects of the services. Also see our High Holyday ad in this feature.

SENIORS

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BAYCREST LIFELINE
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Toronto, Ont. M6A 2E1
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Toronto, Ont. M3H 1T6
Tel: 416-635-2860 Fax: 416-635-1692
E-mail: info@circleofcare.com
Website: circleofcare.com
Circle of Care was established by the Jewish Community to meet our community's home health care needs. We provide a full range of social work, volunteer and home services - including personal care, caregiver relief, kosher (COR) meals on wheels. Subsidies may be available for eligible clients.

FOREST HILL PLACE
645 Castlefield Place,
Toronto, Ont. M5N 3A5
Contact: Marketing Director
Tel: 416-785-1511 Fax: 416-785-6228
Website: www.lrc.ca
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1955 Steeles Ave. E.,
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Contact: Beverly O'Hara
Tel: 416-498-5588 Fax: 416-498-5014
E-mail: gibson@chartwellreit.ca
The Gibson Retirement Residence boasts a number of well appointed amenities such as an elegant dining room, library, hair salon and a 5 storey atrium landscaped with lush greenery. The Gibson offers 24-hour assistance, 3 meals daily, housekeeping and laundry as well as an enriching activity program. Residents select the lifestyle that best suits their needs: our skilled and caring staff is always on hand to provide the utmost in care and services to make your retirement years as enjoyable as possible. Call 416-498-5588 to book your tour today.

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866 Sheppard Ave. W.,
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Community Relations Manager: Marlene White
Tel: 416-638-9555 Fax: 416-636-8211
E-mail: conserge@thekensingtonplace.com
Website: www.thekensingtonplacecom
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1035 Eglinton Ave. W.,
Toronto, Ont. M6C 2C8
Executive Director: Sharon Rosenblum
Tel: 416-787-5626 Fax: 416-787-3441
E-mail: pinevilla@cplodges.com
Website: www.retirementresidences.com
Pine Villa offers the comforts of home in a gracious and caring environment in the heart of Toronto's Jewish community. Our residents create a familiar sense of home with their personal furnishings in any one of our private suites. We offer 24-hour supervised health care, 3 delicous meals plus twice daily teacart, cable TV, housekeeping and laundry services. Activities, outside trips and live entertainment are organized by our recreation therapist.

TERRACE GARDENS RETIREMENT RESIDENCE
3705 Bathurst St.,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 2E8
Lifestyle & Marketing Co-ordinator: Devorah Ohayon
Tel: 416-789-7670 Fax: 416-789-3372
E-mail: terrace@cplodges.com
Discover quality living in the heart of North Toronto's Jewish community at Terrace Gardens Retirement Residence. Whether it's for a short term or trial stay, or "around the year" retirement living, Terrace Gardens provides the comfort and peace of mind you deserve, while you enjoy delicious kosher meals, 24 hour supervised care, full recreational program, and a warm and dedicated staff. Terrace Gardens, your first choice in Jewish retirement living.

TERRACES OF BAYCREST
55 Ameer Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 2Z1
Mgr. of Marketing & Business Operations: Merav Jacobson
Tel: 416-785-2379 Fax: 416-785-2496
E-mail: mjacobson@baycrest.org
Website: www.terracesofbaycrest.com
The Terraces of Baycrest provide seniors with independent apartment living, with supportive services. This retirement residence is located on the Baycrest Centre site, enabling residents access to Baycrest's services, including the specialized geriatric programs of Baycrest Hospital. For tours and information, please call 416-785-2379.

VILLAGE PARK RETIREMENT RESIDENCE
282 St. Clair Ave. W.,
Toronto, Ont. M4V 1S3
Contact: Carol Humphries
Tel: 416-925-2283 Fax: 416-925-4861
E-mail: villagepark@chartwellreit.ca
Nestled in Forest Hill in a park-like setting, Village Park Retirement Residence provides fully-assisted living and short-stay convalescent care. Priced from $2,695 per month, Village Park offers 24-hour care and assistance, 3 meals and 3 snacks daily, housekeeping and laundry, a stimulating enriching activity program and personal care with a personal touch. For information or tour, call 416-925-2283.

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Account Executive: Ben H. Tabesh
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E-mail: info@condorsecurity.ca
Website: www.condorsecurity.ca
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ISRAELI LAW OFFICE
Contact: Itamar Cohen, B.A., LL.B. Member of Israeli Bar Assoc.
Tel: 905-709-3896 Fax: 905-709-3898
E-mail: itamarcohen@rogers.com
Israeli Law Office in Ontario is a branch of Law Offices in Israel. We advise clients from Canada on matters of Israeli Law, and represent their interests in Israel. Our office is the only one to be approved as an **Israeli Legal Office** in Ontario by **the Law Society of Upper Canada.**

JEWISH CAMP COUNCIL OF TORONTO
1118 Centre St., Ste. 202,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 7R9
Registrar: Denise Harris
Tel: 905-881-0018 Fax: 905-881-9019
E-mail: happycamper@campnbb.com
Website: www.campnbb.com
Provides a variety of camping services to the Jewish community. Camp Northland-B'nai Brith provides a residential camping experience for boys and girls 8-16 in the Haliburton Highlands. Providing many interesting and rewarding staff positions. "Friends of NBB" holds a mini-camp weekend for families with young children in August.

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4600 Bathurst St., Ste. 325,
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Tel: 416-630-6481 Fax: 416-630-1376
Executive Director: Janis Roth
Since 1922 JIAS has helped Jewish refugees and immigrants find a new home in Canada. JIAS provides resettlement counselling, integration programming, language training, immigration and family reunifications consultation, financial assistance and social services to those newcomers who travel the difficult journey "from immigrant to citizen."

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Toronto, Ont. M6B 1V9,
Tel: 416-787-1151, Ext. 258
Fax: 416-785-7529
JVS is a long-standing community agency that helps thousands of individuals each year to identify educational and vocational goals, overcome barriers, and find work. JVS offers a wide range of education, career and employment services, our goal being to help our clients realize their potential in the job market.

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Toronto, Ont. M4S 2M6
Co-directors: Erin Rogul, Kelly Jacques
Tel: 416-504-8589 Fax: 416-504-6585
E-mail: placeme@pcarep.com
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National Executive Director:
Dov Altman
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E-mail: admin@cfbiu.org
Website: www.cfbiu.org
The Canadian Friends of Bar-Ilan University is celebrating Bar-Ilan's 50th anniversary. Bar-Ilan, Israel's largest university, and only institution of higher learning founded on the principle of integrating academic excellence with an appreciation of Jewish heritage. Bar-Ilan is dedicated to intellectual leadership, scientific progress and human values for the benefit of Israel and the Jewish community.

CENTRE FOR JEWISH STUDIES, YORK UNIVERSITY
241 Vanier College, 4700 Keele St.,
Toronto, Ont. M3J 1P3
Director: Prof. Martin Lockshin
Tel: 416-736-5823 Fax: 416-736-5344
E-mail: cjs@yorku.ca
Website: www.yorku.ca/cjs
York U. offers Jewish Studies courses ranging from ancient Israel and Hebrew language to Holocaust, contemporary Canadian Jewry and Jewish Teacher Education. Programs include BA, BEd, graduate degrees and the Advanced Certificate in Hebrew and Jewish Studies. York's Centre for Jewish Studies co-ordinates academic programs, research projects and community outreach.

JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM - UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
15 King's College Circle, #314
Toronto, Ont. M5S 3H7
Administrator: Eva Hollander
Tel: 416-978-8118 Fax: 416-971-2027
E-mail: jewishstudies@utoronto.ca
Website:
www.chass.utoronto.ca/JewishStudies
For over 35 years, the Jewish Studies Program at the University of Toronto has been engaged in teaching, research and scholarship. This multidisciplinary program, which encompasses the Arts and Science departments of English, German, History, Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, Philosophy, Sociology and the Study of Religion, Fine Art Slavic Studies is unique in Canada for the breadth and depth of its curriculum.

Agency seeks foster families in the Jewish community

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Linda Shapiro, foster care recruiter for Jewish Family and Child Service (JF&CS), says her mission is to make foster care part of every-day life for Jewish people.

"I would like to see foster parenting become part of the things that Jews do. [For example,] Jews should keep kosher, give tzedakah and take in foster children."

Shapiro, who co-ordinates the agency's One Shul, Two Homes program introduced last year in order to try to find two new foster homes in every congregation in the Greater Toronto Area, says she will talk about foster care to anyone who is willing to listen.

"I am passionate about the importance of foster care. Foster parents can contribute greatly to the lives of Jewish children of all ages."

She has spent much of the past year speaking to synagogue groups and parlour meetings, urging rabbis to talk about foster care, providing brochures and other materials to synagogues, and arranging to have shuls write in their bulletins and newsletters about the desperate need for foster parents.

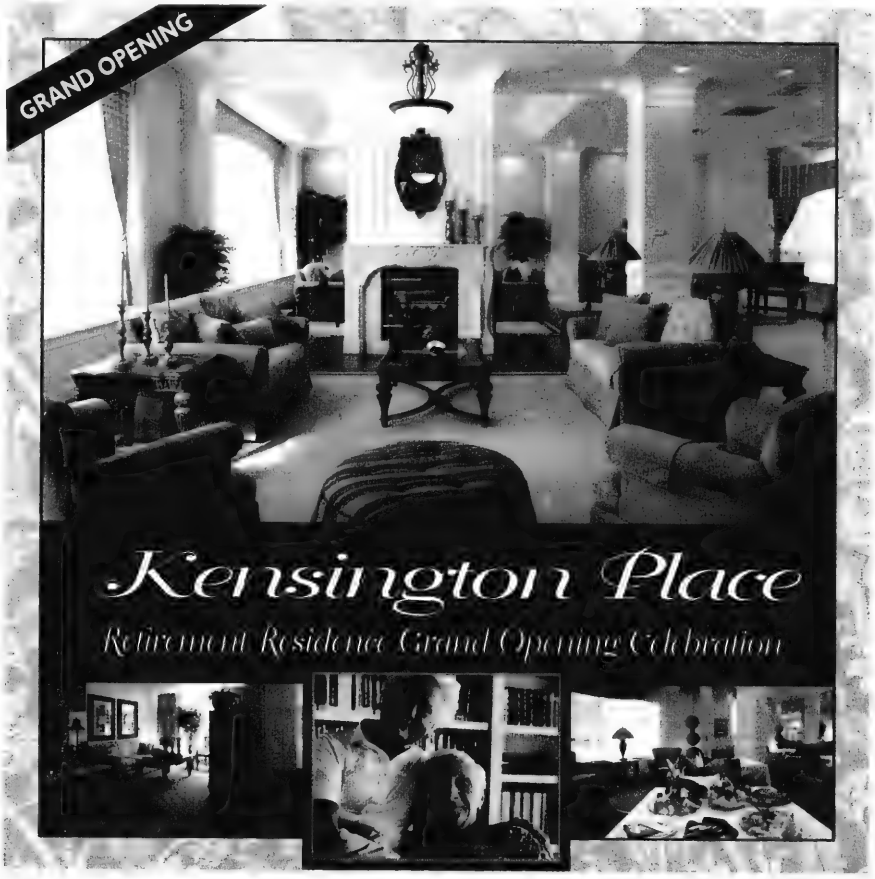
"It's going well. We are getting calls, but we are always looking for more parents.

"When we talk about foster children, many people think we can't be talking about Jewish children. Our task is to let them know that the problem is very real."

Avraham Friedman, supervisor of the agency's foster care program, says the reality is that Jewish families are affected by the same social problems as all other families.

Continued on page B8

Putting her best face forward at the UJA Walkathon. [Photo courtesy UJA Federation]



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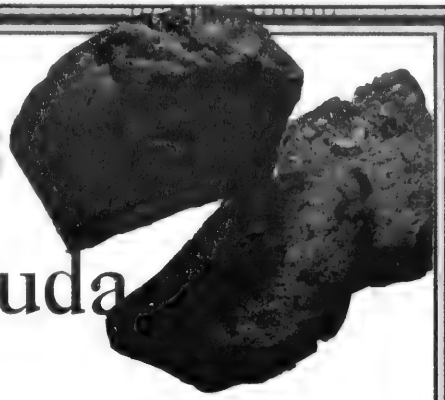

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Toronto Police Chief Julian Fantino greets a marcher at the UJA Walkathon. [Photo courtesy UJA Federation]

Children are in care for many different reasons

Continued from page B6

"There are underlying precipitating factors, such as poverty, mental illness, marital conflict and inadequate parenting skills that affect parents' ability to raise their children.

"Jewish children of all ages desperately need Jewish foster homes. In our grandparents' generation this statement would be shocking, impossible to believe. In our generation, it is a stark reality."

Over the past 20 years, Friedman and his wife have fostered 10 children and adopted a child with special needs.

Those in need of care include victims of abuse or neglect, children with physical or developmental challenges, children whose parents are unable to care for them, and troubled teens in need of alternative living arrangements when they cannot live at home.

As JF&CS is a licensed children's aid society overseen by the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services, Friedman says, it is mandated to protect children and if necessary, bring them into care.

"We may find ourselves in an emergency situation such as receiving a call from a parent who says a child is impossible to handle. We do have a department to help parents, but if it is an issue of safety we have to provide it.

"We have children in care from newborn to age 21. At age 16, a child has the legal right to leave the foster home. If a child does not want to remain in the care of JF&CS, the matter can be brought back to the court for a hearing and a decision."

A child can remain in foster care until age 18, Friedman says, at which time he terminates his status of being a child in care. If the child is still attending school, the agency can continue to provide support in a more independent living arrangement until age 21, when he formally graduates from being a child in care.

There have been situations in which a former child in care over the age of 21 and his foster parents agree that the child should remain in the foster home in a room and board arrangement, Friedman says.

Children may come into care on a planned or emergency basis for a short or a long term. If at all possible, the goal of JF&CS is to reunite the child with his or her parents, and no more than 30 per cent stay longer than five years, he says.

"If a child is going to be adopted, it is likely it will be in the initial years of care, so we get them into a consistent home as soon as we can.

"Our challenge is to provide continuity for our kids. They face tremendous challenges, and they live with the label of living in foster care."

Separation is often a big issue for them, he says, "and unless it is dealt with properly it can have an effect on future relationships.

Continued on page B9

All ages take part in the UJA Walkathon.
[Photos courtesyUJA FEderation]

Regular meetings between JF&CS and foster families

Continued from page B8

"If a child has the benefit of living in one foster home, he will experience consistent love and nurturing. Compare that to a child who has experienced multiple moves."

The agency has a resource bank of families, Friedman says, "and from that list, we try to select a family whose level of observance is similar to the child's level of observance. This helps minimize the child's trauma."

He concedes that fostering is not for everyone. "We are looking for families that understand kids. They need to know what it means for a child to be ripped from his family."

Selma Elzas, foster care co-ordinator at JF&CS, says that once a child is in care, he has his own social worker. As well, the child's biological parents have their own social worker who helps them plan for their child's return home.

"As part of our ongoing care, we meet regularly with foster parents. We set up a plan of care which identifies goals and we review it every 90 days."

In addition, she says, "we must ensure that all our foster homes meet certain safety standards and that all foster parents are Jewish. As well, all our foster parents must take training provided by the agency to enable them to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills.

"If both parents work, they can still be foster parents, but at present we have a desperate need for stay-at-home moms and foster families who are able to take preschool age children. We also need emergency, short-term and respite foster homes."

There are three designations of foster homes: regular, for a child who has no special needs; specialized, for a child who has certain challenges or disabilities; and treatment for a child whose needs are beyond what can be managed in a regular or specialized foster home.

The children whose needs are beyond what can be managed in foster care are placed in staff-operated homes or children's residential mental health settings, Elzaz says.

"People who run treatment homes usually have professional training. Especially at this level, kids often need to be placed outside of the community but we try to keep them within," says Elzas.

Foster parents receive a per diem rate to cover the expenses of caring for a child. Those caring for a child with specialized or treatment needs receive a higher per diem rate that recognizes the additional skills required in caring for these children, she says.

The agency also covers expenses such as clothing, medical and dental care, allowance, recreation and transportation.

Much thought is put into the makeup of a family before a foster child is placed, Shapiro says. "We want the child to grow in that family. It is called a foster family because siblings are there as well. We want to make sure that everyone is on board."

Many people fear becoming too attached to foster children, she says, "but I urge them to think how important they could be in a child's life. In the big picture, they could be the bridge that allows kids to go back to their own family. If that is the case, a mitzvah has been accomplished.

"We are talking about children who do not have the necessities of life. Foster parents can provide that until parents are ready to resume responsibility."

The bottom line, Friedman says, is that foster parents are regular people. "You never know what is in their hearts.

"As for foster children, every one is the same and every one is different. They are a world unto themselves, but there is a typicality."

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Community Focus

Out of the pool and into the newsroom

By JESSICA HELLEN
CJN Intern

I've never had a real job before. For me, summers have always included bathing suits, sunscreen and a whistle. Standing under the hot sun, I would watch happy kids splash around and make sure that no one was swallowing too much water – and going under – in the process.

When I realized that graduation was fast approaching and I would soon have to choose my career path, I decided that it was time for me to give up my poolside summer and move on to a job in the field I have been studying for the past three years.

But having spent most of my summers at camp, far away from office buildings and polluted cities, would I be prepared for a real-life grown-up job?

I knew there would be lots of changes and adjustments during this transition. My days of sitting under an umbrella in a chair suspended in the air were over. At a real job, I would sit only a few inches off the ground.

Getting ready for this new stage of my life included physical and mental preparation that I was not accustomed to.

Jessica Hellen

Shopping for the summer was something I had done many times before, but the items I was purchasing had changed. A bathing suit and flip flops just didn't seem like appropriate work clothes anymore.

Into my cupboard went my old worn backpack, which I used to stuff with wet towels and water bottles that dug into my back while I lugged it around.

Replacing it was a giant pale turquoise purse that could easily store my pens, notebooks and tape recorder.

I also had to set my mind to do for the summer what had essentially been my homework all year long at school.

At first, being an intern at a newspaper seemed quite different from being a lifeguard and swim instructor at a summer camp. Not only was my wardrobe different, my worries and concerns had also changed.

Instead of trying to figure out the perfect way to teach the breast stroke, I found myself trying to find the perfect words to express myself.

And instead of dreading getting into the freezing cold water, I was now dreading sitting in a freezing cold air-conditioned office.

Instead of coming home smelling like chlorine, now I come home with blackened newspaper fingers.

Once I started to think about it, I realized that my camp job actually helped me become a good reporter.

Talking to parents and politely explaining to them that their child has not yet mastered the difficult act of floating has given me the confidence to politely ask the people I interview if they mind answering a few questions.

I learned how to make explanations simple enough for young kids to understand, which has helped me write articles that are clear and easy to read.

Thinking about my past summers squatting in the shallow end teaching kids how to blow bubbles, it occurred to me that not only has my camp experience helped me as a reporter, my two jobs are actually not so different after all.

I used to stare at a swimming pool; now I stare at a computer screen.

I used to carry around a clipboard; now I carry around a notebook.

I used to write report cards; now I write newspaper articles.

Perhaps this suggests that my future jobs will all be somehow related to lifeguarding. Or maybe it shows that teaching swimming was my true calling in life until I recklessly threw it away.

Then again, it could just mean that growing up and starting a career may not be as drastic and life-altering as I once thought.

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'You love them in your heart,' foster mother says

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

After living in four foster homes, Andrew, 17, credits his current foster family with keeping him off the streets.

"I feel lucky. If I was living with my parents, I probably would not be in school, I wouldn't play sports, I'd most likely be homeless."

Andrew moved in with foster parents Louise and John (all names in this story have been changed to ensure confidentiality) so that he could be with his sisters who lived in the home. His younger sister Rebecca, 11, has been with the family for nine years, and his oldest sister, 22, has since moved out. They do not see their birth parents.

Louise and John began fostering after their son, now 16 and an only child, told them he missed having siblings. "There had been some foster children in my extended family, so I contacted Jewish Family & Child Service and we met with an intake worker," Louise says.

"We began by taking children in for the weekend, but we wanted a commitment, so when Rebecca needed a permanent home, we took her in.

"Eventually, the other two moved in, and now we cannot remember what life was like without them. We're one big, crazy family."

When Andrew first arrived, she says, "he was a lonely guy, and he had no manners. After living in four homes, it took time for him to feel comfortable with us. Now, he's a great kid. It's wonderful to see how he has evolved."

Louise's son calls his foster siblings his brother and sister, and admits that Andrew has helped him at school when kids have picked on him. "I hope we always stay close."

Louise says there have been difficult times, and they have had to deal with many issues."Sometimes it's tempting to walk away from the whole thing, but I've made a commitment to shape them into adulthood. Besides, what parent does not feel like that at some time or other?

"The children know they are welcome to stay here as long as they want. I would like to see them go on to university or college."

She would have loved to adopt the siblings, she says, "but it was financially impossible. I can still hug and kiss and love them like my own children, though. You don't have to adopt them to love them. You love them in your heart."

* * *

Ruth and Doug, who have five children ages 16 to 41, began taking in foster children 23 years ago. Until recently they did short-term fostering, but six-year-old Amanda has been with them since last spring.

"Our own children have benefited from having foster siblings. They've grown into caring and aware adults, and four have entered a helping profession," Ruth says.

Over the years, she says, they have received calls at 3 a.m. for emergency placement – they've mostly taken in teenagers – because the youths may have gone to the police or run away from home.

"There are a number of different circumstances. Generally, JF&CS tries to resolve the situation, but if that fails, they call emergency foster care."

Ruth is active in JF&CS's foster families for families program, in which she goes into the the homes of families being served by the agency and offers practical guidance on how to run a household.

"The agency does what it can to keep families together, and sometimes I am able to help, but we also have to determine what is best for the children. Sometimes removing them from the home is best.

"The ultimate goal is to help the family change things and get the children home."

Since Amanda has arrived, she says, "we have watched her blossom. She is starting to read and she has made friends, but she still wants her mother.

"Even if you have a youngster for a short period of time, you give them a different perspective on life. They can see that there are good things out there."

Fostering is a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week commitment, she says. "We don't just house and feed the children. They're not coming here to eat. We have to be there for them 24 hours a day. We love it, though. We wouldn't change anything."

* * *

Anne, a single mother of two grown children and a foster mother of one, says fostering "just happened" to her.

"A friend of my son had been living in a group home and he spent a lot of time here. Eventually, his social worker suggested we become his foster family.

"We enjoyed having him with us so much that when he turned 18, we decided it was time to take in another foster child."

Over the years, she says, they have had other teenagers live with them, "but the aim is always for them to return home. I try to stay in contact with their family who usually want to know what is going on. Interestingly, I have stayed friends with some of the parents."

She "feels" for the teenagers. "It is traumatic for them. They've been removed from their home, they have to get used to a new environment, new family routines and new rules."

All foster parents have their own methods, she says, but she uses common sense in dealing with the teens. "If they're courteous and doing what they need to do such as school work, laundry and keeping their room tidy, why shouldn't they have some freedoms and liberties?"

She is fortunate to have these young people in her lives, she says. "They add an interesting dimension to our household, and it has made my own children aware that there is life beyond their own environment.

"Naturally, there has been some rivalry and jealousy, but even when they're yelling at each other, they are friends."

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Community Focus

New program will help troubled Jewish youth

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

An innovative program starting up this fall aims to help troubled or homeless youth pull themselves together and become productive members of society.

Called the Jewish Identity Mentor Program, it's being organized by social worker Ed Schild as part of his Regesh Family and Child Services organization.

Schild, as well as other social service workers and agencies that deal with teenagers, has been aware of these youth for some time. There have been several efforts to help them by such agencies as Jewish Family & Child Service, JACS and Ve'ahavta – The Canadian Jewish Humanitarian & Relief Committee.

"[The youth] are not necessarily homeless," Schild said. "A lot of them are on the streets, but others have drug problems, or can be seen in plazas or malls, just hanging out, so to speak, They have poor self-esteem and feel hopeless."

As well, he said, they have lost faith and trust in many of the people who try to help them. "The kids say that they don't listen to them. Well, I'm listening. And I tell them that."

Schild is proposing a six-month program. Four youths, ages 16 to 24, will come into one of what used to be the foster homes run by Regesh. Staff and house parents are still in place, Schild said, although the foster homes and group homes run by Regesh were closed down due to cuts in government funding. All the clients' needs will be provided for during the first two months, and their academic or vocational needs will be assessed.

"We will find a way to get them back to school, or to work – something so that they will be able to feel productive. They will also become more comfortable in the situation."

After two months, participants will begin a leadership training program, based on a program developed at the University of Washington called Reconnecting Youth. The program, which Schild said seems to be very effective, "aims to help disenfranchised youth develop self-esteem, and learn about helping others on drugs, their community, conflict resolution and anger management."

Naturally, the youngsters have to be ready to give up their old patterns of behaviour, Schild said.

"We tell them that they are helping us help others, because they have been there. We say that we need you to tell us how to run programs, We want to teach you to teach others."

The kids light up when they hear this, he said.

Asked why they would trust him when they have generally lost trust in the system, Schild said with a grin, "They don't trust me – they trust the people who recommend me to them."

After training, each participant will work with five other kids who used to be in the same position as they were. "We hope they can even go back to the same agency or organization that originally recommended them to us," Schild said.

When the program is complete, each youth will receive a certificate as a mentor and a $500 graduation honorarium.

During the mentorship program, Schild said, they will have to be doing something – either going to school, volunteering or working. "They can't just be sitting around."

The first group – which is expected to start in November after what Schild calls some "fine-tuning" of the program – will be made up of youth aged 18 to 22 and either exclusively male or female. Organizers want to figure out if the age range will be an issue, and if the program needs to be longer or shorter.

The main problem, Schild admitted, is money. There are no government funds available, at least at first, and the program will have to depend on fundraising.

The house where the Jewish Identity Mentor Program will be based will be known as Chezi's Corner, after social worker Chezi Goldberg, a former Torontonian who was killed in a terrorist bus bombing earlier this year in Israel. "Chezi did wonderful things with street kids in Israel, " Schild said, adding that house will be an appropriate memorial to him.

Schild has operated Regesh – a private, non-profit, charitable service specializing in working with troubled families – since 1983. Starting in 1986, it operated group homes, foster homes, and foster homes for special-needs youngsters, helping dysfunctional families and youth with behavioural and emotional problems.

From 1997 until 2003, when he was forced to close all his residential facilities, Schild also operated foster homes for Jewish children in conjunction with Jewish Family & Child Services.

After the murder of David Rosenzweig in July 2002, Schild said, he was approached by several people and organizations who were concerned about the increasing number of troubled Jewish youth, even in the Orthodox community, which, he said, "is just realizing that they have a problem too." The alleged murderer had been wandering around places where a lot of religious kids hang out, and where he knew he could get drugs, he noted.

For more information about the Jewish Identity Mentor Program, call Schild at 416-495-8832, or e-mail eschild@regesh.com.

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Baycrest harnesses technology to provide better care

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

From online prescriptions to health forums via videoconference, cutting edge technology is making the rounds at Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care.

The aim is for faster, more efficient and more complete patient care, and Baycrest staff say things are off to a great start.

One such high-tech tool is the Physician Order Management (POM) system, which allows orders for tests and medication to be placed and received via computer.

"In the old days, if you wrote an order, somebody would have to look at the order and interpret it. Sometimes it was hard to interpret what was written," said Dr. Paula Rochon, senior scientist at Baycrest's Kunin-Lunenfeld Applied Research Unit.

"When working with the computer... the order is totally legible... [including key details such as] the dosage, how long they should take it, etc."

Rochon said the system makes the process of prescribing medication more "streamlined," with instant feedback for physicians and, ultimately, safer prescriptions for patients.

She said the use of new technology puts Baycrest in a leadership position.

"Other people will be coming to us, looking at what we've done and seeing how they can model after that," Rochon said.

Another innovation is Baycrest's Telehealth service.

Tapping into information and technology developments, Telehealth allows medical professionals to provide care for patients and share expertise with peers through videoconferencing and Webcasts.

"Telehealth is probably having the same kind of impact as the telephone had," said Tim Patterson, Baycrest's Telehealth co-ordinator, who handles education and assesses the system's effectiveness.

"It allows [medical professionals] from around the world to interact with one another."

Patterson cited the benefits of Baycrest's Telehealth system for isolated communities in northern Ontario.

For instance, in the remote northern community of Sioux Lookout, an issue arose regarding care for agitated elderly patients.

Rather than dealing with the expense and inconvenience of travelling to Sioux Lookout – located northwest of Thunder Bay, Ont. – Baycrest medical staff took part in a series of Web-based conferences with their peers in Sioux Lookout to share knowledge on how to respond to the patients' needs.

Other sessions on everything from pain management to geriatric psychiatry have been held on a cross-continental basis using Telehealth technology.

Dr. Philip Lee, a fellow in behavioural neurology, inputs patient information on a computer-on-wheels. Baycrest is moving toward a complete electronic patient health record with two initiatives – Baycrest On-Line Documentation (BOLD) and Computerized Physician Order Entry (CPOE).
[Photo courtesy Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care]

"This is a social responsibility... for us to share knowledge," Patterson said, adding that use of the system has reached about 50 hours per month.

Patterson said Baycrest aims to continue being an international centre of excellence in the areas of geriatrics and sees the Telehealth service as a way to meet that goal.

"When we lead in this initiative, knowledge is shared... professional isolation is addressed and... grants become available," he said.

Another innovation, the Baycrest On-Line Documentation (BOLD) project, has moved patient charts from paper to an electronic format.

The switch is giving staff quicker, more standardized and, if need be, simultaneous access to pertinent patient data.

"Baycrest is looking to make great strides towards complete, electronic health records," said occupational therapist Gilda Waltman, clinical co-ordinator of the BOLD project team.

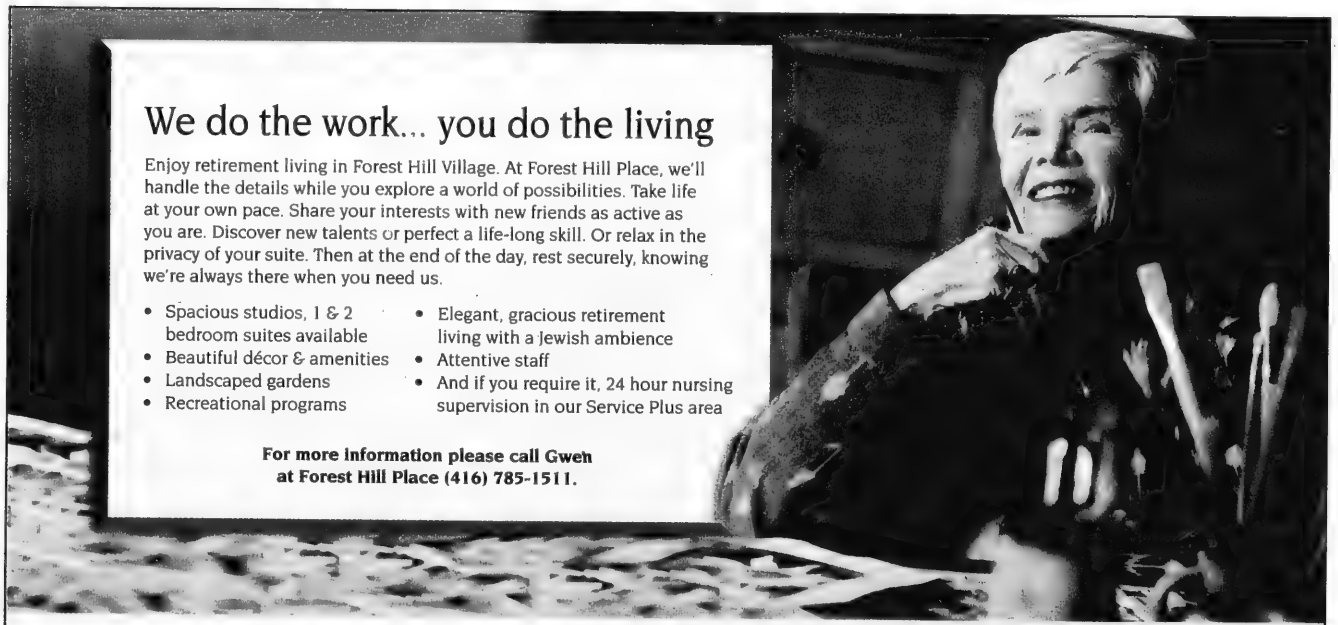
Waltman said the project has been implemented in selected areas of Baycrest to iron out kinks before a full roll-out.

She said the project has the potential to make patients and physician's lives easier.

"When you have a paper chart, you're flipping through all kinds of paper, trying to decipher handwriting," she said.

"[With BOLD], you have clear, concise records that are easily read."

BOLD also makes patient records more complete and user-friendly for clinicians, Waltman said.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[Photo courtesy UJA Federation]

NCSY's Torah High planning to offer 'U' credits

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Torah High, the National Conference of Synagogue Youth's extracurricular Jewish studies program for high school students, is likely to be offering accredited "U" courses – courses geared for students wanting to attend university – as early as this fall.

The school, formerly known as Free Torah High, was approved by the Ontario Ministry of Education as a provider of high school credits two years ago, and enrolment has since risen from 60 students to more than 220 last year.

While tuition is no longer free, registration is still a modest amount at $75 for the year, including the pizza provided during each weekly two-hour class.

The school operates in 12 Toronto-area locations from Forest Hill in the south to Richmond Hill up north, and is separate from National Conference of Synagogue Youth's (NCSY) Culture Club, which runs as a weekly after-school program in about half a dozen public high schools.

Torah High, despite its midterm and final exams, is "like school but a lot more laid-back, a lot more fun," said Rabbi Glenn Black, the organization's regional director.

Up to 35 hours of the 110-hour requirement per course can be met online, on an NCSY educational trip and/or in an Ulpan Hebrew class.

The Torah High curriculum covers the spectrum of Jewish concepts from weekly parsha to Shabbat, holidays and life- cycle events. "We go through 25 concepts a year," said Rabbi Black.

"It's not just a school," he added. "It's a whole experience. It impacts a family for many generations."

The classes are "very discussion-oriented," said Rabbi Yisroel Rabinowitz, principal. "Each class has a theme, and around that theme there is a discussion."

A class about Adam and Eve, for example, is related to modern-day advertising, focusing on "what the story teaches us about how the snake tried to seduce Eve… by telling her all the wonderful things about the apple. Advertisers try to do the same thing. We try to get kids to be thoughtful about everything they see. We [also] discuss the Jewish laws for advertising."

Overall, said Rabbi Rabinowitz, the school's goal is to create a stronger Jewish identity, based on a "stronger Jewish education."

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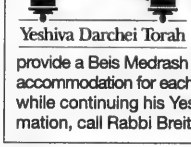

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Sopman awards honour compassionate caregiving

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

In 1980, when Archie Sopman's wife Belle Sopman was dying of cancer, he was grateful for the kindness she received from a student nurse at the Toronto General Hospital.

Although he had been a patient at the hospital many times and appreciated the people who gave him exceptional care, it was his gratitude to Linda Kirby that crystallized his wish to reward student doctors and nurses who performed beyond the call of duty and to honour the memory of his wife.

He believed that caregivers who go out of their way for their patients deserve recognition.

With the encouragement and inspiration of his cardiologist and friend, Dr. David Watt, he established an endowment fund at the University Health Network, the Sopman Humanitarian Award, which is given annually to student doctors and nurses who show outstanding compassion.

The University Health Network includes three hospitals: Toronto General Hospital, Toronto Western Hospital and Princess Margaret Hospital.

Archie Sopman, a partner in A. Stork & Sons, died in 1998, but made sure there was enough money to continue the awards.

Michael Sopman and his wife Judy have continued his father's legacy. This year on Belle's birthday, which coincided with the 25th anniversary of the award's establishment, nine winners were presented with cash prizes at a reception at the Sopman home in Thornhill.

Also honoured was Kirby, the first recipient of the award, and Watt, who retired from practice in 1998 and has served as director of the awards since 1980. Watt was presented with a photo of himself and his friend Archie.

At the reception, Michael Sopman told the winners that the award "seeks to encourage the characteristics of humanity, compassion and understanding, along with the ability to communicate sympathetically with patients and their families."

He praised Kirby's efforts, which, he said, "could unfortunately not prolong my mother's life, but they did make her last days more comfortable."

> ***'I thought I had learned almost everything I needed to know to be a good nurse'***

Kirby told of her experience as a student nurse. "I thought I had learned almost everything I needed to know to be a good nurse. I believed that modern medicine with all its extraordinary technology could, with a few exceptions, cure all.

"And then I met Belle. She taught me that the greatest gift you can give someone is to listen without judgment." She added that because of her relationship with Belle, "I became a better person. I became a better nurse."

Over the past 25 years, in excess of $150,000 has been awarded to more than 200 exceptional doctors and nurses in training who do clinical placements at the University Health Network.

The Sopman family also provides funding for University Health Network employees involved in diabetes research, care and education. The family has endowed the Archie Sopman Diabetes Clinic, which opened in 1996 at Toronto General Hospital.

Tennys Hanson, president and CEO, Toronto General and Western Hospital Foundation, told *The CJN* that the Sopman awards are "an example of an important idea that grew into something inspiring and significant. The Sopman Humanitarian Awards have become a part of the fabric of the culture of our hospital.

"The generosity of the Sopmans is helping to recognize the wonderful healthcare professionals who deserve our thanks and tribute. Ultimately, Michael and Judy are furthering our ability to deliver excellent patient care."

Michael and Judy Sopman with the recipients of the Sopman Humanitarian Award.

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Hong Kong Jewish community rallies around one of its families

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

David Zweig, a professor of Chinese political science at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, recently held a dinner for more than 200 people to thank them for the extraordinary emotional, physical, financial and spiritual help they gave his family when their son, Aaron, was deathly ill.

Zweig, who grew up in Toronto, and his New Jersey-raised wife, Joy, were surprised by the amount of support they got during what was a terrible time for them. During a recent visit to Toronto, Zweig explained that they were overwhelmed – the first couple of nights Aaron was in the hospital in Hong Kong last year, 60 to 100 people came every night to sit with them; the situation touched many in the Jewish community of about 3,000; and people were unbelievably generous, he said.

Aaron, who was seven at the time, (the couple also have a daughter, Rachel, who is now 12) first appeared to have some sort of virus, one that many of his classmates also had. Just to be careful, his mother took him to the doctor. He collapsed in the office.

It turned out that a virus had attacked the muscles of his heart, a condition called acute myocarditis.

The pediatrician gave Aaron oxygen and rushed him by ambulance to Queen Mary Hospital. It was determined that his heart was functioning at only about 10 per cent of capacity.

The next morning, he was taken to Grantham Hospital, a specialized heart facility, where he was hooked up to a heart and lung machine. Unfortunately, a blood clot had formed that was blocking circulation to Aaron's right leg. After several attempts to re-establish proper blood flow, the doctors realized that they would have to amputate his leg.

David Zweig described the scene during the operation. "Members of the community gathered around us, as the operation ran through most of the evening. Dozens of them huddled in doorways and the stairway adjacent to a small sitting room where we waited for news. Some people prayed, others sat silently. All focused their energy on Aaron and on us, his family."

The next day, the community continued to support them. "They sat with us, fed us, comforted us and prayed with us. Congregants at all of the community shuls were learning of the situation, and special prayers were being said. Calls were made to friends and relatives worldwide, asking them to pray for the child in local synagogues and prayer groups."

It quickly became apparent that the heart and lung machine wasn't doing the trick. The doctors advised the Zweigs that the only hope for Aaron was an operation using an external ventricular assist pump, a machine called the Berlin Heart. There wasn't one in Hong Kong.

The machine and the pump that drives it were very expensive – more than $500,000 Cdn – and the hospital didn't have the resources to bring them from Germany.

Continued on page B18

A cheerful Aaron Zweig leaves the hospital after his medical ordeal.

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Community Focus

Agency's private-home day care fosters kids' development

By JESSICA HELLEN
CJN Intern

J&F Home Child Care Services is a licensed, non-profit agency that offers child care in the private homes of day-care providers.

The agency accepts children from six weeks old to 12 years old, and allows a maximum of five kids per house.

Fran Ostronoff, executive director of J&F Home Child Care Services, said there is a big difference between home child care and babysitting.

"A babysitter is a person who is 16 years of age or younger and eats my chips, drinks my pop and sits on my couch watching TV," Ostronoff said.

"Providers are working with the physical and emotional aspect of the child."

Ostronoff said small children seem to thrive in a home environment. "This is their first time being away from home, and it gives them a chance to bond with one individual rather than five or six. They're used to just dealing with mom."

Consultants visit child care providers' homes monthly to help them with programming activities and their child care concerns, as well as to talk to the children about Jewish and non-Jewish holidays.

The providers are independent contractors who work with the J&F Home Child Care Services. Before providers are allowed to work with the agency, it interviews them, contacts their references and does police-record checks, along with home safety checks.

Parents are given the names of providers to meet and interview. Ostronoff said parents should make sure their values and ideals match with the providers'. "It is very important that they're both on the same page."

While at the child care provider's house, children participate in various programs, including music, art and science.

Providers plan activities based on the agency's curriculum, which focuses on language development, socialization, emotional development and self-esteem, pre-academic learning skills, science, nature and environmental awareness, fine motor development, physical skills and cultural heritage.

If providers have their own children at home, they can participate in the programs with the rest of the kids, as long as they are around the same age.

Ostronoff said many of the providers who work with the agency are immigrants and other women who love children but also want an income.

"All of them are warm, caring human beings. These people are very dedicated. It's not a high-paying job, so they have to love children."

Ettie Barmapov said this is exactly why she decided to become a provider. "I wanted to be a stay-at-home mom to raise my own children and I also wanted the extra income."

Barmapov has been working with J&F Home Child Care Services for 14 years.

"[I like to] interact with the kids and teach them, and see the accomplishments that they have," she said.

Barmapov currently takes care of two children, one who is 3½ years old and the other who is 20 months old.

She plans her programs according to the children's levels, and includes activities around Jewish holidays and the seasons. They do crafts and make cards for father's day, mother's day, birthdays and special occasions, such as the birth of a new brother or sister.

Barmapov organizes many activities to help children learn about Jewish holidays.

On Fridays, she bakes challah with the children, for Purim they have a costume parade, on Rosh Hashanah they make cards decorated with apples and honey, for Passover they make seder plates, for Simchat Torah they make Israeli flags and on Sukkot they make sukkot out of Popsicle sticks. For Chanukah, Barmapov makes latkes, with the children helping with the mixing, and on Shavuot they create their own crowns of flowers.

Barmapov also uses cassette tapes, songs and aleph-bet blocks to help the children become familiar with Hebrew.

"I try to teach them for the outside world and to be prepared for school," she said.

Ostronoff said the agency trains providers in child care, nutrition, health care, first aid, child development, management and enrichment.

"All of our providers go through 12 weeks of training through Canadian Mothercraft Society," she said.

Continued on page B19

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Community Focus

Determination, solemnity, and a clenched fist mark march for Israel.

[Photo courtesy UJA Federation]

Herculean effort needed to acquire Berlin heart machine

Continued from page B16

Friends sprang into action, Zweig said with some awe. "The stairways became a hive of activity as the sound of cellular phones buzzed all around. The [heart machine's] company website was located on a PDA, and a German-speaking friend contacted the company by phone. The Israel consul general contacted his counterpart in Berlin. Someone laid down his credit card to cover the enormous cost to pay for the machine and the German team that would fly with it to Hong Kong."

The doctors e-mailed the hospital authority for authorization for a German doctor to operate in Hong Kong. Four hours after the financial guarantee was made, the machine was on its way to Hong Kong.

When American Express denied approval for such a large charge, a former member of the community, who now headed American Express in Singapore approved the transfer.

When the precious machine finally arrived, together with Dr. Weng Yuguo, the German heart centre's chief of surgery (originally from China), the operation could begin.

It took from late afternoon until midnight, during which time Aaron had to be switched from the heart and lung machine to the heart machine and a respirator.

"Over 100 people joined together in and around the hospital's assembly hall," Zweig said, "to pray and console each other."

In the days that followed, as Aaron coped with crisis after crisis, community members continued to rally around.

"There was never a night when no one visited," Zweig said. "We were brought lunches for the whole 50 days Aaron was in the hospital and suppers for 30 nights, until we could make our own arrangements."

Zweig had several explanations for the community's reaction. One can understand, perhaps, friends and those who knew the family from their communal activities – he has been involved as vice-president and as a member of the executive committee of the local Reform synagogue, the United Jewish Congregation; his wife is on the board of Carmel, the Hebrew day school; and both have been involved from time to time with the Chabad organization. As well, his wife is in the giftware exporting business.

But there was more. Even strangers became involved and offered support. "It touched a common thread," Zweig said. "If it could happen to him, a little boy, it could happen to anyone. They felt for us. And his survival was cathartic – if he can survive [when he is so sick], then we can too."

What impressed Zweig and his family was that it became an opportunity for the community to come together in a positive way. Rabbis and members from the Reform community, the Conservative shul, the modern Orthodox community and Chabad all joined together in prayer and concern, and to offer financial support to get the Berlin machine for Grantham Hospital, to search the Internet and connect with experts from other countries and to help pay for the expensive treatment that Aaron will need for some time.

And Aaron? Well, an alert and lively little boy came with his father for the interview, played with a dog that was there, experimented with his game boy and proudly showed off his scars. He manoeuvres his prosthetic leg with panache. Zweig says his son is 90 per cent better.

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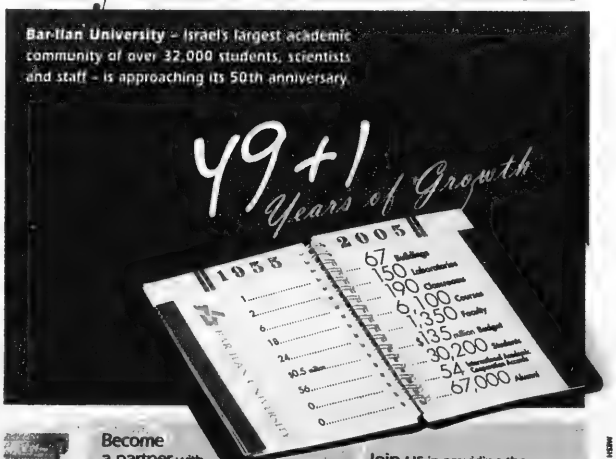

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Community Focus

It's not all serious at UJA walkathons.

[Photo courtesy UJA FEderation]

Safety, Kashruth, exercise, signs of good care, agency says.

Continued from page B17

The agency, which recently celebrated its 25th anniversary, is run by a board of directors consisting of parents, child care providers and community members.

Children are taken outside for at least two hours every day when the weather is good. They are given one meal and two nutritious snacks a day.

Ostronoff said the agency is "in desperate need of Jewish providers.

"Seventy per cent of our children are Jewish, so it's important to have Jewish providers."

Barmapov and the children she takes care of are kosher. The kids are at her house from eight in the morning until five in the afternoon, so she gives them breakfast, lunch and a snack.

"They understand that one sink is for dairy and one is for meat, even the 20-month-old."

Parents of kosher children whose provider is not kosher, supply their own food, plastic dishes and cutlery.

Ostronoff said the majority of parents who use the service are professionals and parents who have to go back to work earlier than expected after having a baby.

To ensure that all safety standards are met, the organization has an equipment, toy and book-lending library, where providers can rent portable cribs, twin strollers, triple strollers and toys.

The library is provider-run and is open once every two months on Saturday, but will open during the week for Orthodox Jews.

"It costs us about $1,500 to set up a home," Ostronoff said.

In the summertime, providers and children meet at a park to play together.

"We've had drop-ins in schools and the children do arts and crafts and music theory. We've had bowling parties and we've gone to water parks," she said.

Ostronoff said the drop-ins are important because the providers face a lot of isolation, especially during the winter.

"In wintertime, [the providers] are really by themselves. Child interaction is great, but every adult needs adult interaction."

Ostronoff said drop-ins are a good opportunity for networking, where providers can learn from each other.

"Sharing ideas is one of the best ways of learning. It's also healthy for the children to be with other children."

J&F Home Child Care Services currently has 60 providers, who take care of 150 children. It has homes in North York, North Toronto, Scarborough, Thornhill, Richmond Hill and Maple.

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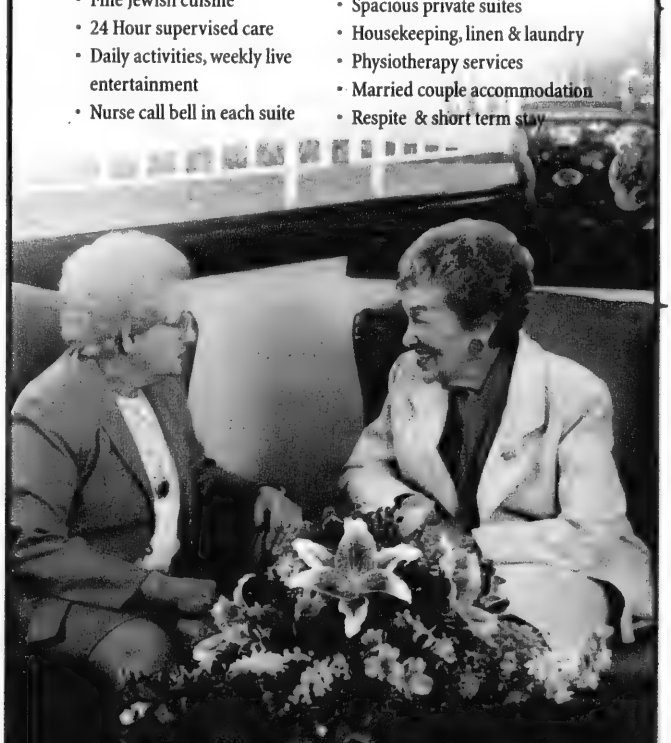

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Community Focus

Centre celebrates 30 years of helping troubled youth

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

When Michael first came to Jewish Family & Child Service's Jerome D. Diamond Adolescent Centre (JDD) about two years ago, he was a "boy with too much baggage."

"I didn't realize I was buckling under the weight," said Michael (client names have been changed for confidentiality), who has since graduated from the centre.

While attending JDD, Justin said, he learned more about himself than he "could ever imagine. I learned first and foremost that having a problem is OK, but doing nothing about it is not. My motto coming into JDD was more like 'I am willing to change if I do not have to do anything different.' Now, I believe I can do anything I decide to do."

JDD, now celebrating its 30th anniversary, runs out of a large, bright, mid-town house. It is dedicated to helping youth with emotional, educational and/or behavioural challenges, and offers an education program in conjunction with the Toronto District School Board for up to 34 students ages 12 to 17, as well as therapeutic group activities, cultural and recreational programs, and individual, family and group counselling.

Its staff of 12 includes social workers, child and youth workers, special education teachers and consulting psychiatrists or psychologists.

The school, then known as Centre Shelanu, opened its doors as a residential and adolescent day-care resource in November 1974, and was renamed in 1982 in honour of Jerry Diamond, who served as executive director of JF&CS for 22 years. In 1996, the residential home was closed due to budgetary constraints.

Wendy Wolfman, the centre's manager, said about 85 per cent of JDD students have some type of learning disability, and none could manage in their community school.

"Basically, they have been asked to leave or they stopped attending."

The goal, she said, is to give the students the necessary skills to take with them to their own school, or to find an appropriate school for them.

With small classes, Wolfman said, teachers are able to "see a lot, and students cannot hide from their challenges.

"Every teacher has a specialty dealing with such things as anxiety disorders, depression or learning disabilities, and the child and youth workers are skilled professionals.

"These are kids that are used to challenging adults, and our job is to figure out how to include them rather than push them away."

Staff meet with the students' families on a regular basis, she said, "because we believe that everything that goes on in a family affects the kids. We try and be as holistic as possible."

Jessica, a recent graduate, praises JDD with teaching her a lot about herself and others. "I learned that if I really want to do something and I work hard, I would get it done. I just have to put my mind to it.

"I learned that I should really get to know people before I judge them. Whoever is [attending the school] has to dedicate themselves to their work and to [dealing] with their issues. You can't get where you want without having bumps on the way."

Deborah, who spoke at a JF&CS annual general meeting, said that "when I first came to JDD, let's say I was not sweet and innocent, but over the years I have achieved many goals including changing my attitude. I could not have done that without the support of the staff and kids at JDD.

"I have been in many programs but none have benefited me as much as JDD. Every other school I have been to could not change my bad attitude, but for some crazy reason I let the JDD staff help me.

"Now I have confidence in myself and I know what I have to do for a great future. I know how to react and stand up for myself when I feel someone is putting me down."

Ron Levin, executive director of JF&CS, has been with the agency for about a year and has seen his first cycle of Jewish holiday observances at the school.

"I am touched and impressed with the way the holidays are observed. The kids are totally engaged. That is a unique part of the program," he said.

To celebrate its 30th anniversary, Wolfman said the centre is planning a fundraiser, because "despite rising costs, we have not had a budget increase in seven years."

Levin said some funds would be used to hire transition child and youth workers to help students who are returning to community schools. "They take with the tools we have taught them, but it could still be a shock to transfer to a large high school.

"The reality is that if students are able to take this program and make some changes, we would like to continue some type of support."

Referrals to JDD "come from every direction," Wolfman said.

"Parents or psychologists can call directly, or the community school can contact us. After a chat with me, we can determine if the school is right for the child."

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People under 60 seeking hip and knee replacements

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

The name of Toronto orthopedic surgeon Allan Gross has become synonymous with bone and cartilage transplants.

Gross, who has headed the division of orthopedic surgery at Mount Sinai Hospital since 1973, says there is a tremendous increase in the demand for hip and knee replacements for people who are under 60.

There are several theories to account for the demand, he says. "People are more athletic, they will put up with less pain, and the technology has improved, so we are willing to do this surgery on younger patients."

Gross and orthopedic surgeon Fred Langer established the bone and cartilage transplant program at Mount Sinai Hospital, which Gross says "provides a solution for patients that have had a traumatic loss of bone and cartilage in the knee and are too young for artificial replacements."

He adds that the program also plays a role in the orthopedic oncology program at Mount Sinai Hospital, providing "bone for young patients after removal of bone tumours."

The Rubinoff Bone and Tissue Bank, at Mount Sinai Hospital supplies bone and cartilage for orthopedic surgery. "Because of the availability of the banked tissue, patients are seen from all over the world for problems dealing with bone and cartilage loss," Gross says.

In Ontario, he notes, the average wait for artificial joint replacement surgery is six months.

He says that with the need for artificial joint replacement increasing, the government is providing additional resources for orthopedic surgery.

Gross was a Duncan Fellow at the Toronto General Hospital (now part of the University Health Network), where he worked under the orthopedic surgeon F. P. Dewar. There, he says, he developed his interest in bone and cartilage transplants.

In 1982, Gross became head of the combined orthopedic surgery units of the Toronto General Hospital and Mount Sinai Hospital. In 1986, he was appointed the A. J. Latner professor and chairman of the division of orthopedic surgery at the University of Toronto and a full professor of the department of surgery at U. of T. He also holds the Bernard Ghert Chair in lower extremity reconstructive surgery.

Orthopedic surgeon Allan Gross will be honoured by Mount Sinai Foundation and Canadian Technion Society at a tribute dinner at the Sheraton Centre Hotel on Oct. 17.
[Photo courtesy UJA Federation]

Gross lectures internationally and is the author of three books and numerous articles related to bone and cartilage transplantation and revision arthroplasty of the hip.

In 1973, Gross and Langer served as volunteer field surgeons in the Yom Kippur War. Since then, Gross has taught and conducted numerous surgeries in Israel, and he regularly teaches Israeli orthopedic surgeons who come to Toronto for post-graduate training. As well, surgeons from all over the world train with him at Mount Sinai.

Since 1981, Gross has been an orthopedic surgeon for the Toronto Blue Jays. He has received two World Series rings, given to players and doctors on winning World Series teams.

On Oct. 17, at the Sheraton Centre Hotel, Gross will be honoured by Mount Sinai Foundation and Canadian Technion Society at a tribute dinner.

The Technion in Haifa is Israel's oldest university, and its graduates have played a significant role in Israel's growth and development over the years. It integrates applied sciences and technology at its medical school.

Some of the funds raised at the tribute dinner will be directed to research in tissue engineering at the Dr. Allan Gross Interdisciplinary Centre for Stem Cell Research at the Technion.

As well, funds will be used for the revitalization and modernization of Mount Sinai's orthopedic unit, including enhancing the diagnostic imaging capabilities in the Schwartz-Reisman Emergency Centre.

Gross and his wife, Penny, have four children.

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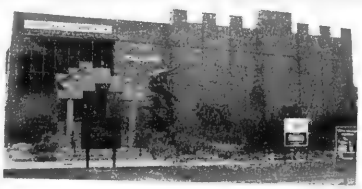

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Community Focus

Unconventional learning techniques help Zareinu kids

By ELYSSE ZAREK
Special to The CJN

During the school year, the basement hallways of the Sephardic Kehila Centre are crammed with toys and desks, and parts are curtained off into physiotherapy booths. This basement has been the home of Zareinu Educational Centre for the past six years.

The school has been caring for children with physical and developmental disabilities for 15 years. Its teaching and therapy techniques – including therapy through play, aquatherapy and an innovative physical therapy program called MEDEK – have put the centre on the educational map. Zareinu is designated as a model teaching centre by the department of physiotherapy at the University of Toronto's medical school, and student teachers also train there.

Zareinu had 110 students during the past school year, says executive director Randy Spiegel, but the number fluctuates from year to year. Sometimes students move to other schools and programs partway through an academic year.

"Over 1,000 children have been touched by Zareinu – even more when you take into consideration their families," says Spiegel, who has been at Zareinu for two years. Before moving to Zareinu, Spiegel was director of development and public relations at Associated Hebrew Schools.

Zareinu's staff includes a consulting psychologist and a variety of therapists – speech, music, occupational and physical – as well as "life skills interventionists" who teach students how to manage day-to-day activities such as going to the bank or library.

Any number of these staff members can be assigned to work with a child. Most children see several therapists. It all depends on individual needs, because each child is unique and a separate case, stresses clinical co-ordinator Carol Goldman.

"There are no fences around the way we will service a child's needs," she says.

At Zareinu, learning can be unconventional – in fact, it may not feel like learning at all, Goldman says.

"[Teachers] used magic lessons to promote skills – the manipulation of the hands over and over, sleights of hand, dexterity, taking a card and manipulating it."

Sometimes, catering to each child individually means doing intensive physiotherapy. Other times, it means building or finding new equipment, such as a specially built walker with back and leg supports for a child who has never stood up before. It might also mean doing therapy in a pool, or repetition drills to enhance verbal skills.

Sometimes it means visiting a medically fragile child at home, or it may involve organizing last-minute respite care for a child so parents can take a brief break from everyday worries.

One of the programs the school is most proud of is its MEDEK program, which was brought to Zareinu 12 years ago by Ester Fink, the school's head of physiotherapy.

MEDEK, a Spanish acronym for Dynamic Method for Kinetic Stimulation, is a South American technique that uses exercises against gravity to develop gross motor skills in children with movement disorders.

"Gravity is one of the things that makes them move," explains Fink. "You put a child in a position where they move."

What this does is train a child's muscles to balance in space, and eventually sit, stand and walk, without him realizing that he's learning.

MEDEK is ideal for infants and toddlers with cerebral palsy, Down syndrome and other developmental delays, Fink said. But even elementary-school-age kids have seen results with it.

Continued on page B23

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Community Focus

New high school programs for Zareinu kids

Continued from page B22

"Some children make improvements right away," says Fink, who sees clients at her private physiotherapy clinic who have moved to Canada from France and Switzerland to experience her MEDEK techniques.

Zareinu is one of the few places MEDEK is offered in Toronto. Fink, who brought the technique to Zareinu after studying in Caracas, Venezuela, with its creator, Dr. Ramon Cuevas, has taught MEDEK to physiotherapists at the Hospital for Sick Children and the Bloorview MacMillan Centre.

"We're always seeking out new and innovative things," says Goldman, referring to MEDEK.

The newest Zareinu initiative is a high school program for boys at Yeshiva Darchei Torah. Starting this fall, Zareinu's teenage boys will be able to study at the yeshiva, much as its girls do in a program run out of Beth Jacob High School.

At Beth Jacob, Zareinu students are assessed based on physical and developmental needs, as well as level of Judaic knowledge. Then Beth Jacob integrates the students into its regular program, though the Zareinu kids still have access to all of Zareinu's resources – therapists can even travel to Beth Jacob to help them. The program at Yeshiva Darchei Torah is expected to work the same way.

"Both the Zareinu children and the students at Yeshiva Darchei Torah will benefit immensely from the integration possibilities," Spiegel says. "Everyone is going to benefit from this."

It would be a mistake to think that Zareinu only treats children. The family is also an important focus. The school already has an outreach program to sensitize children without disabilities to the challenges faced by some of their peers.

"It's for other students to see what it might be like to have special needs," says Spiegel. Some of the sensitization activities include putting on oven mitts and trying to eat, or communicating without speech.

"Try to put a rocket – one of those hard candies – on the tip of your tongue and talk without dropping it," says Spiegel, describing another one of the exercises.

Currently in the works is a project to build a support program for siblings of children with special needs. Zareinu received funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation to start designing the program, but Goldman and Spiegel expect it will be several years before it's ready.

Funding is Zareinu's recurring nightmare. The school is affiliated with the Board of Jewish Education, so its parents are eligible for tuition subsidies, and it receives BJE grants, but it also fundraises on its own, through golf tournaments and moveathons, and it receives some provincial funding.

But tuition for a full-time student is still $17,500 per year. The prohibitive cost means fewer than half its students pay the full fee, but Zareinu's policy is not to turn away a child because a family can't afford tuition.

As well, when spots at Zareinu are scarce, Goldman will call around to JF&CS, the Reena Foundation or York Region Children's Services, among other agencies, to find a suitable program for a child.

"Waiting lists are impractical," Spiegel says. "These families have to find some place for their child. It's a much different waiting list than a private school."

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Community Focus

Arthritis clinic looks at new modes of treatment

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

With its 80 original works of art, tasteful furnishings and columns painted to look like marble, the Rebecca MacDonald Centre for Arthritis and Autoimmune Disease offers an upscale, decidedly non-clinical atmosphere.

But the downtown Toronto centre, which opened last fall in Mount Sinai Hospital, is an all-in-one site for arthritis and autoimmune disease research, treatment and innovative programs, including one that allows patients to become involved in mapping the course of their symptoms on computer.

The decor does have an effect on the patients, however, according to rheumatologist Vivien Bykerk, assistant director, division of advanced therapeutics and director of the early arthritis program. "They're far more relaxed," she said in a recent interview at the centre, which serves patients from throughout Ontario.

The centre was set up with the help of a substantial donation by businesswoman Rebecca MacDonald, one of the few patients in the world to have gone into complete remission from severe rheumatoid arthritis, according to a hospital news release, which adds that she has been drug- and pain-free since 2001.

Bykerk, who did not treat MacDonald (she was a patient of the centre's director, Dr. Edward Keystone), said that the combination of treatments MacDonald used are available, although she indicated they may be expensive. She added, however, that not every medication will work for every person.

In the 17 years that Bykerk has been in practice, much progress has been made in the treatment of arthritis, a disease of the joints that causes pain and stiffness, and limits mobility.

Arthritis, which comes in 115 different forms and affects some four million Canadians, is one of the most common health problems in the world, said Bykerk. Rheumatoid arthritis alone – not a preventible condition – affects up to 300,000 patients in the country, which has only 275 rheumatologists, she noted.

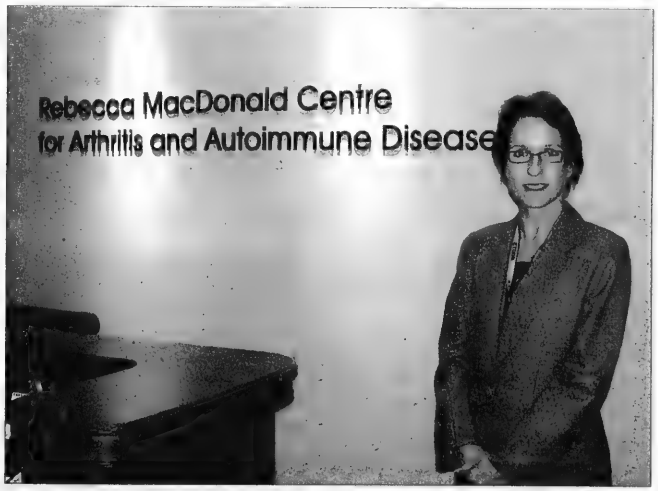
"When I started practice in 1987, it was not uncommon to have patients with very bad deformities being pushed in their wheelchairs.

"Because we're seeing them early, we aren't seeing the severe disease we used to see. It's now unusual to see someone in a wheelchair."

The early arthritis program, said Bykerk, is a way to fast-track patients with suspected early rheumatoid arthritis so they can receive optimal therapy. A referral from the patient's doctor is needed.

Current research in that program is focused on determining which patients should receive more aggressive therapy, based on genetic information that could indicate their prognoses.

"Some of our research questions have to do with what proteins are turned on by genes early in the disease. What are they doing, and should they be targeted for future drug therapy?"



Rheumatologist Vivien Bykerk said that in the 17 years she has been in practice, much progress has been made in the treatment of arthritis. [Frances Kraft photo]

Community Focus

Teen hopes to raise $1 million for cancer research

By CARA EDELL
CJN Intern

As the second of Roberta Birnbaum Cohen's three children, Phil Birnbaum, 16, considers himself "the monkey in the middle."

His sense of humour may be silly, but when it comes to making a difference in the world, Phil is very serious. Community activism and fundraising define his character, and the handful of awards he has received for his work are proof Phil is mature beyond his years.

Phil Birnbaum

At only seven years old, Phil began collecting money with his older brother for Toronto's Terry Fox Run. After raising $500 for the event, he said, he realized helping others was his calling.

When Phil's father, Perry, lost his battle to non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in 1996, Phil decided to keep his dad's memory alive. Two years later, at the age of 10, Phil launched a fundraising campaign that soon became his annual cash-for-cancer lottery.

"I was in Grade 5 and I wanted to do something productive, so I started my raffle for the Canadian Cancer Society. It just started going from there, each year getting a bit bigger," he said. "Grade 5 to 8 was very successful for me. I raised over $12,000 at Pleasantville Public School and going door to door."

Now, entering Grade 11 at Langstaff Secondary School, Phil has raised about $15,000 for the Cancer Society.

To celebrate Phil's successes, Youth in Motion, a national charitable organization that helps young Canadians "live their best life," presented the 16-year-old with its new Top 20 Under 20 award on June 22.

"I couldn't believe it at first. It was kind of a weird feeling," Phil said. "Only 20 people [out of 200 applicants] were chosen from all of Canada, and one of them was me. That's a bit overwhelming. Receiving the award really showed me that I have something."

For his involvement with the Cancer Society and his volunteer work in Richmond Hill, Phil was given a financial award to be directed toward "an educational experience" such as post-secondary studies or a summer course. He also qualified to participate in a three-day leadership summit and to be mentored by a Canadian leader for a period of eight months.

An avid supporter of Habitat for Humanity and president of his USY chapter at Beit Rayim Synagogue, Phil said he "felt honoured" that his community involvement was being recognized.

He said the fact most of the people selected for the award are older than he, entering university and "on to completely different paths" made the achievement even more special.

Aside from the Top 20 Under 20 award, Phil has received a number of other honours for his community service. In 2000, he earned the Judy Stein Junior Volunteer of the Year Award from Beit Rayim. That year, he also won the Ontario Junior Citizen of the Year award, presented to him by the Ontario Community Newspapers Association. In 2001, at 13, Phil was the youngest person ever to be named Richmond Hill's volunteer of the year.

Continued on page B26

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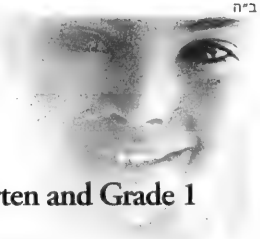

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Teen hopes to raise $1 million for cancer research

Continued from page B25

Phil said his work for the Cancer Society would not be possible without the support of his family, friends and generous sponsors.

Every August or September, Phil writes a letter explaining his raffle and asking for help. He then turns to local businesses and large corporations, hoping they will supply him with prizes. Ticket sales begin around March and end in April or May, he said.

"After a while, I was getting media attention. I created a binder with all of my media clippings and people started realizing that I'm not just some kid coming into their store. I had something that was worthwhile."

Sponsors quickly offered to donate their wares, and soon Phil had a list of reputable partners including the CN Tower, Famous Players and Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment. His prizes have ranged from leather jackets to snowboards to nights at hotels, but one of his favourites was a Toronto Maple Leafs jersey autographed by Tie Domi.

Phil said his mother helps him by keeping track of the prizes and doing the major paper work.

"When you see a movie, the actors are the ones that get all the credit. My mom was the one behind the scenes. She was the director," he said. "She's always been a very big support. My whole family has been great."

Phil presents the money he raises each year to the Cancer Society after the raffle closes. He said his goal is to collect $1 million for cancer research.

"My ideas change over time. First I wanted to take up golf so I could create my own charity golf tournament. But you have to get good at the sport before you can get involved in it. Dinners are also an option."

No matter what the event, Phil said he will continue fundraising for a long time."I would like to be a philanthropist once I've retired from what I choose to do. It will be a lifetime thing."

Phil said his career path is ever-changing, but at the moment he is considering corporate law in the entertainment industry. In his second semester of Grade 11 at Langstaff, Phil hopes to get a co-op placement in a law firm or government office.

So far, Phil said his non-volunteer work has offered him a chance to be a "typical teen." He has worked at Canada's Wonderland for the past two summers and was a cashier for Richmond Hill's public skating sessions during the winter.

In July, Phil spent a month in Italy taking a summer credit. "I took a modern history course and studied history, literature, art and architecture. It was a Grade 12 prep course, so everyone else was older than me. My maturity must have showed, because no one could tell I was younger."

Phil said getting a tan and learning a bit of the language were some highlights of the trip.

Back home in Richmond Hill, he's gearing up for another year of fundraising.

"This year, I want to hold marathon walks or runs. You can do it in memory of someone who you've lost to cancer. Of course, for me, that would be my dad and my bubbe. I think that would be a great way to keep in shape and help out," he said.

He also plans to further develop his raffle and said he hopes his younger sister will continue it at her elementary school.

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Seniors find companionship with the L'Chaim Group

By CARA EDELL
CJN Intern

Before Pauline Levin and her husband, Harry, emigrated from South Africa to Canada in the summer of 2000, they had active social lives.

But when they arrived in Toronto to be closer to their children, finding new friends was a challenge for the couple in their 80s.

Pauline Levin was especially in need of uplifting, so in an effort to make her transition smoother, her daughter, Brenda Faktor, and her granddaughter, Candice Faktor, founded the L'Chaim Group.

"It was born out of the desire by my mom and I to create a positive event for my grandmother to look forward to," Candice said. "The underlying purpose of the group is best illustrated in its name. It is solely for the purpose of the enjoyment of life."

Since its inception in 2001, L'Chaim Group meetings have become monthly events that bring together about 20 to 35 Jewish seniors. Like Pauline Levin, many of the participants are immigrants who are looking for a sense of community in their newly adopted home.

Whether they moved to Toronto from South Africa, Russia, Poland or Germany, these seniors have mostly found housing in three apartment buildings at Bayview and Sheppard. Candice said the location for the L'Chaim Group sessions was therefore a given – the Party Room at The Benchley, 942 Sheppard Ave. East.

Rita Witkin, who was one of the first members of the L'Chaim Group, said the cause is "something truly worthwhile.

"There were Jewish people living in our three buildings who spent a lot of time alone in their flats. They were shut-ins and it was essential to bring them out."

Witkin said she emigrated from South Africa to Canada eight years ago and has found it "a joy" to be associated with Pauline Levin and her family.

Continued on page B28

L'Chaim Group members meet children from Tessa Desatnik's School of Speech and Drama at a group event (top photo). In adjacent photo, Candice Faktor (right), one of the group's founders, is seen with her grandmother, Pauline Levin, a member of the L'Chaim Group.

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Seniors find companionship with the L'Chaim Group

Continued on page B28

Through the L'Chaim Group's programs, which feature education and entertainment, the seniors celebrate, schmooze, find companionship and enjoy themselves in a relaxed and friendly environment. Candice and her mother also serve tea at the group's meetings, throw parties and hold workshops on memories, writing and acting.

Candice said the group's favourite activities have included dramatic arts performances by the children of Tessa Desatnik's School of Speech and Drama, listening to singers Allen Smith and Denise Price, who play Yiddish and South African classics, the club's annual Chanukah potluck dinner, bingo evenings and listening to guest speakers, such as Rabbi Reuven Tradburks of Kehillat Shaarei Torah.

Witkin said she loves "anything where [she] can talk, anything stimulating."

In an article for the bi-annual *South African Jewish Association of Canada News*, Candice wrote,"The real benefit and beauty of the L'Chaim Group is that over the years, the friendships and acquaintances made have transcended the L'Chaim Group monthly gatherings. In fact, many of the seniors, who did not know each other before we created the L'Chaim Group, have become great friends who truly care for each other."

She said her family has gotten an extremely positive response from the seniors in the group. "They like the idea, and we're always thinking of what we can do next. For me, it's been very enjoyable and rewarding."

Before her involvement with the L'Chaim Group, Candice said she had never worked with seniors. Now, she said, she has learned a lot from the members – many of whom have emigrated twice in their lives, from Europe to South Africa and from South Africa to Canada.

"These seniors are knowledgeable, wise, witty, humorous and loving," she said. "There's no better feeling than giving back to the community and doing this for them."

She said the L'Chaim Group model is easily replicable and can be duplicated in any community. All seniors are welcome to join the group, at no cost, as Candice and her mother cover the group's expenses. As well, volunteer entertainers and speakers are always in demand by the group.

While most people hear of the L'Chaim Group through word of mouth, Candice and her mother put out a monthly newsletter that includes updates, information, announcements, birthday wishes and humour.

For information about the L'Chaim Group, call Brenda Faktor at 905-889-1655.

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At the site of the new Pardes Chaim Cemetery in Vaughan, Ont., are, from left, Sidney Freedman, honorary life president of Toronto Hebrew Memorial Park and co-chair of the Pardes Chaim development committee; Lou Greenbaum, co-chair of the Pardes Chaim development committee; Stephen Speisman, executive director, and William Draimin, president, of Toronto Hebrew Memorial Park. [Leila Speisman photo]

Construction to start soon on new community cemetery

By JESSICA HELLEN
CJN Intern

Construction is scheduled to begin this fall on a new Jewish cemetery in York Region.

Pardes Chaim will actually be a satellite of Toronto Hebrew Memorial Park – also known as Pardes Shalom – on Dufferin Street north of Major Mackenzie Drive. The new cemetery will be located one mile north of the old one, between Bathurst and Dufferin streets with an entrance off Bathurst.

William Draimin, the president of both cemeteries, said the decision to expand to a new location "was made back in the mid-1990s when it was calculated that Pardes Shalom would be fully allotted by the year 2015."

The cemetery's honorary life president Sidney Freedman said he began thinking about expanding 10 years ago.

"We were running out of major areas [in Pardes Shalom] that we could give to organizations, and we were rapidly running out of spots for the unaffiliated," he said.

The land for Pardes Chaim was purchased in 1999, and construction is almost ready to begin.

"It's taken until now to get approved," Freedman said. "You need a 10-year span to build a new cemetery. A lot of infrastructure has to go on before the first person is interred. It takes a lot of time and money."

Stephen Speisman, executive director of Toronto Hebrew Memorial Park, said the new cemetery is slated to be ready for burial within four or five years.

"The purpose of the Toronto Hebrew Memorial Park is to make sure there is burial land for members of the Toronto Jewish community for a reasonable price," Speisman said. "We make sure we think 75 to 100 years in advance so we don't run out of burial plots."

Pardes Shalom, which is on 89 acres of land, has approximately 35,000 burial plots.

Pardes Chaim, which is on 200 acres of land, will have between 70,000 and 90,000 burial plots.

Speisman said he hopes the cemetery will last at least 50 years, a projection that he said is more conservative than others, who think it could last last longer.

"I expect that some 10 years after the cemetery opens we'll be looking for new land, and it probably won't be very close to Toronto," Speisman said.

"It's hard to find land appropriate for a cemetery and land that would get zoning approval."

The new cemetery will use 120 acres of its 200 acres for burial, with the rest being green-belt land.

Freedman said his plan is to make the cemetery "exceedingly beautiful."

The name Pardes Chaim was chosen, because "we wanted to retain the name Pardes as a sort of signature name," Speisman said.

Continued on page B30

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Construction to start soon on new community cemetery

Continued from page B29

"We wanted a name that people could remember very easily, even if they are not fluent in Hebrew. A traditional Hebrew name for a cemetery is *beis chaim,* which means house of life or eternal life."

Speisman said Pardes Chaim was an "appropriate name" that "seemed to the fit the bill and would be easily recognizable."

Freedman said the new cemetery will have a lunchroom for staff, a utility building to store equipment such as cranes and trucks, a meeting room and offices. Long-term plans include facilities for *taharah* (ritual cleansing of a body) and possibly a chapel.

"The expenditure will be considerably more than Pardes Shalom," Freedman said.

The cemetery will be developed in phases and construction will probably start on an initial 80 acres, Speisman said.

"It seems to be more economical to develop the first 80 acres to make sure the community is looked after for the foreseeable future.

"The land itself costs $4 million. We expect to spend in the next several months about another quarter million dollars. We estimate that the cost of development of this 80 acres will be $4.3 million," Speisman said.

Before construction begins, Freedman said the cemetery will have a dedication service.

"It has to be consecrated to make it a holy ground. The rabbinate and community will be invited."

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Community Focus

CHALLAH BAKING COMES TO MISSISSAUGA:

Rebbetzin Sara Slavin of the fledgling Chabad of Mississauga held a challah baking night for women from the local community. Participants picked up new braiding and baking tips and learned how to separate challah, one of the mitzvot that are the particular obligation of women. Rabbi Yitzchok Slavin, who recently moved to Mississauga with Sara and their son Yehoshua, has been working at the Chabad central tenet of outreach: he declared a Mezuzah Month during which he checked local mezuzot and replaced those deemed necessary, had a tfillin campaign, built a sukkah in the family's front yard, held a Purim party and later a model seder, distributed Pesach boxes for the needy and had a cheesecake party at Shavuot. He also taught a number of classes. Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services will be held at the South Common Community Centre.

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Kol Nidre	Friday, September 24, 2004	**Shemini Atzeret** **Simchat Torah**	Thursday, October 7, 2004 Friday, October 8, 2004

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Community Focus

Israeli experimental school fosters creativity

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

Maale Tzvia, a small Israeli village in the Galilee, has made its mark in international education circles.

A school founded there, the Golden Education Template (GET), spawned an experimental education system and branches in the United States, England, the Netherlands and Canada.

The Balanced Education Network, a non-profit organization associated with the Toronto GET school, invited the principal of the Israeli school and one of its founders, Edith Kimchi, to speak at a seminar at the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre last month.

GET had been operating as a kindergarten for seven years, when parents approached the teachers about expanding the program into a full-fledged multi-grade school, Kimchi recalled. "A group of 10 teachers and parents formed a school. We learned through trial and error."

This year, 260 students attended the school, which now goes to Grade 10.

The GET program emphasizes growth apart from academic learning, a core element that distinguishes it from other schools, said Kimchi. She added that academic and "internal learning" are of equal value. The latter nurtures "a preparedness for a moral life," as well as "internal development to overcome fears."

Children are encouraged to be assertive and to differentiate between fact and opinion, she said. "They can speak up and argue when they don't agree with the facts."

Teaching students to find creative solutions to their problems is another important aspect of their development, she said, as is taking on responsibility. "The teachers and the students clean everything at the school."

Respect for Arab neighbours is also encouraged by the school. The high school students are involved in a theatre program with their Arab counterparts in a neighbouring village, Kimchi said. "It's one of the few programs of coexistence that actually exists."

Unlike traditional schools, GET discourages competition between students. Kimchi said, "We understand that competition is anti-social, because it represents pressure to be better than another person."

The GET system motivates students "with the values of co-operation and cohesion, which are antithetical to the more egocentric values of money and power," she continued.

"It is much more pleasant and advanced to work with people who are respected for what they are – natural geniuses."

Encouraging the "natural genius of the child" is an important focus of the program, said Kimchi. "By the age of puberty, we experience a lot of brightness from the students."

The GET system recognizes the importance of making the lessons interesting and engaging. "When children want to learn and love to learn, they learn much faster," she said.

Continued on page B35

Community Focus

Lubavitch's Yirmi Cohen (right), helps a young participant in this year's UJA walkathon put on a tfillin, in memory of Chezi Goldberg, murdered by terrorists in Jerusalem. [Chai Cohen photo]

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Community Focus

Leo Baeck welcomes new director

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

The new director of Leo Baeck Day School says he didn't actually decide to pursue a career in education.

"It just fell on me, and I realized that was what I was meant to do," said David Prashker, who is succeeding Zita Gardner on her retirement.

A native of London, England, who moved here July 23, Prashker, acquired a taste for teaching in France, where he taught for a year to fund his studies as a university student in the 1970s, and in Israel, where he taught high school students on a kibbutz and worked with a local youth movement during the 5½ years he lived there.

"I love working with kids," he said last week in his office at Leo Baeck's Thornhill campus. "I also love studying, and you can be a student all your life when you're a teacher."

It wasn't until 1988 that he completed his post-graduate teaching certificate in London, having already earned a BA in humanities and a master's degree in drama and theatre studies.

"I like adventures," said Prashker of his decision to leave England for the new position in Toronto. "I've always liked the idea of coming to this side of the Atlantic."

He'd thought about making the move to school administration for several years, and his 50th birthday approaching in 2005 provided further impetus.

For the past 14 years, following a one-year stint at an Orthodox Jewish school in London, Prashker taught at Clifton College, a co-educational boarding school in Bristol, which has had a Jewish component since 1878. Most recently, he was the school's head of Jewish studies and director of Polack's House, its Jewish boarding facility.

Although he was raised in the Orthodox tradition, Prashker has been "very much a Reform Jew" for many years.

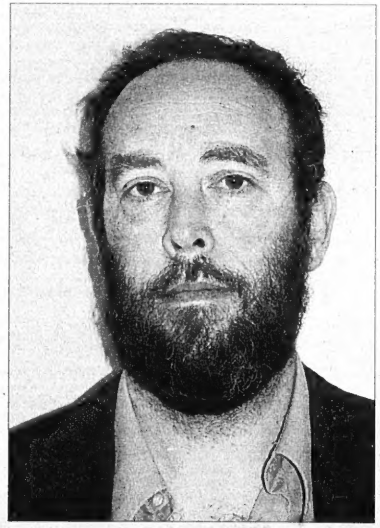
He believes Jewish schools should provide "both a theoretical and a practical knowledge of every aspect of what it means to be Jewish so [students] are in a position to choose their own Jewish identity when they become adults."

In today's post-Holocaust world, and following the creation of the State of Israel, being Jewish is more complicated than ever, Prashker said. For shtetl Jews in eastern Europe – or Jews in North Africa – life was difficult, but being Jewish was simple, he said.

At Leo Baeck – the only Reform Jewish day school in Canada – Prashker's immediate goals are to "solidify the strengths" of what he said is already a very strong school. It has two campuses and more than 775 children from junior kindergarten to Grade 8.

At least for his first year, Prashker will not be working in the classroom, but he is looking forward to creating opportunities to interact with the students. "I would very much like to not be stuck behind my desk. I don't think you get to know the children properly."

As director, he believes in consultation and discussion, and sees his role as that of facilitator – being "at the centre of the circle, with lots of strings around the edges. You've got to make sure you're holding the strings… but not too tightly… so that teachers can teach to the best of their ability, and students are learning to their best potential."



David Prashker

Golden Education Template [GET] emphasizes more than academic growth

Continued from page B32

The school has a two-way pact between the teachers and students. "The students make a commitment to behave well so that learning can be fun," she said, "while the teachers make a commitment to make learning fun and interesting."

Children are encouraged to give the teachers immediate feedback by holding up colour-coded cards indicating the level of interest and enjoyment of a particular lesson.

Kimchi pointed out that one of the ways the school maintains a high level of interest is to make academia a multi-sensory experience that addresses multiple intelligences. Unlike traditional schools, GET does not divide the day into periods in which different subjects are taught. Students concentrate on one subject for about a month at a time and study it intensively through drama, music or arts and crafts.

An important component of the GET community is the "fraternity of volunteers" who are integral to the life of the school, Kimchi said. "Parents are invited to volunteer – to give and be generous. The parents come to clean, renovate and contribute their skills and talent... We encourage the natural genius of parents."

The school regards parents as key educators of their children. When it comes to behaviour, Kimchi said, parents must take on a leadership role. "Sometimes we don't consider what children don't know. Parents need to take the time to teach their children how to behave."

For information about the Toronto GET school, call 416- 653-7001.

Youngsters show support by draping themselves in the Israeli flag.

[Photo courtesy UJA Federation]

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